

Martin Zettersten

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR · UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Department of Cognitive Science, 9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037

✉ mzettersten@ucsd.edu | 🏠 <https://mzettersten.github.io/> | 📄 <https://github.com/mzettersten>

Appointments

University of California, San Diego

2024 -

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Princeton University

2020 - 2024

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

- NIH NRSA F32 Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2022-2024)
- Postdoctoral Research Associate (2020-2022)

Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2020

PHD PSYCHOLOGY

- Dissertation: "Seeking new words: Active word learning in infants and children"

Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg

2013

1ST STAATSEXAMEN

- Majors: Mathematics, English language and Linguistics; Minor: Psychology

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2025	Faculty , Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute
2024	CRISP grant: "Expanding the Peekbank Repository" to Stanford University (co-Investigator; PI: Michael C. Frank; \$116,521.02) , Jacobs Foundation
2022-2024	NIH NRSA F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$209,118) , National Institutes of Health
2023	ECCE Award (\$5,000) , Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute
2022	Fellow , Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute
2021	Early Career Award (with Jessica Kosie; \$115,000) , Einstein Foundation
2021	Data-Driven Social Science Grant (co-PI; \$48,000) , Princeton University
2019	Mission Award, ManyBabies1 (contributor) , Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science
2018	Poster Prize , Evolang XII, Torun
2017	Fellow , Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience
2015-2018	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship , National Science Foundation
2015-2019	Hertz Travel Award , University of Wisconsin-Madison
2015	Student Travel Award , Society for Research in Child Development
2013; 2018	University Fellowship , University of Wisconsin-Madison
2009-2010	Erasmus scholarship , University of Edinburgh
2007-2013	Scholar , German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)

Publications

* equal authorship contribution; Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=APLxh_UAAAAJ

IN PRESS/UNDER REVIEW/IN PREP

Zettersten, M., Choi, K., Kirkorian, H., & Saffran, J. (under review). Active sampling helps children learn new words by tuning their curriculum to past experiences. <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/ne43k>

