

Maria Korochkina, PhD

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I am a researcher interested in how we acquire **linguistic knowledge** and use language to facilitate knowledge acquisition **in other domains** and **across the lifespan**. I study these questions using tools from **cognitive science** and **neuroscience**. I have strong expertise in **applied statistics** and am committed to promoting **transparency and reproducibility** in research. I am also passionate about **making science accessible** to the wider community and **engaging diverse voices in research** to drive meaningful societal change.

Education

- 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
- 2018  **MSc in Experimental and Clinical Linguistics**
University of Potsdam, Germany, IECL programme
- 2015  **MA-equivalent in Philology**
Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia
2012 & 2014, Non-EU student exchange, University of Vienna, Austria

Academic appointments

- 06/2022 – ongoing  **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Royal Holloway, Univ. 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

Publications

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

Under review

-  Cooper, H., **Korochkina, M.**, Brysbaert, M., & Rastle, K. (Under review). Assessing text experience in British primary school children: New validated title and author recognition tests. Pre-print at https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/r2ybv_v2.
-  **Korochkina, M.**, Marelli, M., & Rastle, K. (Under review). Morphemes in the wild: Modelling affix learning from the noisy landscape of natural text. Pre-print at https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/yzcqm_v2.

Peer-reviewed

-  **Korochkina, M.**, Cooper, H., Brysbaert, M., & Rastle, K. (2026). Morpheme knowledge is shaped by information available through orthography. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 33, 3.
<https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-025-02830-2>.
-  **Korochkina, M.**, & Rastle, K. (2025). Morphology in children's books, and what it means for learning. *npj Science of Learning*, 10:22. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41539-025-00313-6>.
-  **Korochkina, M.**, & Rastle, K. (2025). The vocabulary barrier in the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in English Literature. *The Use of English*, 76(2), 12–26.
<https://englishassociation.ac.uk/the-use-of-english/>. Also available at <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/vg8c3>

- █ 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*, 9, 74–83. <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*, 77(12), 2418–2438. <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

- █ *What can children learn about morphology from reading for fun?* (2025) Blog post.
- █ *What makes GCSE English Literature so hard for students?* (2024) Tes.
- █ *What words do children encounter when they read for pleasure?* (2024) Nomanis. Also available as a [blog post](#).

Talks

- █ *The power of reading for children's outcomes: What every parent needs to know.* **Invited** webinar for [Tooled Up Education](#), 5 November 2025.
- █ *The words children and young people encounter when they read for pleasure, and what it means for learning* (June 2025). [Working Together: Research and Practice meeting 2025](#), The South East Research Network for Schools, Egham, UK.
- █ *Words in books: A challenge, a blessing, or both?* (Sept 2024). **Invited** talk, ResearchED National Conference, London, UK.
- █ *What makes GCSE English Literature so hard for students?* (June 2024). [Working Together: Research and Practice meeting 2024](#), The South East Research Network for Schools, Egham, UK.

Teaching and educating

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| 20/06/2025 – ongoing | █ Data analysis training developer , South East Doctoral Training Arc (SEDARC) |
| 7/11/2022 – ongoing | █ Workshop instructor , ReproducibiliTea series, Royal Holloway, Univ. of London |
| 27/03/2023 | █ Workshop instructor , Bayesian LME and Distributional Regression models with <i>brms</i> , Royal Holloway, Univ. of London |

Teaching and educating (continued)

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

- **Workshop instructor**, [Data analysis using \(generalised\) linear mixed effects models in R](#), Macquarie University

21–25/09/2020

- **Workshop co-instructor**, [Introduction to R](#), Software Carpentry

Recent talks (selected)

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

2025

- *Assessing text experience in British primary school children: New validated title and author recognition tests.* Talk given at a meeting of the Forum for Research in Literacy and Language (FRiLL), Reading, UK, December 2025.
- *Learning affixes through text experience: A new theoretical and computational framework.* **Invited** talk, Language group seminar, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (CBU), University of Cambridge, 9 October 2025.
- *Morpheme knowledge is shaped by information available through orthography.* Talk given at the 24th meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Sheffield, UK.
- *What and how do we learn about morphemes through reading experience?* Talk given at the annual meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society, Lancaster, UK.

2024

- *The graded nature of morphological information in text, and what it means for morpheme learning.* Talk given at a meeting of the Forum for Research in Literacy and Language (FRiLL), Reading, UK, December 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

- *Vocabulary and morphological complexity in books popular with British children.* Talk given at a meeting of the Forum for Research in Literacy and Language (FRiLL), Reading, UK.
- *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
Includes a £500 prize. Read the media announcement [here](#).
- 2021 ■ **Funding award** for an 8-week Instructor Training with **The Carpentries** (A\$1,500)
Awarded by Macquarie University's Research and Innovation team
- 2020 ■ **Postgraduate Research Fund**, Macquarie University (A\$5,000)
Competitive university-wide award for international conferences and lab visits
- 2019 ■ **Conference travel & participant recruitment awards**, University of Potsdam (€2,500)
- 2018–2022 ■ **PhD Fellowship, IDEALAB**
Highly competitive fellowship providing full tuition, stipend, and travel costs
- 2012 & 2014 ■ **Non-EU student exchange awards**, University of Vienna, Austria
Competitive awards providing tuition and stipend for 2 semesters

Skills

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| Experimental techniques | ■ Behavioural, EEG, eye-tracking, fNIRS, NLP, comput. modelling |
| Programming languages & software | ■ MATLAB, Python, R, Stan, Presentation Neurobehav. Systems, L ^T E _X |
| Languages | ■ English, German, Russian, Swedish, Icelandic, BSL (beginner) |

Recent training and development (selected)

- 2025 ■ *Best practices for the processing and analysis of eye movements during reading*, EPS-funded research workshop, University College London
- 2024 ■ *Introduction to Research Impact*, Social Science Impact Accelerator, Royal Holloway, Univ. of London
■ *Storytelling with Impact: Visual storytelling*, Nifty Fox Creative
■ *Storytelling with Impact: Unleash the power of narrative* with Duncan Yellowlees
■ *Storytelling to success: Developing your Narrative CV*, University of Leeds
- 2023 ■ *Effective Grant Writing*, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 2022 ■ *Introduction to Natural Language Processing in Python*, DataCamp
■ *The 6th Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology*, University of Potsdam
- 2021 ■ *Badged Instructor training*, The Carpentries
- 2020 ■ *Understanding the Brain: The Neurobiology of Everyday Life*, University of Chicago

Professional service

- Peer-review ■ **Reviewer** for *Psychological Science*; *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*; *Behavior Research Methods*; *Journal of Memory and Language*; *Instructional Science*; *Language, Cognition, & Neuroscience*; *Journal of Research in Reading*; *Advances in Cognitive Psychology*; *Language and Speech*; *Psychology & Neuroscience*; *Applied Psycholinguistics*
- **Conference abstract reviewer** for the 2024 & 2025 editions of the *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing* (AMLaP) conference

Professional service (continued)

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| Open science | ■ Organiser , ReproducibiliTea meetings, Royal Holloway, Univ. of London
Invited speaker , <i>Opening up Open Science: Nuts and Bolts for Beginners</i> Workshop at the 31 st annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Denmark, 10 July 2024
Invited speaker , Festival of Research, Royal Holloway, Univ. of London |
| Equality, diversity, & inclusion | ■ Postdoc representative in a successful bid for the <i>Athena Swan Silver award</i> , Royal Holloway, Univ. of London
Mentor for In2research, supporting access to postgraduate research and career opportunities for individuals from low socioeconomic and underrepresented backgrounds in the UK |