

James Brand

Department of Psychology
Lancaster University

j.brand@lancaster.ac.uk
<https://jamesbrandscience.github.io>

Research Interests

How do cognitive biases shape our language? My research focuses on the different ways that our language is shaped by the brain, addressing how language acquisition, processing and use can explain many fundamental properties of language. I adopt a variety of experimental techniques (such as cross-situational, artificial language and iterated learning paradigms) which is complimented by large-scale corpus based analyses, in order to produce robust and comprehensive empirical evidence. This approach is highly multidisciplinary, with the aim being to answer and generate research questions that have implications for areas of psychology, linguistics and the cognitive sciences.

Education

JUNE, 2017	Ph.D. Psychology Lancaster University Title: <i>The Role of Cognitive Factors on the Development and Evolution of the Vocabulary</i> Supervisors: Prof. Padraic Monaghan & Dr. Peter Walker
NOV, 2012	M.Sc. Evolution of Language and Cognition University of Edinburgh
JUNE, 2010	B.A. English Language Sheffield Hallam University
MARCH, 2010	CertTESOL (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Trinity College London

Employment

JUNE, 2017 - Present	Post-doctoral Research Associate, Lancaster University PIs: Dr. Dermot Lynott & Dr. Louise Connell Project: <i>Emergent Categorical Structure in the Human Conceptual System</i> Key roles: Megastudy data collection, Advanced statistical analyses, Dissemination of research
FEB, 2017 - JUNE, 2017	Research Assistant, Lancaster University PI: Dr. Michelle To Project: <i>Influence of Anxiety on Body Perception for Underweight and Overweight Individuals</i> Key roles: Design and develop experiments, Stimuli generation, Training of RAs
DEC, 2016 - JUNE, 2017	Research Assistant, Lancaster University PI: Prof. Padraic Monaghan Project: <i>Investigating the Role of Multiple Cues in Word Learning</i> Key roles: Design and develop experiments, Analyse data, Contribute to manuscript preparation

Publications

- Brand, J., Monaghan, P., & Walker, P.** (2018). Changing signs: Testing how sound-symbolism supports early word learning. *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. [pdf](#)
- Brand, J., Monaghan, P., & Walker, P.** (2017). The changing role of form-to-meaning mappings for the growing vocabulary. *Cognitive Science*. doi:10.1111/cogs.12565. [open access](#) and [repository](#)
- Monaghan, P., **Brand, J.**, Frost, R.L.A., & Taylor, G. (2017). Multiple, noisy cues for word learning results in robust, generalisable learning. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. [pdf](#)
- Brand, J.**, (2017). The Role of Cognitive Factors on the Development and Evolution of the Vocabulary. *Doctoral dissertation, Lancaster University*. [pdf](#)
- Brand, J., & Monaghan, P.** (2016). Predictors of lexical stability in an artificially learnt language. *Poster presented at the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. [poster](#)
- Lynott, D., Connell, L., Brysbaert, M., Carney, J., & **Brand, J.**, (In prep.). Sensorimotor norms of modality-specific perceptual strength and effector-specific action strength for 40,000 concepts.
- Brand, J., & Monaghan, P.** (In prep.). Experimental diachronics: Predictors of lexical stability and change in language evolution.

Other Selected Presentations

- Brand, J.**, (2018). Predicting the Age of Acquisition of Concepts from Sensorimotor Experience. Talk presented at the 4th Annual LuCiD Language and Communicative Development Conference, University of Liverpool. [abstract](#)
- Brand, J.**, (2017). Using Amazon's Mechanical Turk for Online Data Collection. Talk presented at New Tricks, Lancaster University. [slides](#)
- Brand, J., & Monaghan, P.** (2017). Cognitive factors predict the rate and type of linguistic change in the vocabulary. *Poster presented at 23rd Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing conference*. Lancaster, UK. [pdf](#)
- Brand, J., & Monaghan, P.** (2016). Simulating vocabulary change through the cultural transmission of language. *Poster presented at 22nd Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing conference*. Bilbao, Spain. [pdf](#)
- Brand, J., & Monaghan, P.** (2016). Predictors of lexical stability in an artificially learnt language. Talk presented at Psycholinguistics in Flanders, Antwerp, Belgium. [slides](#)
- Brand, J., Monaghan, P., & Walker, P.** (2015). The changing role of form-to-meaning mappings for the growing vocabulary. Invited talk to the Phonetics Reading Group. Lancaster University, UK. [slides](#)

