

Dacian Dorin Dolean, PhD.

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EDUCATION

**PhD in Psychology
2014**

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
University of Vienna, Austria (visitor PhD. student)

Dissertation: "Enhancing memory ability for learning new vocabulary words in a foreign language during early school years using the Keyword Method"

**M.A. in Clinical
psychology and
counseling
2005**

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

**B.A. in Special
Education
2000**

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

**Teaching Degree
(Elementary Education)
1996**

Pedagogical College "Gh. Lazar", Cluj-Napoca, Romania

EMPLOYMENT

Educational Research Scientist

2022-2024

Principal investigator of the Research Project ***How can we help parents improve the literacy skills of their children?*** (UEFISCDI, PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0072)

Amount funded: \$267,152

Babes-Bolyai University,
Faculty of Psychology and
Educational Sciences
Romania

2019-2024

Principal investigator of the Research Project ***Early Literacy of Roma Children from Romania: Bridging the socio-economic divide*** (ELIRA 2.0)

European Economic Area/Norway Grants (10/2019)

Amount funded: \$1,581,542

2018-2020

Principal Investigator of the Research Project ***Regulating the amount of homework in elementary school: How much is too much?*** (UEFISCDI PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2016-0164)

Amount funded: \$58,773

2017-2018

Co-Principal Investigator of the Research Project ***Home language environment and bilingual children's language and literacy development: A multi-sited cross linguistic study***

SEED Grant by University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada; PI: Guofang Li (University of British Columbia); Co-PI Kraemer Robert (University of Utah).

Amount funded: \$5,000

2016-2017

Principal Investigator of the Research Project ***The dynamics of learning new vocabulary words in a foreign language: A comparative analysis using 5 different mnemonic strategies*** (BBU-31789)

Amount funded: \$21,000

2014-2017

Principal Investigator of the Research Project ***Early Literacy of Roma Children from Romania: Predictors, literacy levels and enhancement strategies***

European Economic Area/Norway Grants (EEA-JRP-RO-NO-2013-1-0014)

Amount funded: \$801,457

Adjunct professor of Psychology

2016-2019

East Georgia State College
(Augusta Campus),
USA

Adjunct professor of Education

2013-2014

Babes Bolyai University
Faculty of Linguistics /
Faculty of Psychology and
Educational Sciences

PhD Student (scholarship)

2010-2013

Babes Bolyai University
Faculty of Psychology and
Educational Sciences
Department of Educational
Sciences

**Owner of a private ESL Learning Center,
Summer Camp Director**

2005-2019

Daris Club
(www.darisclub.ro),
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

School Counselor/Psychologist

2004-2006;
2010-2014

“I. Creanga” Elementary
and Middle School,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Special Education Teacher

2001-2004;
2007-2010

Midland Valley High
School,
Aiken County Public
Schools, SC, US

Elementary/Special Education Teacher

1996 -2001

2000-2001 Internship mentor for international student teachers
registered in Elementary Education Teaching program
(Windesheim, The Netherlands)

Special School No. 1,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

PUBLICATIONS

Selected

Dolean, D.D., Melby-Lervag, M., & Lervag, A. (2026). The Impact of Math vs. Literacy Homework Assigned to Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Children: A Pre-registered Randomized Controlled Trial. (forthcoming in *Elementary School Journal*).

Dolean, D.D., Khanolainen, D., & Torppa, M. (2026). Reading and cognitive predictors of reading anxiety: An 8-year longitudinal Study. *Journal of Educational Psychology* <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0001065>

Dolean, D.D., Lervag, A., & Melby-Lervag, M. (2026). The effectiveness of a language comprehension intervention on the language, reading and writing skills of socioeconomically disadvantaged students, *Reading Research Quarterly*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/rrq.70123>

Dolean, D.D. & Prodan, N. (2023). Let's eat grandma: Awareness of punctuation and capitalization rules' violations predicts the development of reading comprehension. *Learning and Instruction*, 86, 101780, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.learninstruc.2023.101780>

Dolean, D.D. (2021). Home literacy practices that support language and literacy development in bilingual children: A longitudinal case study. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, Online First June 21, 2021, DOI: 10.1080/13670050.2021.1943304

