

# Annemarie A. Kocab

kocab@fas.harvard.edu

33 Kirkland Street  
Department of Psychology  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138

## EMPLOYMENT

---

**Harvard University**, Mind Brain Behavior Interfaculty Initiative 2017-Present  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Advisors: Kathryn Davidson (Linguistics) & Jesse Snedeker (Psychology)

## EDUCATION

---

**Harvard University**, Ph.D., 2017  
Psychology, Advisor: Jesse Snedeker

**Harvard University**, M.A., 2014  
Psychology, Advisor: Jesse Snedeker

**Wellesley College**, B.A., 2010  
Majors: Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences, English

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

---

Star Family Challenge for Scientific Research (\$82,700) 2017  
PI: Jesse Snedeker

Harvard University Bok Certificate for Excellence in Teaching 2016

Foundations of Human Behavior Initiative Research Award (\$5,000) 2015

Norman Henry Anderson Graduate Psychology Award 2015

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (\$10,000) 2014  
PI: Jesse Snedeker

Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative Graduate Student Award (\$8,000) 2013

Elsie Hopestill Stimson Memorial Award (\$500) 2012

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 2012-2015

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Kocab, A., Davidson, K., & Snedeker, J. (*Submitted*). The emergence of natural language quantification.

Kocab, A., Ziegler, J., and Snedeker, J. (2019). It takes a village: The role of community size in linguistic regularization. *Cognitive Psychology*, 114, 101227.

Davidson, K., Kocab, A., Sims, A., & Wagner, L. (2019). The relationship between verbal form and event structure in sign languages. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*, 4, 123.

Kocab, A., Lam, H., and Snedeker, J. (2017). Cars crashing and people hugging: The effect of animacy on word order in gestural language creation. *Cognitive Science*, 42, 918-938.

Kocab, A., Senghas, A., and Snedeker, J. (2016). The emergence of temporal language in Nicaraguan Sign Language.

*Cognition*, 156, 147-163.

Kocab A., Pyers J., and Senghas A. (2015). Referential shift in Nicaraguan Sign Language: A transition from lexical to spatial devices. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, 1540.

Kocab, A., Senghas, A., Coppola, M., and Snedeker, J. (*In prep*). Recursive language emerges quickly when a new language community forms.

Kocab, A., Chen, Z., Brozdowski, C., Özyürek, A., & Coppola, M. (*In prep*). Manner and path in homesign systems.

Kocab, A., Pyers, J., and Senghas, A. (*In prep*). From gesture to language: The emergence of nonmanual markers in Nicaraguan Sign Language.

### **Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

Kocab, A., & Senghas, A. (*To appear*). Language emergence - Theoretical and experimental perspectives. In J. Quer, R. Pfau, & A. Herrmann (Eds.), *Theoretical and Experimental Sign Language Research*. Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.

### **Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings**

Kocab, A., Senghas, A., & Snedeker, J. (2016). Recursion in Nicaraguan Sign Language. *Proceedings of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

---

### **Paper Presentations**

Ahn, D., Kocab, A., and Davidson, K. (2019). A closer look at anaphoric expressions in ASL. Paper to be presented at Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia XII. Seoul, Korea, August 2019.

Kocab, A., Senghas, A., Coppola, M., and Snedeker, J. (2017). The emergence of recursion: Evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language and homesign. Delivered at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA, November 2017.

Davidson, K., Kocab, A., Sims, A.D., and Wagner, L. (2017). Telicity encoding in American Sign Language: Testing the Event Visibility Hypothesis. Delivered at the LSA Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, January 2017.

Kocab, A., Pyers, J., and Senghas, A. (2012). Facial gestures as a source of sign language nonmanual markers: Evidence (and counter-evidence) from Nicaraguan Sign Language. Delivered at the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS), Lund, Sweden, July 2012.

Kocab, A., Pyers, J., and Senghas, A. (2010). The emergence of referential shift marking in Nicaraguan Sign Language. Delivered at the International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR), West Lafayette, IN, October 2010.

### **Poster Presentations**

Kocab, A., Ahn, D., Lund, G., & Davidson, K. (2019). Reconsidering agreement in sign languages. Poster presented at Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), Oslo, Norway, May 2019.

Davidson, K., Kocab, A., Wagner, L., & Sims, A.D. (2018). Verbal form and event structure in sign languages. Poster presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Cambridge, MA, May 2018.

Ziegler, J., Kocab, A., and Snedeker, J. (2017). The effect of population size on intergenerational language convergence: An artificial language learning paradigm. Poster presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA, November 2017.

Kocab, A., Senghas, A., and Snedeker, J. (2016). Recursion in Nicaraguan Sign Language. Poster presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA, November 2016.

