

# Angela Xiaoxue He

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## Positions

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|-----------------|---|
| 2019 Sept-Pres. | Research Assistant Professor<br>The Brain and Mind Institute, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages<br>The Chinese University of Hong Kong |
| 2018-2019       | Postdoctoral Associate, Philosophy & Linguistics, University of Southern California<br>Supervisor: Alexis Wellwood                                  |
| 2015-2018       | Postdoctoral Associate, Language & Hearing Sciences, Boston University<br>Supervisor: Sudha Arunachalam   |

## Education

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|-----------|--|
| 2009-2015 | PhD in Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD<br>Academic advisor: Jeffrey Lidz<br>Dissertation: Verb Learning Under Guidance<br>Committee members: Jeffrey Lidz, Alexander Williams, Colin Phillips, Rochelle Newman |
| 2004-2009 | BA in Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China<br>Academic advisor: Thomas Hun-tak Lee   |

## Grants, Awards, & Fellowships

### *Grants*

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| 2016-2017 | <a href="#">Dudley Allen Sargent Research Fund Faculty/Postdoc Competition</a><br>Boston University, \$5,000 |
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### *Awards*

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|------|---|
| 2017 | <a href="#">Peter Jusczyk Best Paper Award from the Society of Language Development</a><br>Winning paper titled <i>Verb Learning in 14- and 18-Month-Old English-Learning Infants</i> |
| 2016 | Travel Award for the 37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders  |

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|------|--|
| 2015 | <a href="#">Howard Lasnik Award</a> for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student |
| 2014 | Society for Language Development Student Award                                       |
| 2014 | Graduate Travel Award, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland        |
| 2014 | Jacob K Goldhaber Travel Award, Graduate School, University of Maryland              |
| 2014 | International Conference Student Support Award, University of Maryland               |

### ***Fellowships***

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| 2014      | Graduate Teaching-Assistantship, Linguistics, University of Maryland         |
| 2009-2014 | Graduate Fellowship, Linguistics, University of Maryland, \$20,000 each year |
| 2011-2013 | Language Science Fellowship, University of Maryland, \$5,000 each year       |
| 2005-2009 | Scholarship, Chinese University of Hong Kong, \$10,000 each year             |

## **Publications**

Note: †student advisee

### ***Refereed Journals***

1. **He, A. X.**, Kon, M. & Arunachalam, S. (in press). Linguistic context in verb learning: Less is sometimes more. *Language Learning & Development*.
2. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, & Farkas, H. F. (conditionally accepted). Events and processes in language and mind. *Baltic Yearbook for Cognition, Logic, and Communication*.
3. de Carvalho A., **He A. X.**, Lidz J., & Christophe A. (2019). Prosody and function words cue the acquisition of word meanings in 18-month-old infants. *Psychological Science*, 30(3), 319-332. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797618814131>
4. **He, A. X.**, Luyster, R., Hong, S. J., & Arunachalam, S. (2018). Personal pronoun usage in maternal input to infants at high vs. low risk for autism spectrum disorder. *First Language*, 38(5), 520-537. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0142723718782634>
5. **He, A. X.** & Arunachalam, S. (2017). Word learning mechanisms. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews on Cognitive Science*, 8(4), e1435. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1435>

This paper has been recognized as a top 20 most read paper in Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science.

6. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (2017). Verb learning in 14- and 18-month-old English-learning infants. *Language Learning and Development*, 13(3), 335-356. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2017.1285238>

This paper has won the [Peter Juszysk Best Paper Award](#).

7. **He, A. X.**, Huang, S., Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, A. (under revision). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. *Cognition*.
8. **He, A. X.**, & Witternberg, E. (under 2<sup>nd</sup> round revision). The acquisition of event nominals and light verbs. *Language and Linguistics Compass*.
9. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (under review). When a gorp is not an object: Learning nouns that denote events.

## **Conference Proceedings**

1. Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (2018). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. *Proceedings of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development*. <http://www.lingref.com/buclid/42/BUCLD42-03.pdf>
2. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (2015). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium*. <https://repository.upenn.edu/pwpl/vol21/iss1/32/>

## **In Preparation**

1. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. Event endstate conceptualization in infants and adults.
2. **He, A. X.**, & Wellwood, A. Learning is biased: "Most" is easy but "least" is hard
3. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & A. Williams. Representing entities as event participants in infancy.
4. †Clancy, H. E., & **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. It's in your box. Can you find it? Personal pronoun comprehension in children with autism spectrum disorder.
5. Wellwood, A., Pietroski, P. & **He, A. X.**. Graded plurals and indeterminacy.

