

Maria Korochkina, PhD

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I am a cognitive neuroscientist studying **how we learn**, with a particular focus on how we acquire knowledge of **language** and **through experience with language**. I have a strong interest in **applied statistics** and am committed to promoting **transparency and reproducibility** in research. I'm also passionate about **making science accessible** to the wider community and **engaging diverse voices in research** to drive meaningful societal change.

Education and qualifications

- 2018 – 2022 📖 **PhD in Cognitive Science**
Joint degree from Macquarie University (Australia) and Universities of Potsdam (Germany), Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), Groningen (Netherlands), Trento (Italy), [IDEALAB PhD programme](#)
- 2015 – 2018 📖 **MSc in Experimental and Clinical Linguistics**
University of Potsdam, Germany, [IECL programme](#)
- 2010 – 2015 📖 **BA & MA in Philology**
Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia

Academic employment

- 06/2022 – ongoing 📖 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, [Rastle Lab](#), Royal Holloway, University of London, UK
- 02/2020 – 06/2022 📖 **Academic Tutor**, Macquarie University, Australia
- 07/2016 – 08/2018 📖 **Research Assistant**, [NOLA Lab](#) & [Vasishth Lab](#), University of Potsdam, Germany

Teaching and educating

- 10/07/2024 📖 **Invited speaker**, *Opening up Open Science: Nuts and Bolts for Beginners* workshop
31st annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Denmark
- 27/03/2023 📖 **Instructor**, [Bayesian LME and Distributional Regression models with brms](#) workshop
Royal Holloway, University of London
- 7/11/2022 – ongoing 📖 **Instructor**, [ReproducibiliTea](#) workshop series, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 02/2020 – 06/2022 📖 **Academic Tutor**, Macquarie University
Session 1, 2021 & 2022: [Design and Statistics III](#)
Session 2, 2020 & 2021: [Design and Statistics II](#)
Session 2, 2020 & 2021: [Acquired Speech and Language Disorders](#)
Session 1, 2020: [Exp Design and Data Analysis for the Cognitive and Brain Sciences](#)
- 18/02/2021 📖 **Instructor**, [Data analysis using \(generalised\) linear mixed effects models in R](#) workshop
Macquarie University
- 21–25/09/2020 📖 **Instructor**, [Introduction to R Software Carpentry](#) workshop, Macquarie University

Publications

Pre-registrations, materials, data, and analysis code for all papers are available at (<https://osf.io/zf8px/>).

Under review

- 📖 **Korochkina, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** *Morphology in children's books: What's there and what's useful for learning?* Pre-print available at <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/63pb4>.

- **Korochkina, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** *The vocabulary barrier in the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in English Literature*. Pre-print available at <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/vg8c3>.

Peer-reviewed

- Crawford, M., Raheel, N., **Korochkina, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** Inadequate foundational decoding skills constrain global literacy goals for pupils in low- and middle-income countries. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-02028-x>
- **Korochkina, M., Nickels, L., & Bürki, A. (2024).** What can we learn about integration of novel words into semantic memory from automatic semantic priming? *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*, 39(4), 455–488. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2024.2328586>
- **Korochkina, M., Marelli, M., Brysbaert, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** The Children and Young People's Books Lexicon (CYP-LEX): A large-scale lexical database of books read by children and young people in the United Kingdom. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218241229694>
- Lombard, A., Ulicheva, A., **Korochkina, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** The regularity of polysemy patterns in the mind: Computational and experimental data. *GLOSSA Psycholinguistics*, 3(1), 3, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.5070/G60111327>
- **Korochkina, M., Sowman, P., Nickels, L., & Bürki, A. (2023).** Neural correlates of encoding in novel word learning. *Collabra: Psychology*, 9(1), 57525. <https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.57525>
- **Korochkina, M., Bürki, A., & Nickels, L. (2021).** Apples and oranges: How does learning context affect novel word learning? *Journal of Memory and Language*, 120, 104246. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2021.104246>

Outreach contributions

Publications

- **Korochkina, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** What makes GCSE English Literature so hard for students?. *Tes*. <https://www.tes.com/magazine/teaching-learning/secondary/what-makes-gcse-english-lit-so-hard-students>
- **Korochkina, M., & Rastle, K. (2024).** What words do children encounter when they read for pleasure? *Nomanis*, Issue 27. <https://www.nomanis.com.au/blog/issue-17-june-2024>. Also available [here](#).

Talks

- *Words in books: A challenge, a blessing, or both?* (September 2024, with Kathy Rastle). Invited talk, [ResearchED National Conference](#), London, UK.
- *What makes GCSE English Literature so hard for students?* (June 2024). [Working Together: Research and Practice meeting](#), The South East Research Network for Schools, Egham, UK.

Recent conference talks

A full list of talks and posters (along with the slide decks) is available at <https://mariakna.github.io>.

2024

- *The nature of morphemic regularities in children's literature: What do British children learn about derivational morphology when they read?* Talk given at the 31st annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- *What can children learn about English morphology through book reading?* Talk given at the annual meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society, York, UK.

2023

- *Apples and oranges: How does learning context affect novel word learning?* Talk given at the Contextual Diversity Workshop organised by the Experimental Psychology Society, London, UK.
- *What do children read as they transition into and through adolescence? Insights from CYP-LEX, a new large-scale lexicon of books for children and young people.* Talk given at the annual meeting of the Cognitive and Developmental sections of the British Psychological Society, Bristol, UK.
- *The Children and Young People's Books Lexicon (CYP-LEX): A lexical database of books directed at children and young adults.* Talk given at the 23rd meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Porto, Portugal.
- *The Children and Young People's Books Lexicon (CYP-LEX): How does book language change as children transition into and through adolescence?* Talk given at the annual meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society, Swansea, UK.
- *Behavioural and electrophysiological markers of integration in novel word learning.* Talk given at the annual meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society, London, UK.

Awards and funding

- 2023 ■ **Student Researcher Credibility Prize**, The British Neuroscience Association
Read the media announcement [here](#).
- 2021 ■ **Funding award** for an 8-week Instructor Training with [The Carpentries](#), Macquarie University
- 2020 ■ **Postgraduate Research Fund**, Macquarie University
- 2019–2022 ■ **International Research Excellence PhD Scholarship**, Macquarie University
- 2019 ■ **Conference travel & participant recruitment awards**, University of Potsdam
- 2018–2019 ■ **PhD Scholarship**, University of Potsdam
- 2012 & 2014 ■ **Student exchange awards**, University of Vienna, Austria

Skills

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Experimental techniques | ■ Behavioural, EEG, eye-tracking, fNIRS
Corpus linguistics, computational modelling |
| Programming languages & software | ■ MATLAB, Python, R, Stan, Presentation Neurobehavioural Systems
Stata, HTML, OpenSesame, \LaTeX |
| Languages | ■ English, German, Russian, Swedish, Icelandic (beginner)
British Sign Language (beginner) |

Recent training and development

- 2024 ■ *Storytelling with Impact: Visual storytelling* workshop, [Nifty Fox Creative](#)
■ *Storytelling with Impact: Unleash the power of narrative* workshop, [Duncan Yellowlees Training](#)
■ *Storytelling to success: Developing your Narrative CV* workshop, University of Leeds
- 2023 ■ *Effective Grant Writing* workshop, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 2022 ■ *Introduction to Natural Language Processing in Python*, MOOC, DataCamp
■ *The 6th Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology*
Bayesian Advanced Track, University of Potsdam
- 2021 ■ *Badged Instructor training*, [The Carpentries](#)
- 2020 ■ *Understanding the Brain: The Neurobiology of Everyday Life*, MOOC, University of Chicago