Mahdi Duris

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My research interests revolve around technology-driven approaches to second language pronunciation, second language writing, and AI in education. My pronunciation work focuses on phonetics and developing automated systems for intelligibility ratings. I also research Automated Writing Evaluation (AWE) and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in EFL/ESL learning environments.

Education

Iowa State University (IA)
Ph.D. Candidate, Applied Linguistics and Technology (ALT) (2020-present)

Saint Cloud State University (MN)
M.A., Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) (2018-2020)

University of Cambridge, ESOL Examinations (DC)
Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (2013)

George Mason University (VA)
Bachelor of Science, Management (2006)

Lycée Stéphane Hessel (France)
Baccalauréat Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Bac STI) (2000)

Published Work

Na, I., **Duris, M.**, Hegelheimer, V. (Forthcoming). ChatGPT in ESL Writing: L2 Learners' Perspectives. In C. A. Chapelle, G. H. Beckett, & B. Gray (Eds.), *Researching Generative AI in Applied Linguistics*. Iowa State University Digital Press. (manuscript under review)

Kurt, Ş., & **Duris, M.** (Forthcoming). Comparing Human and Generative AI Analysis of Emotions in U.S. Abortion Tweets. In C. A. Chapelle, G. H. Beckett, & B. Gray (Eds.), *Researching Generative AI in Applied Linguistics*. Iowa State University Digital Press. (manuscript under review)

Na, I., **Duris, M.**, Hegelheimer, V. (Forthcoming). Feedback and Automated Writing Evaluation. In Nunan, D. & Stockwell, G. (Ed.). *Insights into AI and Language Teaching and Learning*. Castledown (invited chapter; manuscript under review)

Na, I., Nagle, N., **Duris, M.**, Kurt, S., Levis, J., & Rehman, I. (Forthcoming). Longitudinal perception and production development of second language vowels. *Language and Speech*. Sage Publications (manuscript under review)

Duris, M., Levis, J. M., Neiriz, R. & Silpachai, A. O. (2024). Methodological influences on word stress identification: Implications for research and teaching. *Proc. Speech Prosody 2024*, 732-736, doi: 10.21437/SpeechProsody.2024-148

Duris, M. (2024). "Accentedness and intelligibility: The typical phonetic story of an Lx couple in the U.S.," *Linguistic Portfolios:* Vol. 13, Article 10. https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol13/iss1/10

Duris, M. (2022). The Acoustic Intelligibility of Consonants in Saudi Spoken English. *Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies, 14* (1), 9-46. doi: 10.18485/bells.2022.14.1.

Duris, M. (2022). Technology review: Fluent Forever. *Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Proceedings, 12* (1). doi: 10.31274/psllt.14334.

Duris, M., & Koffi, E. (2022). "Let's Stress it! Investigations of Saudi EFL Teachers' Lexical Stress Patterns," *Linguistic Portfolios:* Vol. 11, Article 9.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol11/iss1/9

Duris, M. (2021). "Vowel Intelligibility Analysis of Female Saudi Spoken English,"
Linguistic Portfolios: Vol. 10, Article 3.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol10/iss1/3

Duris, M. (2020). "Vowel Intelligibility of Saudi Spoken English." Culminating Projects in TESL. 29. https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/tesl_etds/29

Duris, M., & Koffi, E. (2020). "English Proficiency Profile Study of an L2 Speaker from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," *Linguistic Portfolios:* Vol. 9, Article 4.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol9/iss1/4

Conference Presentation	

2024   **ChatGPT in ESL writing: L2 learners' perspectives.** Paper presented at the 21st Annual Technology for Second Language Learning Conference (TSLL), Ames, US.

2024   **Comparing Human and Generative AI Analysis of Emotions in U.S. Abortion Tweets.** Paper presented at the 21st Annual Technology for Second Language Learning Conference (TSLL). Ames, US.

2024   **Interacting with ChatGPT: Exploring engagement and feedback in ESL writing.** Paper presented at the 2nd Artificial Intelligence Research in Applied Linguistics (AIRiAL2024). New York, US.

2024   **Methodological influences on word stress identification: Implications for research and teaching.** Poster presented at the 12th biennial Speech Prosody Special Interest Group meeting (SP2024). Leiden, The Netherlands.

2024   **Voices of Love: Accentedness and Intelligibility in the Narratives of Lx Couples and Register.** Paper presented at the 45th annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference (SWPACA). Albuquerque, NM.

2023   **Controlled Tasks for Longitudinal L2 Pronunciation Studies: Read aloud.** Poster presented at the Iowa State University Symposium for Second language speech learning: Balancing big data and individual learning trajectories. Ames, IA.

