Dear Editorial Board,

We are happy to submit our manuscript entitled “Demographic Biases in Naturalistic Language Recordings in the CHILDES Database” to *Development Science* for consideration as a **short report**. The manuscript complies with all requirements in the journal’s *Instructions for authors.*

There is a growing awareness in child-development research - particularly in language acquisition - that studies are heavily biased towards WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic) populations. In this paper, we provide a systematic review of a substantial portion of the CHILDES database, the major source of naturalistic recordings of children’s linguistic environment. We find that naturalistic-speech samples represented in CHILDES are markedly varied in terms of languages and countries. However, they are biased in terms of education, urbanization, wealth, and family structure, both in terms of the countries represented, and in terms of the samples gathered within these countries.

We believe *Developmental Science* is the perfect venue for this manuscript because of the many articles that have been published on its pages with calls for considering diversity in our field, and responses to it (e.g., articles by Dr. Leher Singh, and in the special issue co-edited by her). Our results are relevant to both theoretical and applied research, since language acquisition measures are often used as a proxy for development more widely, and thus our paper would inform the interdisciplinary readership of the journal. The paper also speaks to *Developmental Science’*s support of open science, as both of our data and scripts are open source.

Aware of the difficulty of identifying and securing relevant reviewers, we take the liberty of suggesting the following potential reviewers, who are knowledgeable on the topic, and who can provide an unbiased review (to the best of our knowledge):

* Rowena Garcia ([rowena.garcia@mpi.nl](mailto:rowena.garcia@mpi.nl)) has published a systematic analysis of biases in previous child language work
* Brian MacWhinney ([macw@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:macw@andrew.cmu.edu)) as leader of CHILDES
* Andrew Caines ([andrew.caines@cl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.caines@cl.cam.ac.uk)) has published computational work building on CHILDES (https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305000919000485)

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Camila Scaff, on behalf of all authors