## **Invited Presentations**

### **Brown Bag Meetings & Research Seminars**

1. May 2019. *Gleebest* of the *blicks* are doing a *gorp!* — Inferring word meanings from the syntax. Semantics Babble (<http://idiom.ucsd.edu/~ivano/SemBabble/>), research group at University of California, San Diego.
2. Apr 2019. How do young learners orient themselves in the word learning maze? Developmental Brown Bag, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
3. Mar 2019. How do young children "decipher" the meanings of "tough words"? Research seminar at the Dept. of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China.
4. Dec 2017. Tackling those tough words: acquisition of verbs, abstract nouns, and pronouns. Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences Colloquium Series, Boston University.
5. Nov 2017. What do we learn from acquisition of "tough" words? – Bringing linguistic, cognitive and social development together. Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston University.
6. May 2017. Towards optimal input: Information and processing load in verb learning. Communication Sciences & Disorders Research Day, Boston University.
7. April 2016. The role of sentence parsing, event analysis, and their relation in verb learning. Language and Cognition workshop, Harvard University.

### **Internal Interdisciplinary Talks**

1. Apr 2019. Parse to learn while learning to parse: Verb learning and language processing in 3-year-olds. Language Processing Lab, PI: Elsi Kaiser, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Southern California.
2. June 2015. Guided verb learning. Project on Child Development laboratory, PI: Sandra Waxman, Northwestern University.
3. Oct 2013. Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic

bootstrapping of verb learning. Language Science Center, PI: Colin Phillips, University of Maryland.

## Refereed Conference Presentations

*Note:* presenter, †student advisee

### *Talks*

1. He, A. X., & Wellwood, A. (Nov 2019). Learning is biased: "most" is easy and "least" is hard. The 44<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
2. †Clancy, H., He, A. X., Luyster, R., & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2019). "It's in your box!"—Personal pronoun comprehension in children with ASD. The 44<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
3. Wellwood, A., Pietroski, P. & He, A. X. (July 2019). Graded plurals and indeterminacy. Society for Philosophy & Psychology annual meeting (SPP), University of California, San Diego.
4. Wellwood, A., & He, A. X. (June 2019). Evaluating comparatives with superordinate mass nouns. The Canadian Linguistics Association Annual Meeting (CLA-ACL), Vancouver BC.
5. †Clannay, H., He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (Apr 2019). Personal pronoun comprehension in children with ASD. Linguistics and Cognitive Science Student Conference. Newark, DE.
6. He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2018). Sleep consolidates syntactically-derived verb meanings in 2-year-olds. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
7. He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (Jan 2017). How much information is too much: Informativity and processing cost in verb learning. The 91<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Austin, TX.
8. Perkins, L., He, A. X., Williams, A., Dudley, R., Björnsdóttir, S. & Lidz, J. (Mar 2016). Can intransitive clauses name 2-participant events? A new test of participant-to-argument matching in verb learning. The 29<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.
9. He, A. X., & Lidz, J. (Jan 2016). What infants learn about a verb depends on its subject. The 90<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), DC.
10. de Carvalho, A., He, A. X., Lidz, J. & Christophe, A. (Nov 2015). 18-month-olds use the relationship between prosodic and syntactic structures to constrain the meaning of novel words. The 40<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
11. de Carvalho, A., He, A. X., Dautrichel, I., Lidz, J. & Christophe, A. (Sept 2015). Phrasal prosody helps infants to access the syntactic structure of sentences and to constrain the acquisition of novel word meanings. Workshop on the role of prosody in early speech perception, the 12<sup>th</sup> Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition conference (GALA), Nantes, France.
12. He, A. X., & Lidz, J. (Nov 2014). Development of the verb-event link between 14 and 18 months. The 39<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
13. He, A. X., Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (May 2014). Thematic interpretation and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) & the 26th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL), College Park, MD.
14. Wellwood, A., He, A. X., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Mar 2014). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), Philadelphia, PA.