Kocab, A., Pyers, J., and Senghas, A. (2013). From gesture to language: The emergence of nonmanual markers in Nicaraguan Sign Language. Poster presented at the International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR), London, England, July 2013.

Kocab, A., Pyers, J., and Senghas, A. (2011). The emergence of grammatical markers for questions in Nicaraguan Sign Language: Adult or child driven? Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Montreal, Canada, March 2011.

Pyers, J., Senghas, A., and Kocab, A. (2009). The emergence of referential shift in a new sign language in Nicaragua: The role of cognition in the development of grammar. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Denver, CO, April 2009.

### **Invited Talks**

Kocab, A. (2019). The origins of language: Evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language and the Lab. Invited talk at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, December, 3, 2019.

Kocab, A. (2019). The origins of language: Evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language and the Lab. Invited talk at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, October, 10, 2019.

Kocab, A. (2018). How a new language is created: What homesign and Nicaraguan Sign Language tell us about the human mind. Invited talk at Sign Languages and the Mind: Their History, Science, and Power panel at Yale University, New Haven, CT, November, 9, 2018. Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXE8ZBx0\\_6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXE8ZBx0_6I)

Kocab, A. (2017). Language emergence: Evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language. Invited talk at EvLab at MIT, Cambridge, MA, May 10, 2017.

Kocab, A. (2017). Language emergence: Evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language. Invited talk at LingLangLunch at Brown University, Providence, RI, April 12, 2017.

Kocab, A. (2017). Recursion in Nicaraguan Sign Language. Invited talk at the Language Learning Lab at Boston College, Boston, MA, March 21, 2017.

Kocab, A. (2016). When children create language: Evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language. Invited talk at Multimodal Multilingual Outcomes in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden, June 14, 2016.

Kocab, A. (2014). Time in an emerging sign language. Invited talk at SignFest at University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, November 22, 2014.

Kocab, A. (2014). Who does what, and when. Guest lecture in P. Schlenker's Sign Language Semantics seminar, New York University, New York, NY, October 6, 2014.

Kocab, A. (2012). The development of nonmanual markers in Nicaraguan Sign Language. Invited lecture at the p<.05 Demystifying Academic Research for Interpreters Workshop at Boston University, Boston, July 2, 2012.

Kocab, A., Martin, A., and Senghas, A. (2012). Signs around the World. Invited lecture at The Learning Center for the Deaf, Framingham, MA, March 9, 2012.

Senghas, A., and Kocab, A. (2012). Grammar in Nicaraguan Sign Language: Breaking signs down into parts. Workshop for Deaf Teachers in Deaf Education, Centro de Educación Especial Melania Morales, Managua, Nicaragua, February 23, 2012.

Senghas, A., Kocab, A., and Martin, A. (2011). Points and poses, roles and rotations: Newly-emergent elements in Nicaraguan Sign Language. Invited lecture at the Deafness Cognition and Language (DCAL) Research Centre, University College London, England, March 16, 2011.

## **TEACHING AND SERVICE**

---

### **Guest Lecturer**

Language Acquisition and Development  
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA (Joshua Hartshorne)

February 2018

Language Acquisition and Development

February 2017

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA (Joshua Hartshorne)

## **Teaching Assistant**

Science of Living Systems 20: Psychological Science  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Steven Pinker) Spring 2016

Science of Living Systems 20: Psychological Science  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Daniel Gilbert) Fall 2015

Developmental Psychology: Origins of Knowledge  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Susan Carey) Spring 2015

## **Seminar Organizer**

Language & Cognition  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2017-2018;  
2014-2016  
Weekly talk series: Students and faculty from Psychology and Linguistics around the Boston area

Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2016-2017

Syntactic Categories Reading Group  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Summer 2016

## **ADVISING**

---

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advising  
Hannah Lam, Harvard '15; *Word order and gesture*

Advising and Supervision of Undergraduate Research Assistants

Alix Rubio (Boston University), Mona Gandhi (Boston University), Michelle Gernon (Arizona State University), Kelly Chambers (Northeastern University), Yana Kuchyk (Northeastern University), Karen Mardini (Harvard University), Aisha Suara (Harvard University), Tahnee Marquardt (Marquette University), Arthur Grayson (Harvard University), Zoe Stahl (University of Konstanz), Anna Falvey (Boston College), Doroteja Dragovic (Tufts University), Kariss Alcorn (Harvard University), Christine Schlaug (Northwestern University), Taylor Joyce (Harvard University), Jennifer Garcia (Boston University), Leyla Kursat (Tufts University), Emma Van Beveren (University of North Carolina)