

Emma James

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Research and Academic Appointments

2022 – Present	Lecturer , Department of Psychology, University of York
2021 – 2022	Stipendiary Lecturer , St Catherine's College, University of Oxford
2020 – 2022	Research Associate (Co-I) , Dept. of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford PI: Prof. Kate Nation
2019 – 2020	ESRC Independent Research Fellow , Department of Psychology, University of York Mentor: Prof. Asifa Majid
2019	Research Associate , Department of Psychology, University of York PI: Dr Aidan Horner
2017 Oct-Dec	Visiting Scholar , Haskins Laboratories, USA Host: Prof. Kenneth Pugh
2013 – 2014	Research Associate , Department of Psychology, Lancaster University PI: Prof. Kate Cain, Prof. Xiuli Tong

Qualifications

2015 – 2019	PhD Psychology , University of York <i>Understanding individual differences in learning and consolidating new vocabulary.</i> Supervisors: Dr Lisa Henderson, Prof. Gareth Gaskell
2014 – 2015	MSc Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience , University of York
2010 – 2013	BA Experimental Psychology , University of Oxford

Awards and Prizes

2021	York Open Research Award , University of York (£200) Awarded to ReproducibiliTea Team for contributions to the open research community.
2020	9th Frith Prize Lecturer , Experimental Psychology Society (£500) Sole recipient of early career award recognising exceptional PhD work.
2018	Pre-Registration Challenge Prize , Center for Open Science (\$1000) Awarded for successful pre-registration of methods in published research.
2017	Poster Prize , British Psychological Society Developmental Section Second place prize awarded for conference poster presentation.
2015	MSc Project Prize , University of York Awarded for the best empirical project.

Grants and Fellowships

2020 – 2022	ESRC Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (£293,401; Nation, K., James, E., Thompson, P., & Bowes, L.) <i>Taking the long view: understanding the precursors and consequences of poor reading comprehension identified in mid-childhood.</i>
2019 – 2020	ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (£123,568) <i>Studies great and small: convergent approaches to understanding language learning.</i>
2014 – 2018	ESRC 1+3 Research Studentship (£78,190) <i>Understanding individual differences in learning and consolidating new vocabulary.</i>

Small Grants

- **Experimental Psychology Society Workshop Grant** (2018): *Mapping the future for poor comprehender research: taking stock and moving forward*. Co-Applicant with J. Ricketts (Royal Holloway), D. Colenbrander (University of Bristol), L. Henderson (University of York), & H. Joseph (University of Reading).
- **ESRC Researcher Training Support Grant Top-Ups** (2016, 2018) to support summer school attendance.
- **Experimental Psychology Society Grindley Grants** (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020) for conference attendance.
- **ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Grant** (2017) to visit Haskins Laboratories.
- **Guarantors of Brain Travel Award** (2017) to support conference attendance.

Teaching

Appointments

2022 +	Lecturer , Department of Psychology, University of York Current responsibilities include supervision of undergraduate research projects and literature surveys
2021 – 2022	Stipendiary Lecturer , St Catherine's College, University of Oxford Acting Director of Studies and Subject Tutor for Psychology, responsible for organising and delivering undergraduate tuition, pastoral supervision
2018 – 2019	Statistics Workshop Presenter , Maths Skills Centre, University of York Lead introductory statistics workshops for postgraduate students across disciplines
2017 – 2018	Statistics Tutor , Maths Skills Centre, University of York Held drop-in advice sessions for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students
2016 – 2018	Academic Skills Workshop Presenter , Learning Enhancement, University of York Delivered academic skills workshops to pre-university students
2015 – 2018	Graduate Teaching Assistant , Department of Psychology, University of York Including Advanced Research Methods support; Development & Language tutorials; supervision of first-year research projects; marking

Project supervision

- Currently supervising research projects for BSc students in Psychology
- Co-supervised MSc students from *Development, Disorders & Clinical Practice* and *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience* courses, University of York (2-3 students/year; 2016-2018, 2020)

Coding support

- **Certified Instructor, The Carpentries**. Trained to teach programming workshops via live coding, with expertise in R.
- **Online resource: From Gorilla to Tidy Data**. Online tutorial for extracting and cleaning data files in R. <https://emljames.github.io/GorillaR/>
- **Lead Instructor, Introduction to R and Mixed Effects Models**. Two-day workshop organised for York St. John University Psychology Department (July 2020), including development of original materials. [[link](#)]

Service

2022 – Present	Committee Member (ECR Representative) , Experimental Psychology Society
2021 – Present	Editorial Board Member , Cogent Psychology

