

## Shawn N. Cummings, Ph.D.

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### EDUCATION

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#### **Ph.D., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition)** 2025

*Joint affiliation with Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences*

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore

*Dissertation:* Linking lexically guided perceptual learning to statistical patterns in speech input

#### **M.S., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition)** 2024

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore

*Thesis:* Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning

#### **Graduate Certificate in Neurobiology of Language** 2024

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. William Snyder

#### **Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science** 2023

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Dimitris Xygalatis

#### **B.A., Linguistics, University of Rochester** 2021

Minors in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, English (Theatre), and Music

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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#### **Postdoctoral researcher, Language Science** 2025

University of California, Irvine; Advisors: Drs. Xin Xie and Chigusa Kurumada

### HONORS AND AWARDS

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DOE Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship 2023-2025

NSF NRT Traineeship: Science of Learning & Art of Communication 2022-2023

NIH T32 Fellowship: Cognitive Neuroscience of Communication 2021-2023

Donald Shankweiler Language Sciences Award (University of Connecticut) 2021

## PEER REVIEWED PAPERS (PUBLISHED)

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\* = equal contributions; + = undergraduate student I mentored

**Cummings, S.N.**, Hodges, E.+, & Theodore, R. M. (2026, in press). Cumulative input sensitivity predicts both attenuation and stability of lexically guided perceptual learning. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. [OSF]

**Cummings, S.N.**, Karboga, G., Yang, M., & Jaeger, T.F. (2025). [Compensation in audiovisual speech perception: discounting the pen in the mouth](#). *Journal of Experimental Psychology*. [OSF]

Mechtenberg, H.\*, **Cummings, S. N.\***, Myers, E. B., & Luthra, S. (2025). [Cents and shensibility: The role of reward in talker-specific phonetic recalibration](#). *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 1-22. [OSF]

**Cummings, S.N.**, Duda, B.+, & Theodore, R. M. (2025). [Autistic listeners demonstrate robust lexically guided perceptual learning](#). *Autism Research*. [OSF]

**Cummings, S. N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (2023). [Hearing is believing: Lexically guided perceptual learning is graded to reflect the quantity of evidence in speech input](#). *Cognition*, 235, 105404. [OSF]

**Cummings, S. N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (2022). [Perceptual learning of multiple talkers: Determinants, characteristics, and limitations](#). *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 84(7), 2335-2359. [OSF]

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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Hodges, E.+, **Cummings, S.N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (In revision). [Lexically guided perceptual learning is robust to linguistically engaging distraction](#). [OSF]

## INVITED TALKS

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**Cummings, S.N.** Modelling adaptive changes in speech perception. University of Rochester, September 2025.

**Cummings, S.N.** Perceptual learning and the statistics of speech input. Basque Center on Cognition, Brain, and Language, September 2025.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Cummings, S.N.**, Jaeger, T.F., Kurumada, C., & Xie, X. (2026, June). Even high-resolution data on perceptual learning do not distinguish mechanisms. Submitted for presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

Ferrer, G., Lee, K., **Cummings, S.N.**, & Xie, X. (2026, June). Probing the cognitive loci of compensation for co-articulation. Submitted for presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

Jaeger, T.F., & **Cummings, S.N.**, (2026, June). No specialized learning or memory mechanisms needed? Perceptual compensation might explain blockage of perceptual learning. Submitted for presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

**Cummings, S.N.**, & Xie, X. (2026, May). A novel paradigm for rapid determination of listener-specific phonetic boundaries. Submitted for presentation at the 190<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Yuting Gu, **Cummings, S.N.**, Michelle Zhao, & Xie, X. (2026, May). Disentangling lexical decision criterion shifts from phonetic category changes in natural accent adaptation. Submitted for presentation at the 190<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jacob Bower, Yuting Gu, **Cummings, S.N.**, & Xie, X. (2026, May). Perception of Mandarin-Accented /s/-/θ/ Among L1-Mandarin Learners of English. Submitted for presentation at the 190<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Cummings, S. N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (2024, November). Lexically guided perceptual learning is not a task-based artifact. Oral presentation at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York, New York.

**Cummings, S. N.** (2024, November). Lexically guided perceptual learning is robust! But what is it? Oral presentation at the EDULANG meeting on Variation and Diversity in Language Acquisition and Processing, Storrs, Connecticut.

**Cummings, S. N.**, Duda, B., Medeiros, W., & Theodore, R. M. (2024, June). Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning. Oral presentation at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian Association for Language and Cognition, Trondheim, Norway.

**Cummings, S. N.**, Duda, B., Medeiros, W., & Theodore, R. M. (2024, May). Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning. Poster presentation at the 186<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Giovannone, N., **Cummings, S. N.**, García-Sierra, A., Magnuson, J. S., & Theodore, R. M. (2023, November). Early neural encoding of acoustic-phonetic information is consistent across language ability. Poster presentation at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA.

Giovannone, N., **Cummings, S. N.**, García-Sierra, A., Magnuson, J. S., & Theodore, R. M. (2023, October). Early neural encoding of acoustic-phonetic information is consistent across language ability. Poster presentation at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Marseille, France.

**Cummings, S. N.**, Choi, J. Y., Shattuck-Hufnagel, S., & Theodore, R. M. (2023, May). Linking lexically guided perceptual learning to statistical patterns in speech input. Poster presentation at the 184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Chicago, Illinois.

Hodges, E., **Cummings, S. N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (2023, May). Easy come, easy go: Examining the stability of lexically guided perceptual learning over time. Poster presentation at the 184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Chicago, Illinois.

**Cummings, S.N.**, Karboga, G., Yang, M., & Jaeger, T.F. (2021, November) Causal Inference in the Perception and Learning of Audio-Visually Presented Speech. Poster presentation at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

\* = course designed by me

### Instructor:

*SLHS 6367: Topics in Hearing and Speech Science	Spring 2025
UNIV 1800: University Learning Skills	Fall 2024

### Teaching Assistant:

SLHS 2156Q: Speech and Hearing Science	Fall 2023, 2024, Spring 2024, 2025
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### Guest Lectures:

University of California, Irvine: Introduction to Speech Science	Fall 2025
Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language: <a href="#">External Speaker Series</a>	Fall 2025
University of Rochester: Speech Perception as an Adaptive Mechanism	Fall 2025
University of Connecticut: Current Topics in Developmental Psychology	Spring 2024
University of Rochester: Undergraduate Research in Cognitive Science	Spring 2022

## SERVICE

### Ad hoc Reviewer

*Applied Psycholinguistics; Glossa Psycholinguistics; Journal of the Acoustical Society of America; Language and Speech; Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Language Learning*  
Reviewer

National Council on Undergraduate Research	2023
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Student Facilitator	2023-2024
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“Talk Shop” series, University of Connecticut

Poster Session Chair	2023
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*186th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*

Member, J-Term Committee

2021-2022

*Science of Learning and Art of Communication Program, University of Connecticut*

Member, Organizing Committee

2021

*LangFest, University of Connecticut*

## SKILLS

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Programming: R (proficient), Python (intermediate), Javascript (novice), MATLAB (novice)

Experimental design: Gorilla (proficient), OpenSesame (novice), PsychoPy (novice)

Acoustic analysis: Praat (proficient, annotation and scripting)

Electrophysiology recording: Brainvision product suite (proficient)

Language: English (native fluency), Spanish (rudimentary), American Sign Language (rudimentary)