

**Dr Cecilia Zuniga-Montanez**  
University of Leeds  
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#### **EMPLOYMENT**

- **Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Language Development** **March 2021 - present**  
University of Leeds, United Kingdom

#### **EDUCATION**

- **PhD in Psychology** **2016 - 2020**  
University of Birmingham, United Kingdom  
Thesis title: "Word Learning Biases and Vocabulary Development in Typical and Atypical Development"  
Viva Voce passed with minor corrections on November 27, 2020  
Supervisors: Dr Andrea Krott and Dr Andrew J. Bremner
- **MSc in Developmental Disorders** **2013 - 2014**  
Lancaster University, United Kingdom.  
Dissertation title "*Learning and Remembering Adjectives: A Study in 24-month-olds*"  
Thesis awarded with distinction  
Supervisor: Professor Gert Westermann
- **Bachelor in Psychology** **2008 - 2012**  
Universidad Iberoamericana (UIA). Mexico City, Mexico  
GPA 9.55/10 - equivalent to first class honours

#### **ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC ROLES**

- **Guest Lecturer, University of Birmingham** **March 2020**  
I was invited to give a lecture titled "Specific Language Impairment and Late Talkers" in the module "Development and Disorders of Language in Children" (third year module of BSc in Psychology)
- **Teaching Assistant, University of Birmingham** **2018 - 2020**  
Responsibilities included leading seminar workshops and discussions of the following modules.
  - October 2019 – December 2019: Teaching assistant of the module Multisensory Development in Infancy and Childhood (third year module of BSc in Psychology)
  - October 2018 – December 2018: Teaching assistant of the module Social Cognitive Development in Infancy and Childhood module (third year module of BSc in psychology).
  - February 2018 and February 2019: Teaching assistant for the module Cognition in Infants and Children (second-year module of BSc in Psychology)
- **Coordinator of the Psycholinguistics Group and Lab Meetings** **2017 - 2019**  
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK  
My responsibilities included coordinating lab meetings, organising presentations of research conducted by staff and students, and organising discussion sessions.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Zuniga-Montanez, C.,** Kita, S., Aussems, S., & Krott, A., (accepted for publication in November 2020)  
Beyond the shape of things: Infants can be taught to generalise nouns by function. *Psychological Science*. doi: 10.1177/0956797621993107
- Zuniga-Montanez, C. & Krott, A. (2017)** *Vocabulary Intervention for Late Talkers*. Research protocol pre-registered at Clinicaltrials.org. Identifier: NCT03379818  
<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03379818>

## **GRANTS**

### **Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACyT)**

**2016 – 2020**

Doctoral Studentship

Awarded ≈ £73,000 to support my PhD education – the award included payment of university fees and a monthly stipend.

## **INVITED TALKS**

**Zuniga-Montanez, C.,** Kita, S., Aussems, S., & Krott, A., (2021) *Beyond the shape of things: Infants can be taught to generalise nouns by function*. Communication Development Lab, Psychology Department, University of Warwick, UK

## **CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

Zuniga-Montanez, C. & Krott, A. (2020, August 26-28). *Can Late Talkers be taught a shape bias for noun extensions?* Lancaster Conference on Infant and Early Child Development, Lancaster, United Kingdom. (Conference cancelled)

**Zuniga-Montanez, C.,** Kita, S., Aussems, S., & Krott, A., (2020, July 6-9). *Training infants to focus on the function of objects facilitates word learning*. International Congress of Infant Studies, Glasgow, United Kingdom. (Virtual conference)

Zuniga-Montanez, C. & Krott, A (2019, August 21-23). *Teaching attention to function as a word learning strategy*. Lancaster Conference on Infant and Early Child Development, Lancaster, United Kingdom.

Zuniga-Montanez, C. & Krott, A (2019, July 10-12). *Teaching attention to function as a word learning strategy*. Child Language Symposium, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **• Invited speaker - Psyched@UoB**

**February 2021**

School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK

I was invited to talk about *A day in the life of a PhD student* with undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Birmingham.

### **• Postgraduate Student Ambassador 2019**

**September 2018 – June**

College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.

My main responsibilities consisted of sharing with prospective undergraduate students and their families the research I was conducting during my PhD, and demonstrating how we can use an eye tracker to conduct research with infants and young children.

## **PROFESIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **• Preschool teacher**

**August 2015 – July 2016**

“SPLENDI Preschool”, Mexico City, Mexico.

Preschool teacher for children between 3 to 4 years of age and English teacher for children between 3 to 5 years of age.

### **• Special Needs Support Worker**

**March 2015 – July 2016**

Private practice, Mexico City, Mexico

Support for children diagnosed with language disorders, learning disabilities and developmental disorders.

### **• Special Needs Lead Worker**

**May 2015 – July 2015 and August 2012 – June 2013**

“CETI: Creciendo Juntos”, Mexico City, Mexico

Special Needs Lead Worker at mainstream and special needs schools supporting children diagnosed with ASD to develop academic, social and communication skills that could help them be more independent.