Dolean, D.D. & Lervag, A. (2021). Variation of homework assigned in elementary school can impact academic achievement. *The Journal of Experimental Education*, Online first February 10, 2021, DOI: 10.1080/00220973.2020.1861422

Dolean, D.D., Lervag, A., Visu-Petra, L. & Melby-Lervag, M. (2021). Language skills, and not executive functions, predict the development of reading comprehension: Evidence from an orthographically transparent language. *Reading and Writing: An interdisciplinary journal*, 34, 1491-1512. doi.org/10.1007/s11145-020-10107-4

Dolean, D.D. & Călugăr, A. (2020). How reliably can we measure a child's true IQ: Socio-economic status can explain most of the inter-ethnic differences in general non-verbal abilities. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11, 1-8. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.02000>

Dolean, D.D., Melby-Lervag, M., Tincas, I., Damsa, C. & Lervag, A. (2019). Achievement gap: Socioeconomic status affects reading development beyond language and cognition in children facing poverty. *Learning and Instruction*, 63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.learninstruc.2019.101218>.

Lervag, A., **Dolean, D.D.**, Tincas, I. & Melby-Lervag, M. (2019). Socioeconomic Background, Nonverbal IQ and School Absence Affects the Development of Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension in Children Living in Severe Poverty. *Developmental Science*, 22(5). <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12858>

Dolean, D.D., & Tincas, I. (2019). Cognitive factors explain inter-cultural variations of abilities in rhythm perception: The case of Roma minority. *Psychology of Music*, 47(5), 757–766. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0305735618766715>

Dolean, D. D. (2016). The effects of teaching songs in foreign language classrooms on foreign language anxiety. *Language Teaching Research*, 20(5), 638-653.

Dolean D. D. (2015). How early can we efficiently start teaching a foreign language? *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*, 23(5), 706-719.

Dolean, D. D. (2014). Using the Keyword Method in the classroom: Is the interacting imagery necessary? *System*, 45, 17-26.

Other peer-reviewed publications:

Dolean, D. D., Damsa, C. I., & Pop, R. (2017). The effects of choral repeated reading on foreign language reading fluency of words in connected and disconnected text. *International Journal of Linguistics*, 9(2), 10-21.

Dolean, D.D. & Dolghi, A. (2016). Teaching young FL learners new vocabulary: A comparison between the efficiency of Keyword Method and Total Physical Response, *Journal of English Linguistics*, 6(6), 1-7.

Dolean, D. D., Tincas, I. & Damsa, C. (2016). What factors influence the development of reading fluency fo Roma children? The effects of whole-class repeated readings and school absenteeism. *Studia Psychologia-Paedagogia*, 2/2016, 5-14.

Dolean, D.D., Tincas, I. & Damsa, C. (2016). Enhancing the pre-literacy skills of Roma children: The role of socio-economic status and classroom interventions in the development of phonemic awareness. *The New Education Review*, 45(3), 39-51.

Dolean, D. D. & Dolean I. (2014). The Impact of Teaching Songs on Foreign Language Anxiety. *Philologica Jassyensia*, X, 1(19), 513-518.

Dolean, D. D. (2013a). The Relationship Between Pitch Discrimination and Romanian students' Spelling Performance. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 17(3), 233-240.

Dolean, D. D. (2013b). Second Language Vocabulary Acquisition in Children: A Developmental Perspective. *Studia Universitatis Psychologia-Paedagogia*. Issue 1/2013, 299-316.

Dolean, D. D. (2013c). The Impact of Memory Development in Middle-childhood on Learning a Foreign Language, *Educatia* 21, Issue 11.

Dolean, D. D. & Andronache, D. (2013). Writing Proficiency in Transparent Orthographies: When Do Romanian Children Start to Spell Correctly? *Studia Universitatis Psychologia-Paedagogia*, 2/2013, p. 71-79.

Books/book chapters

Dolean, D.D. (2022). *Daris Camp Adventures: A Transylvanian Saga*. Columbia, SC: KDP Publishing.

Dolean, D.D. (2022). *Daris Camp Adventures: A Transylvanian Saga. Teacher's Guide*. Columbia, SC: KDP Publishing.

Dolean, D.D. (2022). *Daris Camp Adventures: A Transylvanian Saga. Students' Activity workbook*. Columbia, SC: KDP Publishing.

Dolean, D.D. (2021). *Curriculum-based measures for monitoring the progress of reading skills*. Columbia, SC: KDP Publishing.