### *Symposium Talks*

1. Arunachalam, S., & He, A. X. (Nov 2017). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. Paper at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston University, Boston, MA. In the Sunday Closing Symposium titled "Event Concepts and Early word learning"; Chairs: Jeffrey Lidz &

Alexander Williams.

2. **He, A. X.**, Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, S., (Oct 2017). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. Paper at the 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR. In the symposium titled "Memory consolidation and learning across early childhood"; Chair: **Angela Xiaoxue He**.
3. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (July 2017). How we conceptualize the ends of events (and what it might mean for verb acquisition). Paper at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL). Lyon, France. In the symposium titled "Encoding Events in Language and Cognition"; Chair: Ercenur Ünal.
4. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (May 2016). When one cue is better than two: trade-off between processing load and informativity in verb learning and verb extension tasks. Paper at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA. In the symposium titled "How real-time processing abilities affect the trajectory of language acquisition"; Chair: Sudha Arunachalam.
5. de Carvalho, A., Dautriche, I., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J., Christophe, A. (May 2016). The acquisition of word meanings: interactions between parsing and learning. Paper at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA. In the symposium titled "How real-time processing abilities affect the trajectory of language acquisition"; Chair: Sudha Arunachalam.
6. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). When participant structure and argument structure do not match: Participant structure construction in adults and prelinguistic infants. Paper at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In the symposium titled "The Role of Grammar and Extralinguistic Cognition in Verb Learning"; Chair: **Angela Xiaoxue He**.

## **Posters**

1. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2019). Can you do a "gorp" for five minutes? Learning nouns that denote event concepts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-2), Beijing, China.
2. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (June-July 2018). Exploring the conceptual origin of a linguistic behavior: Event endstate representation in infancy. The XXI ICIS Biennial Congress, Philadelphia, PA.
3. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2018). Verb learning mediated by sentence processing—understanding both the learning process and the learning outcome. The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
4. Williams, A., Perkins, L., **He, A. X.**, Björnsdóttir, S., & Lidz, J. (Nov 2017). A new test of one-to-one matching between arguments and participants in verb learning. The 42<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA.
5. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Oct 2017). Eye gaze reveals where verb learners trip. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.
6. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Oct 2017). Event nominal acquisition benefits from linguistic context. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.
7. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Aug 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.
8. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). How much information is too much when introducing new verbs: Insights from typically-developing 3-year-olds. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
9. **He, A. X.**, Kim, N., Hong, S. J., Luyster, R. & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). Pronouns in maternal input to infants at high- vs. low-risk for autism spectrum disorder. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
10. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 29<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.
11. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic interpretations and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The XIX Biennial International Conference

for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.

12. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). Verb learning and the perception of three-participant events in infants and adults. Poster presented at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.

13. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic role assignment in resultative constructions in English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

14. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Jan 2014). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 88<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Minneapolis, MN.

15. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Nov 2013). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: a prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 38<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

16. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (Nov 2011). Mapping intransitive verbs onto self-propelled actions. The 36<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA.

## Peer Review Activity

### *Book Sections*

Semantics in Language Acquisition (Edited Volume) in Trends in Language Acquisition Research 2016

### *Journals*

|  |            |
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| Canadian Journal of Linguistics          | 2018       |
| Child Development                        | 2019       |
| First Language                           | 2019       |
| Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics | 2017, 2019 |
| Journal of Experimental Child Psychology | 2015       |
| Language, Cognition and Neuroscience     | 2016       |
| Language Learning and Development        | 2018       |
| Natural Language & Linguistic Theory     | 2018       |
| PLOS ONE                                 | 2017       |

### *Conferences*

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| BUCLD: Boston University Conference on Language Development                     | 2016-2019 |
| CUNY: CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure | 2015      |
| CSS: Cognitive Science Society Meeting  | 2016-2019 |

## Other Research Experience

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|-----------|--|
| 2012-2015 | Graduate student trainee, Language and Music Cognition Lab,<br>University of Maryland<br>Supervisor: Bob Slevc |
| 2009      | Research Assistant, Childhood Bilingualism Research Center,<br>Chinese University of Hong Kong                 |

Supervisors: Virginia Choi-yin Yip & Angel Chan

2009                      Research Assistant, Language Acquisition Lab,  
Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Supervisor: Thomas Hun-tak Lee

## Teaching

### *Instructor*

Spring 2018              SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required), Boston University  
Spring 2017              SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required), Boston University  
Spring 2016              SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required), Boston University

