

Kate Mesh, Ph.D.

Human communication researcher, mixed-methods analyst for over 10 years

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Experience

Lund University Humanities Lab, Lund University

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Scientist 2019–present

Develop and execute research programs, experiment designs, and data analysis to further our understanding of how humans [communicate about their real-world surroundings] [combine speech, gaze, and gestures in face-to-face interaction].

Oversee project budget, navigate ethical review board, other institutional tasks based in Sweden

Coordinate an on-site field team to recruit participants and to devise, refine, and implement techniques for qualitative research (culturally-tailored interviews) and quantitative studies (direction-giving experiments fitted to the local culture and physical environment).

Design experimental tasks for quantitative studies of the *navigation · communication · interaction* strategies identified via discovery research.

Conduct *foundational · generative · discovery* research via home- and site-visits, using interviews and observations to generate

- *insights about participant recruitment in local populations*
- *spatial maps reflecting how participants navigate the local landscape*
- *insights about when and how participants combine conventional gestures with speech*

Manage an international team of translators, transcribers, and human action coders to produce rich datasets of multiply-annotated audio-visual materials (5000+ *communicative actions · direction-giving activities* selected and coded to date).

Coordinate a cross-functional team of language researchers and data scientists to produce quantitative analyses of *face-to-face interaction · navigation and direction-giving strategies* using multiple statistical approaches (significance testing, regression, generalized linear models).

Skills

Writing

Languages

English (native)
 Spanish (professional)
 ASL (professional)
 French (reading)
 Catalan (elementary)
 Eastern Chatino (elementary)

Technologies

Data collection

Eye tracking
 Qualtrics

Data wrangling & analysis

R
 Python
 Git

Markup and site generation

L^AT_EX and B^IB_TE_X
 Markdown
 Jekyll

Center for Higher Education in Social Anthropology, Mexico City

Hosted Researcher 2019–present

University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS)

Co-Instructor, Coexpression and Multimodality in Linguistic Interaction in Mesoamerica, 2019–present

Sign Language Research Lab, University of Haifa

Research Scientist 2017–2019

Designed and conducted survey research exploring cross-cultural differences in the interpretation of common hand gestures (target cultures: Israel and Sweden):

Synthesized current research on hand gestures in each subject culture, then selected video stimuli appropriate to both cultures, producing a stimulus set of NN videos.

Created open-ended interview questions about the meaning of the gestures, and managed an international team of linguists to translate and localize the questions using MTPE (machine translation post-editing)

Created and executed an interview flow (balanced stimulus presentation) using Qualtrix (# of participants from each country)

Generated categories of participant responses

Inter-rater reliability

Results were used to generate hypothesis for additional research studies on the interpretation of conventional gestures

Designed and conducted a quantitative research study comparing how users of two languages (Hebrew and Israeli Sign Language) manage visual attention while playing cooperative games:

Coordinated with clubs, schools, and elder care centers to NN recruit participants across a broad age span

Trained language-matched (Hebrew and ISL) game facilitators and oversaw the collection of NN hours of video-recorded game sessions.

Developed a coding scheme to identify strategies for managing visual attention; oversaw a team of translators, translators and coders to generate a study dataset (NN+ attention-managing actions annotated)

Collaborated with a data science team to analyze the results