2023   **Non-Lexical Words and Prosodic Prominence: The Role of Speaker Background and Register.** Poster presentation at the 14th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). West Lafayette, IN.

2023   **Longitudinal Perception and Production Development of Second Language Vowels.** Paper presentation at the 14th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). West Lafayette, IN.

2023   **The Automaticity of Intelligibility Ratings by way of Acoustics Measurements.** Poster presented at the 20th Linguistics Conference for Ph.D. Students (STaPs). Virtual/ Online format.

2022   **The Acoustic Intelligibility of Consonants in Saudi Spoken English.** Paper presented at the 6th Belgrade International Meeting of English Phoneticians (BIMEP). Virtual/ Online format.

	2021	**Using Acoustic Measurement as an Estimate of Vowel Intelligibility.** Poster presented at the 12th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). Virtual/ Online format.
	2019	**The VOT of Arabic [ʔ] Produced by English Speakers.** Poster presented at the 6th Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium (MULS). Minneapolis, MN.

Academic Service

	Present	**Social Media Lead & Front-end Web Developer,** Iowa State University. Responsible for design, communication, initiatives, and continuity of the Technology for Second Language Learning Conference (TSLL) and Applied Linguistics program (ApLing) through various professional social media channels.
	2025	**Proceedings Co-editor,** Proceedings of the 15th Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference (PSLLT 2024). Forthcoming publication, June 2025.
	2025	**Assistant Editor,** Open Educational Book — Researching the Language and Use of Generative AI. Forthcoming publication, July 2025.
	2024	**Reviewer,** Applied Linguistics, Oxford Academic.
	2024	**Doctoral Representative,** Annual Linguistics Program outreach in collaboration with The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Represented the Graduate program by teaching over 200 high school students about the Linguistics major at Iowa State University. November 14th, Ames, IA.
	2024	**Reviewer,** The 11th International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech (New Sounds 2025).
	2024	**Organizing Committee Co-Chair,** 21st Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL). October 24-26. In-person/ Virtual format (Hybrid).
	2024	**Organizing Committee Co-Chair & Webmaster,** 15th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). Responsible for design, logistics and communications. September 12-14, 2024. Ames, IA.
	2024	**Editorial Reviewer** Exploring AI in Applied Linguistics (published July 31st, 2024). Iowa State University Digital Press.
	2024	**Reviewer,** Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 13.
	2024	**Reviewer,** Proceedings for the 20th Annual Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL).
	2024	**Reviewer,** Proceedings for the 14th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT).
	2023	**Peer Mentor,** Department of English, Peer Advisory Resource Team (PART). Mentor for an incoming master's and a doctoral student for AY 2023-2024.
	2023	**Organizing Committee Co-Chair,** 20th Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL). October 20-21. In-person/ Virtual format (Hybrid).
	2023	**Reviewer,** Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 12.

2022   **Doctoral Representative,** Program Open House for the Applied Linguistics Program, Iowa State University. Assisted prospective graduate students by addressing inquiries about program structure, research opportunities, and academic resources. December 2022. Online format.

2022   **ReSPonD Lab Coordinator,** Linguistics Home Tour for the Applied Linguistics Program, Iowa State University. Presented *The ReSPonD Lab's* focus on pronunciation research, technologies, and data collection methods to prospective graduate students. September 2022.

2022   **Organizing Committee Co-Chair,** 19th Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL). October 14-15. In-person/ Virtual format (Hybrid).

2022   **Reviewer,** Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 11.

2021   **Reviewer,** Proceedings for the 12th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT).

2021   **Reviewer,** Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 10.

2021   **Conference Moderator,** 18th TSLL and 22nd MwALT Conference. October 8-9. Virtual/ Online format.

2021   **Organizing Committee Co-Chair and Conference Moderator,** 12th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). June 18-19. Virtual/ Online format.

2020   **Reviewer,** Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 9.

2020   **Conference Moderator,** 15th Anniversary Virtual Conference of ISU's Doctoral Program in Applied Linguistics & Technology (ALT). December 3-5. Virtual/ Online format.