### *Teaching Assistant*

Spring 2015              LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland  
Fall 2014                  LING444: Child Language Acquisition, Prof. J. Lidz, University of Maryland  
Spring 2013              LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland  
Fall 2012                  LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland  
Spring 2012              LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland  
Fall 2011                  LING444: Child Language, Prof. J. Lidz, University of Maryland  
Spring 2011              LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. T. Bleam, University of Maryland  
Fall 2010                  LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland

### *Guest Lecturer*

Fall 2019                  LING6920: Topics in Language Acquisition, Prof. V. Yip, Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Fall 2019                  LING4201: Neurolinguistics, Prof. G. Feng, Chinese University of Hong Kong

### *Lab/Workshop Consultant*

Spring 2019              PHIL246: Foundations of Cognitive Science, Prof. A. Wellwood, University of Southern California  
*Note: provided consulting for lab sections on experimental methods*

## Advising

*Note: \*students who further pursued academic or related career*

### *Master Student Supervision*

Spring 2019              *Lan Zhang* at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

### *Undergraduate Thesis Supervision*

2019-2020              *MeiLam Ho* at the Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Thesis: Cantonese sentence final particles—  
Affectional functions, individual differences and gender differences



## ***Research Assistant Supervision***

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| 2018 July-Pres. | 7 RAs in Meaning Lab at University of Southern California<br>Projects on individuating and comparing objects and events   |
| 2015-2018       | 15 RAs in Child Language Lab at Boston University<br>Projects on mechanisms of word learning<br><i>*Casey Bowen</i> (MS-SLP graduate from Emerson College)<br><i>*Annalise Hannah</i> (MS-SLP student at the University of Colorado Boulder)<br><i>*Allison Hatch</i> (working as an SLP for a private clinic in the Boston area)<br><i>*Kerry Wegner</i> (MS-SLP student at Boston University) |
| 2009-2015       | 10 RAs in Project on Child Language Learning lab at University of Maryland<br>Projects on verb learning and event conceptualization<br><i>*Katrina Connell</i> (lab manager at Penn State, Center for Language Science))<br><i>*Tatiana Del Gato</i> (doctoral student at UC San Diego, Cognitive Science))   |

## **Professional Affiliations & Service**

### ***Memberships***

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 2015-Pres. | Cognitive Development Society (CDS)                                |
| 2014-Pres. | Society for Language Development (SLD)                             |
| 2014-Pres. | International Congress for the Study of the Child Language (IASCL) |
| 2014-Pres. | International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL)            |
| 2014-Pres. | International Congress on Infant Studies (ICIS)                    |
| 2013-Pres. | Cognitive Science Society (CSS)                                    |
| 2012-Pres. | Linguistic Society of America (LSA)                                |

### ***Academic Event Organizer***

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| 2012 | Lead Organizer<br>Language Science Day*, University of Maryland, College Park<br><i>*annual social and scientific event of the language science community on campus</i> |
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### ***Internal Committees***

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| 2012-2013 | IGERT* Student Executive Committee, member<br><i>*NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program on Biological and Computational Bases of Language Science</i> |
| 2012-2013 | Philosophy and Linguistics Group (PHLING), member  |
| 2011-2012 | Department of Linguistics Grad Student Association, student representative   |
| 2011      | IGERT Lunch Talk Series & Social Events Committee, member  |

### ***Outreach***

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| 2017-Pres. | Founder and contributing author of the WeChat* special column <a href="#">Cognitive Science**</a><br><i>*widely used social media in China</i><br><i>**disseminates cognitive science-related knowledge to general public; updated weekly</i> |
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|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2011 | Contributor to Infant and Child Studies Tent @ Maryland Day*<br>*all-day event to expose the public to linguistic and cognitive science   |
| 2010 | Contributor to High School Outreach*, Language Science Center, University of Maryland<br>*event where we host visits to the UMD campus and the language science labs<br>from several local high schools |

## **Skills**

### **Languages**

Mandarin (native), English (advanced), Cantonese (intermediate), French (beginner), ASL (beginner)

### **Programming Languages**

R, HTML5/CSS, LaTeX, Unix/Shell, JavaScript

### **Experiment-related techniques**

Habituation-Switch program, Tobii Eyetracker, Amazon mTurk, Qualtrics, Psyscope, Praat, FinalCut, GIMP