Professional Activities and Service

2018	Programme Committee Member Embodied and Situated Language Processing conference
2017	Organising Committee Member 23 rd Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing conference
2016 - 2017	Personal Statistics Tutor 2nd year undergraduate statistics
2016	Conference Organiser 5 th Implicit Learning Seminar
2014 - 2016	Knowledge Exchange and Training Committee ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development
2014 - 2015	Internal Seminar Series Organiser Department of Psychology, Lancaster University

Public Engagement and Outreach

MAY, 2015; 2016	Presenter at LuCiD and Lancaster BabyLab Campus in the City Lancaster, UK
NOV, 2015	Presenter at 'Kids say the funniest things' at the ESRC Festival of Social Sciences Manchester Museum, UK
JULY, 2015	Supervisor for South Lakes Federation Poster competition Lancaster University
JUNE, 2013; 2014	Presenter at Lancaster University UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) open day Lancaster University

Teaching

2015; 2016	M.Sc. Analysing and Interpreting Psychological Data Teaching Assistant
2015; 2016	2nd Year Undergraduate Statistics Teaching Assistant
2015	2nd Year Understanding Neuropsychology Guest Lecturer
2015	2nd Year Undergraduate Statistics Surgery Tutor
2014; 2016	2nd Year Undergraduate Cognitive Psychology Seminar Tutor
2014	1st Year Undergraduate Statistics Surgery Tutor
2013; 2014	1st Year Undergraduate Psychological Approaches Teaching Assistant
2013; 2014	1st Year Undergraduate Understanding Psychology Seminar Tutor

Honors and Awards

SEPT, 2016	Experimental Psychology Society - Grindley Grant for International Conference Attendance: £500
NOV, 2015	Experimental Psychology Society - Grindley Grant for UK Conference Attendance: £500
OCT, 2013 - OCT, 2016	Lancaster University - Departmental Studentship: £14,000 annual stipend with fee waiver

Computing Proficiency

Highly proficient in using R	Highly proficient in programming in E-Prime
Highly proficient in SPSS	Highly Proficient in programming in PsychoPy
Highly proficient in Audacity	Highly Proficient in programming in OpenSesame
Highly proficient in Photoshop	Highly proficient in using Qualtrics
Highly proficient in LaTeX	Highly proficient in Microsoft Office applications
Familiar with Python	Familiar with Praat
Familiar with jsPsych	Familiar with psiTurk

Affiliations

Present:

ProSPR (Promoting Open Science Practices)
 Embodied Cognition Lab, Lancaster University
 ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development (LuCiD)
 Language and Communication Lab, Lancaster University
 Member of the Cognitive Science Society

Past:

Centre for Research in Human Development and Learning, Lancaster University
 Language Evolution and Computation Research Unit, University of Edinburgh
 European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association

References

Prof. Padraic Monaghan
 Department of Psychology
 Lancaster University
 Lancaster
 LA1 4YF
 UK

p.monaghan@lancaster.ac.uk

Dr. Dermot Lynott
 Department of Psychology
 Lancaster University
 Lancaster
 LA1 4YF
 UK

d.lynott@lancaster.ac.uk

Dr. Peter Walker
 Department of Psychology
 Lancaster University
 Lancaster
 LA1 4YF
 UK

p.walker@lancaster.ac.uk