Dolean, D.D. (2013). Mnemonics used in learning English as a Second Language, in Ionescu, M. (Ed.) *Studies of Applied Pedagogies*: Eikon Cluj-Napoca

Dolean, I. & **Dolean, D.D.** (2003). *Idei pentru activitatea la clasa (Ideas for classrooms activities)*. Cluj-Napoca: Pro Vita

Dolean, I. & **Dolean, D.D.** (2001). *Meseria de parinte (A job called parenting)*. Bucuresti: Aramis.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dolean, D. D., Khanolainen, D. & Torppa, M. (July, 2026). Reading and cognitive predictors of reading anxiety: An 8-year longitudinal Study. Lecture presentation at the 33rd Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Studies of Reading, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Dolean, D.D., Lervag, A. & Melby-Lervag, M. (July, 2025). *The impact of homework and guided parental support on the academic skills of socio-economically disadvantaged children.* Lecture presentation at the 32nd Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Studies of Reading, Calgary, Canada

Dolean, D.D., Lervag, A. & Melby-Lervag, M. (September, 2024). *The impact of an oral language intervention on vocabulary, reading comprehension and written composition.* Paper presented at the biannual SIG2 EARLI conference: Comprehension of Text and Graphics, Valencia, Spain.

Dolean, D.D., Lervag, A. & Melby-Lervag, M. (July, 2024). Children from disadvantaged communities: The impact of a structured oral language intervention on oral language skills, reading comprehension and writing skills. Symposium presentation at the 31st annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Studies of Reading, Copenhagen, Denmark (Chair Margaret Snowling).

Dolean, D.D. (November, 2023). *Eight scientific facts that every reading teacher should know.* **Keynote Speaker** at the 2nd Saturday Series organized by The Reading League South Carolina (virtual).

Dolean, D.D. (November, 2023). *How can we use books to develop academic vocabulary, paragraph writing, and reading comprehension?* Lecture at the Southeast TESOL annual meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Dolean, D.D. (November, 2023). *Reading and writing connection: Sentence structure instruction affects reading comprehension.* Lecture at the Southeast TESOL annual meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Dolean, D.D. (October, 2023). *How can the science of reading improve the literacy skills of the students from South Carolina?* **Invited presentation** to the South Carolina Department of Education, Columbia, SC

Dolean, D.D., Melby-Lervåg, M., & Lervåg, A. (2023, July). *Socioeconomic background, school absence, word reading and reading comprehension are related to the middle school exit*

exam among Roma and non-Roma youths in Romania. A longitudinal study from the first to eighth grades. Lecture presentation at the 30th Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Studies of Reading, Port Douglas, Australia.

Dolean, D.D. (2023, February). *Beyond correct words per minute: How can we reliably monitor the progress of reading skills?* Lecture presentation at the Annual Convention of the South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children, Charleston, SC

Dolean, D.D. (2023, February). *How can we use books to develop academic vocabulary, paragraph writing, and reading comprehension?* Lecture presentation at the Annual Convention of the South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children, Charleston, SC

Dolean, D.D. (2023, March). *How can we use books to develop academic vocabulary, paragraph writing, and reading comprehension?* Lecture presentation at the Annual Meeting of North Carolina Literacy Association, Winston Salem, NC

Dolean, D.D. (2022, October). *How can we reliably assess the educational outcomes of elementary students?* **Keynote Speaker** at Merito Café. Galati, Romania (virtual event).

Dolean, D.D. (2022, October). *Reading Development of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners.* **Keynote speaker** at the Kerns Elementary School, Greenville, SC (Virtual).

Dolean, D.D. (2022, January). *How can the Science of Reading help teachers of struggling readers?* Lecture presentation at the 59th Annual Conference of Learning Disabilities Association of America, New Orleans, LA.

Dolean, D.D. (2021, September). *Reading Development of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners.* **Keynote speaker** at the Greenville County Literacy Association professional development meeting (Virtual).

Dolean, D.D. (2021, July). *Language skills but not executive functions predict the development of reading comprehension.* Lecture presentation at the 56th International Conference of United Kingdom Literacy Association (Virtual).

