

Shawn N. Cummings, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition) <i>Joint affiliation with Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences</i> University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore <i>Dissertation:</i> Linking lexically guided perceptual learning to statistical patterns in speech input	2025
M.S., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition) University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore <i>Thesis:</i> Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning	2024
Graduate Certificate in Neurobiology of Language University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. William Snyder	2024
Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Dimitris Xygalatis	2023
B.A., Linguistics, University of Rochester Minors in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, English (Theatre), and Music	2021

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral researcher, Language Science University of California, Irvine; Advisors: Drs. Xin Xie and Chigusa Kurumada	2025
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HONORS AND AWARDS

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)

* = 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 shenshibility: 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

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

INVITED TALKS

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

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 20th 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 20th 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 20th 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 190th 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 190th 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 190th 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 65th 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 9th 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 186th 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 64th 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 15th 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 184th 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 184th 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 62nd 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: External Speaker Series	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

Student Facilitator 2023-2024

“Talk Shop” series, University of Connecticut

Poster Session Chair 2023

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

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)