**Cécile Issard**1, Sho Tsuji2, Alejandrina Cristia1

1 Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique, Département d’Etudes Cognitives, École Normale Supérieure.

2 International Research Center for Neurointelligence, The University of Tokyo.

**Corresponding author**: Cécile Issard

Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique

Département d’Études Cognitives, Ecole Normale Supérieure,

29 rue d’Ulm

75005 Paris

France

[cecile.issard@gmail.com](mailto:cecile.issard@gmail.com)

+33.(0)1.44.32.26.23

Dear Dr. Roisman,

We hereby submit a paper entitled “Infants’ preference for speech sounds: A meta-analysis” to *Child* *Development*. Speech is the main medium for human vocal communication, and investigating infants’ preference for speech over non-speech sounds is of crucial importance for understanding how infants build cognitive representations for social communication. Our meta-analysis quantitatively assesses current theories of the literature, according to which infants would initially not discriminate speech from other vocal sounds, and form a separate category for speech sounds around 3 months of age. Our study gathers all the available literature on this topic, which allowed us unprecedented power to statistically test previous claims based on non-statistical comparisons, often done by interpreting p-values across papers. This practice is now openly considered as incorrect (as expressed in Gelman & Stern, 2012: “the difference between ‘significant’ and ‘non-significant’ is not itself statistically significant”). We demonstrate results do not statistically differ depending on whether the competitor sound is vocal or non-vocal; and are extremely stable across the first year of life. As such, our study shed a new light on the phenomenon. Based on the methodological and theoretical significance of our findings, we make targeted recommendations for future data collection and reporting endeavors.

We make our meta-analytic data and reproducible analysis scripts publicly accessible online; links provided in manuscript.

This work has not been published previously, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. There are no conflicts of interest and all funding sources are acknowledged in the Acknowlegdments section.

We suggest Jed T. Elison as the Associate Editor to process our manuscript.

Best regards,

Cécile Issard