Professional Experience

Graduate Research Assistant :: Ames, IA (USA)
Iowa State University January 2022 – Present
- Research Assistant to Dr. John M. Levis
- Project: Adaptive explicit and implicit feedback in second language pronunciation training
- Research funded by the National Science Foundation (2020)
- Mentor for undergraduate research assistants
- Research on Speech and Pronunciation Development (ReSPonD) Laboratory Coordinator

Graduate Research Assistant :: Ames, IA (USA)
Iowa State University April 2022 – Present
- Research Assistant to Dr. Volker Hegelheimer
- Project: Using educational technology in the English language classroom
- Research funded by the U.S. Department of State (2020)

English Placement Test Rater :: Ames, IA (USA)
Iowa State University August 2021 – Present
- Assess the oral communication ability of international students for academic contexts
- Test administration every semester (Fall and Spring)

Graduate Teaching Assistant :: Ames, IA (USA)

Iowa State University August 2020 – July 2024
- Instructor for ENGL 101B: Academic Writing I (2021-2023)
- Instructor for ENGL 101C: Academic Writing II (for Undergraduates) (Spring 2024)
- Instructor for ENGL 101D: Academic Writing II (for Graduates) (Summer 2024)
- Instructor for SP CM 212: Fundamentals of Public Speaking (2020-2021)

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Lead Facilitator :: Ames, IA (USA)

Iowa State University May 2023 – July 2023
- Responsible for leading 80 Alumni Facilitators and 5302 English language instructors in the *Using Educational Technology in the English Language Classroom* course, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by FHI 360

Co-teacher Oral Language & Technology :: Ames, IA (USA)

Iowa State University August 2022 – December 2022
- ENGL/LING 530 Teaching Assistant to Dr. John M. Levis
- Course Objectives: Structure and description of oral language and discourse. How spoken language is linguistically described, analyzed, and taught for research and for education. Using technology to record, transcribe, and analyze spoken language at all levels of linguistic structure.

Global Online Course Mentor :: Ames, IA (USA)

Iowa State University August 2020 – May 2022 (2 years)
- Mentor for the Online Professional English Network (OPEN), previously known as American English (AE) E-Teacher Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by FHI 360

Graduate Teaching Assistant :: Saint Cloud, MN (USA)

Saint Cloud State University August 2018 - May 2020 (2 years)
- Develop and teach EAP courses for Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing and US Culture for International students
- Mentor new TAs throughout the Academic Year

Academic Coordinator :: Ar-Riyadh (KSA)

King Saud University September 2017 - July 2018 (10 months)
- Provided Academic support to the English Language Skills Department (ELSD) for lesson planning, classroom management, mentoring, professional development sessions, teacher observations/feedback
- Provided support to the Examination, Curriculum, Quality Assurance, Development and E-Record units

English Language Instructor :: Ar-Riyadh (KSA)

King Saud University September 2016 - September 2017 (1 year)
- Taught General and Academic Skills for First Year Common students level C
- Conducted examinations and grading for Speaking and Writing skills

Site Director :: Al-Qassim (KSA)

TVTC | INTERLINK Project September 2014 - September 2016 (2 years)
- Provided Orientation and continuous training for all Site teachers and administrators
- Attended to the logistics and human resources between the assigned site, central office, and Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC)

English Language Instructor & Acting Site Director :: Al-Qassim (KSA)
TVTC | INTERLINK Project December 2013 - September 2014 (1 year)
- Taught more than 160 students from A0 to B1 levels of EFL in Jizan & Buraydah Sites
- Engaged and planned Project Based Learning workshops

Financial Center Coach :: Washington, DC (USA)
Capital One Bank, N.A. May 2006 - November 2013 (7 years)
- Coached over 65 ESL adults using English for Specific Purposes (ESP) specifically for the Banking Industry environment
- Facilitated monthly and quarterly training sessions around targeted language to achieve company objectives

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Internal Grants and Awards	**Duris, M.** (2024) Iowa State University Graduate College Teaching Excellence Award.
	Duris, M. (2024). GPSS Dissertation Funds Grant. Amount awarded: $300.
	Duris, M. (2024). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: $1000.
	Duris, M. (2023). English Department L2 Writing Research Rating. Amount awarded: $225.
	Duris, M. (2023). Applied Linguistics & Technology Award (TSLL). Amount awarded: $500.
	Duris, M. (2023). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: $500.
	Duris, M. (2022). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: $500.
	Duris, M. (2021). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: $400.
	Duris, M. (2020). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: $100.

Travel Grants

Duris, M. (2024). Global Online Course Mentorship Professional Development Grant for attending the 2nd Artificial Intelligence Research in Applied Linguistics (AIRiAL), New York, US. Amount funded: $1200.

Duris, M. (2024). Department of English Travel Grant for attending the 45th annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference (SWPACA), New Mexico, US. Amount funded: $500.

Duris, M. (2023). Global Online Course Mentorship Professional Development Grant for attending the 14th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT), Indiana, US. Amount funded: $750.

Languages

Native in English, French, Spanish and **Beginner** Arabic