- Dolean, D.D.** (2021, March). *How can we reliably monitor the progress of reading skills?* Lecture presentation on the 99th Annual Convention of the *Council of Exceptional Children: CEC 2021 L.I.V.E.* (Virtual)
- Dolean, D. D.** (2020, February). *How can we reliably monitor the progress of reading skills?* Paper presentation to the 57th Annual Convention of the Learning Disability Association of America, Orlando, FL.
- Dolean, D. D. & Chis, A.** (2019, August). *Home literacy environment predictors of reading and writing development over the summer break.* Poster presentation to the annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Dolean, D.D. & Visu-Petra, L.** (2019, May). *Socio-economic status predicts reading comprehension beyond executive functions.* Poster presentation to the 31st Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington DC.
- Dolean, D.D.** (2019, March). *The Underlying Cognitive Mechanisms that Influence the Reading Development: What do Research Findings Teach Us About How to Teach?* Lecture presentation to the annual convention of South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Dolean, D.D.** (2019, February). *The Latest Research in Reading: How Can We Help Struggling Readers?* Lecture presentation to the annual convention of South Carolina Literacy Association, Hilton Head, SC.
- Dolean, D.D.** (2019, January). *Teaching low income, ESOL and students with special needs how to read: How does their brain work?* Lecture presentation to the Empowering Educators (E2) Conference, Aiken County Public Schools, SC.
- Dolean, D.D.** (2018, August). *The Underlying Cognitive Mechanisms that Influence the Reading Development: What do Research Findings Teach Us About How to Teach?* Lecture presentation to the Empowering Educators (E2) Conference, Aiken County Public Schools, SC.
- Dolean, D.D. & Damsa, C.** (2017, August). *Literacy development of Roma children over the summer break: Is it more than a socio-economic issue?* Roundtable presentation at the bi-

annual conference of European Association for Learning and Instruction (EARLI), Tampere, Finland.

Dolean, D.D., Lervag, A., Melby-Lervag, M., Tincas, I. & Damsa, C. (2017, August). *Low socio-economic status can harm not just the initial stage but also the growth of reading skills*. Lecture presentation at the annual conference of American Psychological Association (APA), Division 15 (Educational Psychology), Washington DC, USA.

Dolean, D.D., Tincas, I. & Damsa, C. (2017, April). *Is summer reading loss universal?* Roundtable presentation at the annual conference of American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Dolean, D.D. (2016, November). *Teaching new vocabulary across different age groups: What method works best?* Lecture presented at the annual conference of Carolina TESOL, Asheville (NC), USA.

Dolean, D.D., Damsa, C. & Tincas, I. (2016, October). *The role of socio-economic status and classroom interventions in the development of literacy skills of Roma children in Romania*. Paper presented at the international conference Social Inclusion and Equal Opportunities – SIEO 2016, Timisoara, Romania.

Dolean, D.D. (2016, October). *Learning new vocabulary words using paired-associates: An empirical investigation*. Paper presented at the annual conference of GATESOL association, Atlanta (GA), USA.

Dolean, D.D. (2016, September). *The development of oral language and reading skills of monolingual and bilingual minority children: A comparative analysis*. **Invited speaker** at the annual international “Collaborative Conference on Language, Literature and Linguistics”, Barcelona, Spain.

Melby-Lervag, M., **Dolean, D.D.**, Tincas, I., Damsa, C., & Lervag, A. (2016, July). *Development of word decoding skills of Roma children: The impact of contextual factors*. In Nag, S. (Chair) *Interventions for language and literacy learning for difficult-to-reach children*. Symposium conducted at the 23rd annual international convention of Society for Scientific Studies of Reading, Porto, Portugal.

