

Maria Korochkina, PhD

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🌐 OSF

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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

📖 **Korochkina, M.**, Cooper, H., Brysbaert, M., & Rastle, K. (2025). *Morpheme knowledge is shaped by information available through orthography*. Pre-print at https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/ad3jh_v1.

Peer-reviewed

📖 **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 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 |
| 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 conference talks (selected)

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

2025

- *Morpheme knowledge is shaped by information available through orthography.* Talk to be 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.
- *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

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| 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

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

Recent training and development (selected)

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

Professional service

Peer-review	■ Reviewer for <i>Psychological Science</i> ; <i>Psychonomic Bulletin & Review</i> ; <i>Behavior Research Methods</i> ; <i>Journal of Memory and Language</i> ; <i>Instructional Science</i> ; <i>Language, Cognition, & Neuroscience</i> ; <i>Journal of Research in Reading</i> ; <i>Advances in Cognitive Psychology</i> ; <i>Language and Speech</i> ; <i>Psychology & Neuroscience</i> ; <i>Applied Psycholinguistics</i>
	■ Conference abstract reviewer for the 2024 & 2025 editions of the <i>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing</i> (AMLaP) conference
Open science	■ Organiser , <i>ReproducibiliTea</i> 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 <i>In2research</i> , supporting access to postgraduate research and career opportunities for individuals from low socioeconomic and underrepresented backgrounds in the UK