2021 – 2022	Language & Development Seminar Organiser , Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford
2019 – 2020	ReproducibiliTea Organiser , Department of Psychology, University of York Established and co-organised a fortnightly journal club to discuss open research
2015 – 2020	ECR Forum Committee Member , Department of Psychology, University of York Organised academic training and social events for early career researchers.
2018	Workshop Organiser , Experimental Psychology Society sponsored workshop Co-organised and hosted workshop on poor comprehender research, attended by international academics and practitioners.
2015 – 2018	Sixth Form Conference Organiser , Department of Psychology, University of York Established an annual conference day for pre-university students to experience psychology research; organised for four years before securing its continuation.
2015 – 2018	Developmental Group Organiser , Department of Psychology, University of York Co-organised monthly seminars for researchers in developmental psychology.
<i>Ad hoc</i>	Reviewed for: Psychological Bulletin; Journal of Memory and Language; PeerJ; Scientific Studies of Reading; Journal of Research in Reading; Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research

Outreach and Engagement

2022	Oxford Sparks Online video: <i>A book at bedtime</i> ; (pending release)
2020	I'm a Scientist – Stay at Home edition Engaged in live web chats with school students; won <i>Scientist of the Week</i> award.
2019	Scientific expert for popular science documentary , Boundless Productions <i>The Chasers Road Trip: Trains, Brains & Automobiles</i> ; broadcast ITV Jan 2021.
2019, 2018	Sleep Workshop , York International-State School Partnership Summer School Organised half-day workshop on sleep and memory for 11- to 13-year-olds.
2018	Pint of Science Speaker Public talk: <i>From zzzs to AAAs: the importance of sleep in childhood learning</i>
2016	Pint of Science Organiser Co-organised three nights of public science talks.
2012	British Science Festival Volunteer , British Science Association Co-organised a daily highlights show during the festival.
2011	Publishing Intern , Wellcome Trust Wrote blog posts and featured articles for Wellcome Trust publications.
<i>Ad hoc</i>	STEM Ambassador , STEMnet Science outreach ambassador for schools.

Invited Talks

- James, E.** (2023, March). *Specific comprehension difficulties are very rarely specific: tales from experimental and data-driven approaches*. Birkbeck Psychology Seminar, London, UK.
- James, E.** (2022, November). *The reading difficulties of children with (even mild) language impairments*. Invited speaker for Judy Dunn Conference on Speech and Language Disorders, Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH), online.

- James, E.** (2021, April). Invited panellist for *Gorilla Presents... Speech Production Research Online*. Hosted by Gorilla, online. [\[link\]](#)
- James E.** (2021, January). *Word learning through the lens of prior knowledge*. Ninth Frith Prize Lecture at the Experimental Psychology Society meeting, online. [\[link\]](#)
- James, E.** (2020, November). *It'll be alright on the night? Exploring bedtime benefits for learning new vocabulary*. Talk for the Language & Cognition Seminar series, University College London, online.
- James, E.** (2020, September). *Accessing prior lexical knowledge in explicit and incidental word learning*. Guest speaker at the Language, Learning, & Cognition Lab meeting, Royal Holloway, online.
- James, E.** (2020, August). *Learn, Sleep, Recall, Repeat: the importance of sleep for language learning*. Talk for the MemTalks series at Memrise, online.
- James, E.** (2020, July). *A (half) marathon, not a sprint: Preparing to conduct multi-session memory studies online*. Talk at the 2020 BeOnline meeting, online. [\[link\]](#)
- James, E.** (2020, June). *Open research means open conversation*. Talk at the University of York Open Research Launch Event, online. [\[link\]](#)
- James, E.** (2018, February). *The rich get richer? Examining influences of existing knowledge on learning new words*. Guest speaker at the Language and Reading Acquisition Lab meeting, Royal Holloway, London, UK.

Publications

- James, E.,** Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (under Stage 1 review). Language and beyond: a registered report examining single and multiple risk models of later reading comprehension weaknesses.
- James, E.,** Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (under revision). Heterogeneity in children's reading comprehension difficulties: a latent class approach. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/ru6x2>
- James, E.,** Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (Stage 1 in principal acceptance). What are the long-term prospects for poor comprehenders? A registered report investigating education and employment outcomes. *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
- Sullivan, E.C., **James, E.,** Henderson, L.M., McCall, C., & Cairney, S.A. (under Stage 2 revision). The Influence of Emotion Regulation Strategies and Sleep Quality on Mental Health. *Cortex*.
- James, E.,** Gaskell, M.G., Murphy, G., Tulip, J., & Henderson, L.M. (2022). Word learning in the context of semantic prior knowledge: Evidence of interference from feature-based neighbours in children and adults. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2022.2102198>
- James E.,** Gaskell, M.G., Pearce, R., Korell, C., Dean, C., & Henderson, L.M. (2021). The role of prior lexical knowledge in children's and adults' word learning from stories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0001080>
- Henderson, L.M., van Rijn, E., **James, E.,** Walker, S.A., Knowland, V., & Gaskell, M.G. (2021). Timing storytime to maximise children's ability to consolidate new vocabulary. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 210, 105207. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2021.105207>
- James, E.,** Ong, G., Henderson, L.M., & Horner, A.J. (2021). The formation and retrieval of holistic event memories across development. *Journal of Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.5334/joc.149>
- James, E.,** Ong, G., Henderson, L.M., & Horner, A.J. (2020). Make or break it: Boundary conditions for integrating multiple elements in episodic memory. *Royal Society Open Science*, 7, 200431 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.200431>
- James, E.,** Koutraki, Y.G., & Tickle, H. (2020). Sleep-associated consolidation in app-based language learning. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 1178-1184.
- James, E.,** Currie, N., Tong, X., & Cain, K. (2020). The relations between morphological awareness and reading comprehension in beginner readers through to young adolescents. *Journal of Research in Reading*, 44, 110-130. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9817.12316>

- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2020). Sleep-dependent consolidation in children with comprehension and vocabulary weaknesses: It'll be alright on the night? *Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry*, 61, 1104-1115. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13253>
- James, E., Joehner, A-K., & Muehlroth, B.E.** (2020). From ZZZs to AAAs: Why sleep is an important part of your study schedule. *Frontiers Young Minds*, 8, 51. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frym.2020.00051>
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2019). Offline consolidation supersedes prior knowledge benefits in children's (but not adults') word learning. *Developmental Science*, e12776. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12776>
- Henderson, L.M., & James, E.** (2018). Consolidating new words from repetitive versus multiple stories: Prior knowledge matters. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 166, 465-484. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2017.09.017>
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., Weighall, A., & Henderson, L.M.** (2017). Consolidation of vocabulary during sleep: the rich get richer? *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 77, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2017.01.054>
- James, E., & Cairney, S.A.** (2017). Commentary: Knowledge Acquisition during Exam Preparation Improves Memory and Modulates Memory Formation. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 10, 245. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2016.00245>

Selected Conference Presentations (peer-reviewed, presenting author only)

- James, E., Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K.** (2022, September). *A data-driven approach to understanding reading comprehension difficulties*. Paper presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Sheffield, UK.
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2021, July). *The role of prior knowledge in sleep-associated consolidation of new vocabulary: insights from good and poor comprehenders*. Poster presented at the 15th International Congress of the Association for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, USA (online).
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2020, October). *The changing contributions of prior knowledge and offline processes to vocabulary learning across development*. Poster presented at the Many Paths to Language workshop, hosted by the Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen, The Netherlands (online).
- James, E., Koutraki, Y.G., & Tickle, H.** (2020, July). *Sleep-associated consolidation in app-based language learning*. Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada (online).
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2020, April). *Accessing prior linguistic knowledge when learning new words from spoken stories*. Poster accepted for the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Beijing, China (meeting cancelled due to COVID-19).
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2019, July). *Consolidation of new vocabulary in good and poor comprehenders*. Poster presented at the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Bournemouth, UK.
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2018, August). *Word learning and consolidation in poor comprehenders*. Paper presented at the 8th International Summer School on Literacy Research, Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands.
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2018, June). *The role of prior knowledge in vocabulary consolidation*. Paper presented at Child Language Symposium, Reading, UK.
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2017, November). *Prior knowledge influences in learning and consolidating new words*. Poster presented at the Society for Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, USA.

- James, E.,** Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, September). *The rich get richer? The role of existing knowledge in learning new words*. Paper presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK.
- James, E.,** Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, September). *How can a chicken sleep upside down? The influence of prior knowledge in learning novel concepts*. Poster presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK.
- James, E.,** Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, July). *Matthew effects in word learning: does prior knowledge aid consolidation?* Paper presented at the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Reading, UK.
- James, E.,** Henderson, L.M., Gaskell, M.G. (2016, July). *Consolidating new semantic information during word learning: does prior knowledge help?* Poster presented at the 6th International Conference on Memory, Budapest, Hungary.
- James, E., & Cain, K.** (2014, September). *Morphological awareness in poor comprehenders: clues to the source of the difficulties*. Paper presented at the 31st BPS Cognitive Psychology Section Conference, Nottingham, UK.
- James, E., & Cain, K.** (2014, July). *Morphological awareness in poor comprehenders: clues to the source of their difficulties*. Paper presented at the 5th UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Lancaster, UK.
- Katuszka, V., & **James, E.** (2012, November). *Is there another 'P' to consider in relation to longitudinal birth cohort studies? Reflections on participant involvement in Children of the 90s*. Paper presented at the National Institute for Health Research INVOLVE Conference, Nottingham, UK.