

# James Brand

Department of Psychology  
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<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	<b>Ph.D. Psychology</b> 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	<b>M.Sc. Evolution of Language and Cognition</b> University of Edinburgh
JUNE, 2010	<b>B.A. English Language</b> Sheffield Hallam University
MARCH, 2010	<b>CertTESOL (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)</b> Trinity College London

## Employment

JUNE, 2017 - Present	<b>Post-doctoral Research Associate, Lancaster University</b> 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	<b>Research Assistant, Lancaster University</b> 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	<b>Research Assistant, Lancaster University</b> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. [pdf](#)

## In prep

- 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.
- Brand, J.,** (In prep.). Predicting the age of acquisition of concepts from sensorimotor experience.

## Ph.D. Thesis

- Brand, J.,** (2017). The Role of Cognitive Factors on the Development and Evolution of the Vocabulary. *Doctoral dissertation, Lancaster University*. [pdf](#)

## Other Selected Presentations

- 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing conference. Lancaster, UK. [pdf](#)
- Brand, J., & Monaghan, P.** (2016). Simulating vocabulary change through the cultural transmission of language. Poster presented at 22<sup>nd</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms of 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	<b>Embodied and Situated Language Processing conference (ESLP)</b> <a href="#">link</a> Programme Committee Member
2018	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Summer School of Linguistics, Kroměříž</b> <a href="#">link</a> Invited Lecturer
2018	<b>em.path (AHRC and University of the West of England)</b> <a href="#">link</a> Round Table Member
2017	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing conference (AMLaP)</b> <a href="#">link</a> Conference Committee Member
2016 - 2017	<b>Personal Statistics Tutor</b> 2nd Year Undergraduate Statistics
2016	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Implicit Learning Seminar</b> <a href="#">link</a> Conference Committee Member
2014 - 2016	<b>ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development</b> <a href="#">link</a> Knowledge Exchange and Training Committee
2014 - 2015	<b>Internal Seminar Series Organiser</b> Department of Psychology, Lancaster University

## Public Engagement and Outreach

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

## Teaching

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

## Honours and Awards

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

## Computing Proficiency

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

## Affiliations

### Present:

ProSPR (Promoting Open Science Practices) [link](#)

Embodied Cognition Lab, Lancaster University [link](#)

ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development (LuCiD) [link](#)

Language and Communication Lab, Lancaster University [link](#)

Member of the Cognitive Science Society [link](#)

### 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

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### Dr. Dermot Lynott

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### Dr. Peter Walker

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