



Professor Markus Damian
M.A., Ph.D.(Rice)

Professor of Psychology of Language

Area of research

Cognitive Science; Psycholinguistics; Language production; Bilingualism; Cognitive Control

Office 1D20
The Priory Road Complex,
Priory Road, Clifton BS8 1TU
([See a map](#))

+44 (0) 117 3310543
m.damian@bristol.ac.uk

Summary

I am a cognitive psychologist with a special interest in the processes and mechanisms underlying language. My research is specifically concerned with those engaged when humans speak (as opposed to when they comprehend language). I investigate the way in which humans cognitively develop intentions of what they are trying to say, the way in which words are organised in and retrieved from a mental lexicon for the purpose of the utterance, and the processes involved in generating the appropriate articulation. Much of my work is based on chronometrical studies performed on adult populations; however, I have also been involved in neuroimaging research (e.g., Maess et al., 2002; Zhang et al., 2007; Zhang & Damian, 2009), in studies of acquired brain damage (e.g. Martin et al., 1999; Wu et al., 2002), and in developmental studies (e.g., Jerger et al., in press, 2009, 2006; Jerger & Damian, 2006).

Reflecting the state of this field, most of my work targets the generation of very short phrases or merely single words (e.g., Damian, Dorjee & Stadthagen-Gonzalez, 2011; Damian & Als, 2005; Damian & Martin, 1999). I am currently attempting to expand the approach to more complex phrases and connected speech. Two questions are of particular interest to me: (1) what is the extent of advance planning in language production - at any given time, how far are speech sounds planned ahead while speakers generate language (see, e.g., Damian, 2003; Damian & Dumay, 2007), (2) for literate persons, does the spoken production of words automatically activate orthographic codes (e.g., Damian & Bowers, 2003, in press; Zhang, Damian & Yang, 2007; Zhang & Damian, 2011)?

A more recent interest of mine concerns orthographic output tasks such as handwriting, typing, and spelling, and specifically parallels and dissimilarities to speaking (e.g., Damian & Stadthagen-Gonzalez, 2009; Damian & Freeman, 2008; Zhang & Damian, 2010; Damian, Dorjee & Stadthagen-Gonzalez, 2011). I am also intrigued by the psychological and linguistic properties of non-Western languages such as Chinese Mandarin (e.g., Qu, Damian & Kazanina, 2012; Zhang & Damian, 2010, 2011). Other domains that I have been involved in are visual word recognition (e.g., Bowers, Damian & Havelka, 2002), the extent to which information can be processed in the absence of conscious awareness (e.g., Damian, 2001), the representation of numbers (e.g., Damian, 2004; Kovorst & Damian, 2008), and similarities and dissimilarities between object processing and naming, and face processing (e.g., Damian & Abdel Rahman, 2003).

Recent and current grants

- Damian, M. F. Investigating the properties of handwritten word production via languages with non-alphabetic scripts. April 2010-March 2012. Grant funded by the British Academy. Principal investigator.
- Damian, M. F., & Stadthagen-Gonzalez, H. Role of phonological and suprasegmental codes in handwritten production. Grant funded by the ESRC. March 2008-March 2010. Principal investigator.
- Damian, M. F. Comparing and contrasting persistent repetition priming in written and spoken word production. Grant funded by the ESRC. January 2008-December 2008. Principal investigator.
- Zhang, Q., & Damian, M. F. Roles of phonology and orthography in spoken and written language production. International Incoming Fellowship by the Royal Society awarded to Zhang and Damian. January 2008-December 2008.
- Spalek, K., & Damian, M. F. Dynamic semantic representations in language production. Grant funded by the ESRC, January 2007-December 2007. Co-investigator.

Biography

I received a Bachelor's Degree from the College of New Jersey (1993) and a Master's degree (1996) and a Ph.D. degree (1998) in cognitive psychology from Rice University, Houston. Between 1998 and 2000 I was a staff member in the language production group at the Max-Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, where I worked with Pim Levelt. I joined the School of Psychological Science in Bristol as a Lecturer in 2000, and have been Professor of Psychology of Language since 2010.

Teaching

I am currently on teaching leave, graciously funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust. Previously I have taught or co-taught the following courses: PSYC10004 Foundations of Psychology; PSYC11012 Cognitive Psychology, PSYC21026 Advanced Psychological Experiments and Statistics; PSYC31051 Psychology of Language; PSYCM0011 General and Generic Research Skills I.

Current postgraduate students

Wenting Ye (PhD)

Hayley Tseng (PhD)

Lina Jarutyte (PhD)

Ethan Crossfield (MRes)

Keywords

- Language production
- Speaking
- Psycholinguistics

Expertise

My research is concerned with the cognitive processes of language, and specifically with those engaged when humans speak (as opposed to when they comprehend language). I investigate the way in which humans cognitively develop intentions of what they are trying to say, the way in which words are organised in and retrieved from a mental lexicon for the purpose of the utterance, and the processes involved in generating the appropriate articulation. Much of my work is based on behavioural studies; however, I have also been involved in neuroimaging research, and in studies of acquired brain damage. Other interests of mine include numerical cognition, and processing in the absence of conscious awareness.

- language production
- speaking
- psycholinguistics
- visual word recognition
- computational models of language
- unconscious processing
- numerical cognition

Memberships

Organisations

[School of Experimental Psychology](#)

Other sites

- [Neuroscience](#)

Psychological Science staff

- [Psychological Science academic staff](#)

Research themes

- [Cognitive science](#)

Research groups

- [Cognitive science > Language group](#)

Links

-  [home page](#)

Recent publications

- Zhang, Q & Damian, M, 2019, '[Syllables constitute proximate units for Mandarin speakers: Electrophysiological evidence from a masked priming task](#)'. *Psychophysiology*, vol 56.
- Qu, Q & Damian, MF, 2019, '[The role of orthography in second-language spoken word production: Evidence from Tibetan Chinese bilinguals](#)'. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, vol 72., pp. 2597-2604
- Jerger, S, Damian, M, Karl, C & Abdi, H, 2019, '[Detection and attention for auditory, visual, and audiovisual speech in children with hearing loss](#)'. *Ear and Hearing*.
- Damian, M & Qu, Q, 2019, '[Exploring the role of logographemes in Chinese handwritten word production](#)'. *Reading and Writing*, vol 32., pp. 147?173
- Qu, Q & Damian, M, 2019, '[An electrophysiological analysis of the time course of phonological and orthographic encoding in written word production](#)'. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*.
- Damian, M, 2019, '[A role of phonology in orthographic production? A historical perspective and some recent new evidence](#)'. in: *Spelling and Writing Words: Theoretical and Methodological Advances*. Brill Academic Publishers
- Qu, Q & Damian, M, 2018, '[Orthographic effects in Mandarin spoken language production](#)'. *Memory and Cognition*.
- Qu, Q, Cui, Z & Damian, MF, 2018, '[Orthographic effects in second-language spoken-word recognition](#)'. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, vol 44., pp. 1325-1332
- Zhang, Q, Zhu, X & Damian, M, 2018, '[Phonological activation of category coordinates in spoken word production: Evidence for cascaded processing in English but not in Mandarin](#)'. *Applied Psycholinguistics*.
- Damian, M, Ye, W, Oh, M & Yang, S, 2018, '[Bilinguals as "experts"? Comparing performance of mono- to bilingual individuals via a mousetracking paradigm](#)'. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*.

[View complete publications list](#) in the University of Bristol publications system