- Dolean, D.D.** (2016, July). *Educating children from diverse backgrounds. The impact of socio-economic status on literacy development.* **Keynote speaker** at the 4th International Conference “Education, Reflection, Development”, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- Dolean, D. D. & Damsa, C.** (2015, December). *Early literacy of Roma children from Romania: Predictors, literacy levels and enhancement strategies (mid-term report).* Paper presented at the international conference „Achievements and future steps”, Bucharest, Romania.
- Dolean, D.D.** (2015, July). *Re-assessing the educational needs of Roma children: How does linguistic ability affect their literacy attainment?* Paper presented at the 51st International Conference of United Kingdom Literacy Association, Nottingham , UK.
- Dolean, D.D. & Dolean, I.** (2014, May). *The impact of teaching songs on foreign language anxiety.* Paper presented at the international conference „Perspectives in humanities and social sciences: Hinting at interdisciplinarity”, Iasi, Romania.
- Dolean, D.D., & Dolghi, A.** (2013, June). *Teaching Foreign Language Vocabulary in Early Elementary School: A Comparison Between Keyword Method, Total Physical Response and Single Picture Presentation.* Paper presented at the international conference “Education, reflection, development”, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- Dolean, D.D.** (2013, April). *How early can we efficiently start teaching a foreign language?* Paper presented at the “International Journal of Arts and Sciences Academic Conference”, Florence, Italy.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2019-2024. UEFISCDI (Principal Investigator): *How can we help parents improve the literacy skills of their children?* (PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-0072)
- 2019-2024. European Economic Area/Norway Grants: Research within priority sectors. (Principal investigator) *Early Literacy of Roma Children from Romania: Bridging the socio-economic divide* (ELIRA 2.0).
- 2018-2020. UEFISCDI (Principal Investigator): *Regulating the amount of homework in elementary school: How much is too much?* (RE-HOME) (PN-III-P1-1.1-PD-2016-0164).
- 2017-2018. LLED seed grants – University of British Columbia (Co-Principal Investigator). *Supporting the literacy development of bilingual children: Does home language environment matter?*

2016-2017. BBU: Grants for young research scientists (Principal Investigator). *The dynamics of learning new vocabulary words in a foreign language: A comparative analysis using 5 different mnemonic strategies* (BBU-31789).

2014-2017. European Economic Area/Norway Grants: Research within priority sectors. (Principal investigator) *Early Literacy of Roma Children from Romania: Predictors, literacy levels and enhancement strategies* (ELIRA) (EEA-JRP-RO-NO-2013-1-0014).

2010-2013. European Union: Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development. (research scholarship beneficiary). *Modern Doctoral Studies: Internationalization and Interdisciplinarity* (POSDRU/107/1.5/S/7684).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

> 2022 The Reading League (South Carolina chapter): Advisory board member

> 2015 Society for Scientific Studies of Reading (SSSR): Active member

2016-2020 American Educational Research Association (AERA): Former member

2016-2020 Association for Psychological Sciences (APS): Former member

2014-2018 American Psychological Association (APA) – Division 15 (Educational Psychology): Former member

2014-2018 European Association for Learning and Instruction (EARLI): Former member

AWARDS

2021 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *Home literacy practices that support language and literacy development in bilingual children: A longitudinal case study* (PN-III-P1-PRECISI- 2021-94830)

2021 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *Language skills but not executive functions predict the development of reading comprehension*. (PN-III-P1-PRECISI- 2021-94839)

2020 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *Socioeconomic background, nonverbal IQ and school absence affects the development of vocabulary and reading comprehension in children living in severe poverty* (PN-III-P1-PRECISI- 2020-78771)

- 2020 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *Achievement gap: Socioeconomic status affects reading development beyond language and cognition in children facing poverty*. (PN-III-P1-PRECISI- 2020-78807)
- 2020 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *How reliably can we measure a child's IQ? Socioeconomic status can explain most of the inter-ethnic differences in general non-verbal abilities*. (PN-III-P1-PRECISI- 2020-79159)
- 2016 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *The effects of teaching songs in foreign language classrooms on foreign language anxiety*. (PN-III-P1-PRECISI- 2016-18338)
- 2014 UEFISCDI National Research Award for the article *Using the Keyword Method in the classroom: Is the interacting imagery necessary?* (PN-II-RU-PRECISI- 2014-8-7389)
- 2013 European Language Label Award for the project *Sing your way out of foreign language anxiety!* (European Commission, Bucharest, Romania)
- 2004 High Flyer Teaching Award (Aiken County Public Schools, South Carolina, US)
- 2001 Teaching Excellence Award (Cluj County Public Schools, Romania)

Editorial activity

Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Literacy Research.

Ad-hoc invitations to review for Language Teaching Research, Modern Language Journal, Applied Psycholinguistics, Studies in Second Language Acquisition, System, Reading and Writing, Journal of Literacy Research, Learning and Individual Differences, British Journal of Educational Psychology, European Journal of Educational Assessment, Psychology in the Schools, Language and Culture.