- Schuwerk, T., Kampis, D., & the ManyBabies 2 team (Stage 2 report under review). Action anticipation based on an agent's epistemic state in toddlers and adults. <https://psyarxiv.com/x4jbm>
- Alessandroni, N., Miller, R., Altschul, D. M., Barrett, L. P., Bazhydai, M., Elsherif, M. M., Espinosa, J., Gjoneska, B., Héjja-Brichard, Y., Mazza, V., Paukner, A., Pronizius, E., Proulx, M. J., Qadri, M. A. J., Reilly, O. T., Schwing, R., Sebastián-Enesco, C., Šlipogor, V., de Sousa, A. A., Visser, I., Yeager, J., **Zettersten, M.**, Byers-Heinlein, K., Call, J., Chittka, L., Huber, L., & Prétôt, L. (submitted). Flexible behavior or flexible methods? A cross-taxon review of experimental designs in reversal learning. <https://psyarxiv.com/mvche>
- ManyBabies 3 team (Stage 2 report under review). ManyBabies 3: A multi-lab study of infant algebraic rule learning. <https://psyarxiv.com/ghrdt>
- Frank, M.C., Marchman, V., Bergey, C. A., Boyce, V., Braginsky, M., Kachergis, G., Mankewitz, J., Meylan, S. C., Prystawski, B., Ram, N., Sparks, R. Z., Steffan, A., Tan, A., & **Zettersten, M.** (under review). Continuous developmental changes in word recognition support language learning across early childhood. *eLife* <https://psyarxiv.com/dtv2f>
- Lupyan, G., Gentry, H., & **Zettersten, M.** (in press). How important is language for human-like intelligence? *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.15560>
- Kosie, J.*, **Zettersten, M.***, & the ManyBabies5 team. (Stage 1 registered report, in-principle acceptance). ManyBabies5: A large-scale investigation of the proposed shift from familiarity preference to novelty preference in infant looking time. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://psyarxiv.com/ck3vd/>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Zettersten, M.**, Foushee, Ruthe, & Goddu, Mariel K. (2025). "Helpless" infants are active, goal-directed agents: Response to Cusack et al. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2025.01.009>
- Campbell, E., Davis, C., **Zettersten, M.**, Cooke, M., Houston, D., Caselli, N., & Bergelson, E. (2025). Early production of imperceptible words by infants and toddlers born deaf or blind. *Open Mind*, 9, 475-500. https://doi.org/10.1162/opmi_a_00197
- Alessandroni, N., Altschul, D., Baumgartner, H., Bazhydai, M., Brosnan, S. F., Byers-Heinlein, K., Call, J., Chittka, L., Elsherif, M., Espinosa, J., Freeman, M., Gjoneska, B., Güntürkün, O., Huber, L., Krasheninnikova, A., Mazza, V., Miller, R., Moreau, D., Nawroth, C., Pronizius, E., Ruiz-Fernández, S., Schwing, R., Šlipogor, V., Visser, I., Vonk, J., Yeager, J., **Zettersten, M.**, & Prétôt, L. (2025). Challenges and Promises of Big Team Comparative Cognition. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 9, 240-242. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-02081-6>
- Schreiner, M., **Zettersten, M.**, Bergmann, C., Frank, M. C., Fritzsche, T., Gonzalez-Gomez, N., Hamlin, K., Kartushina, N., Kellier, D.J., Mani, N., Mayor, J., Saffran, J., Shukla, M., Silverstein, P., Soderstrom, M., & Lippold, M. (2024). Limited evidence of test-retest reliability in infant-directed speech preference in a large pre-registered infant sample. *Developmental Science*, 27, e13551. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13551>
- Weaver, H.*, **Zettersten, M.***, & Saffran, J. (2024). Becoming word meaning experts: Infants' processing of familiar words in the context of typical and atypical exemplars. *Child Development*, 95, e352-e372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14120>
- Zettersten, M.***, Cox, C.M.M.*, Bergmann, C.*, Tsui, A.S.M., Soderstrom, M., Mayor, J., Lundwall, R.A., Lewis, M., Kosie, J.E., Kartushina, N., Fusaroli, R., Frank, M.C., Byers-Heinlein, K., Black, A.K., & Mathur, M.B. (2024). Evidence for infant-directed speech preference is consistent across large-scale, multi-site replication and meta-analysis. *Open Mind*, 8, 439-461. https://doi.org/10.1162/opmi_a_00134
- Alessandroni, N., Altschul, D., Bazhydai, M., Byers-Heinlein, K., Elsherif, M., Gjoneska, B., Huber, L., Mazza, V., Miller, R., Nawroth, C., Pronizius, E., Qadri, M.A.J., Šlipogor, V., Soderstrom, M., Stevens, J.R., Visser, I., Williams, M., **Zettersten, M.**, & Prétôt, L. (2024). Comparative cognition needs Big Team Science: How large-scale collaborations will unlock the future of the field. *Comparative Cognition and Behavior Reviews*, 19, 67-72. <https://doi.org/10.3819/CCBR.2024.190001>
- Zettersten, M.**, Bredemann, C., Kaul, M., Vlach, H., Kirkorian, H., & Lupyan, G. (2024). Nameability supports rule-based category learning in children and adults. *Child Development*, 95(2), 497-514. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14008>
- Zettersten, M.**, Yurovsky, D., Xu, T. L., Uner, S., Tsui, A.S.T., Schneider, R. M., Saleh, A. N., Meylan, S. C., Marchman, V., Mankewitz, J., MacDonald, K., Long, B., Lewis, M., Kachergis, G., Handa, K., deMayo, B., Carstensen, A., Braginsky, M., Boyce, V., Bhatt, N., Bergey, C. A., & Frank, M.C. (2023). Peekbank: An open, large-scale repository for developmental eye-tracking data of children's word recognition. *Behavior Research Methods*, 55, 2485-2500. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-022-01906-4>
- Koranda, M., **Zettersten, M.**, & McDonald, M. (2022). Good-enough production: Selecting easier words instead of more accurate ones. *Psychological Science*, 33(9), 1440-1451. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976221089603>

- Zettersten, M.**, Pomper, R., & Saffran, J. (2022). Valid points and looks: Reliability and validity go hand-in-hand when improving infant methods. *Infant and Child Development*, e2326. <https://doi.org/10.1002/icd.2326>
- Wojcik, E., **Zettersten, M.**, & Benitez, V. (2022). The map trap: Why and how word learning research should move beyond mapping. *WIREs Cognitive Science*, 13(4), e1596. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1596>
- Visser, I., Bergmann, C., Byers-Heinlein, K., Dal Ben, R., Duch, W., Forbes, S., Franchin, L., Frank, M. C., Geraci, A., Hamlin, J. K., Kaldy, Z., Kulke, L., Laverty, C., Lew-Williams, C., Mateu, V., Mayor, J., Moreau, D., Nomikou, I., Schuwerk, T., Simpson, E. A., Singh, L., Soderstrom, M., Sullivan, J., van den Heuvel, M. I., Westermann, G., Yamada, Y., Zaadnoordijk, L., & **Zettersten, M.** (2022). Improving the generalizability of infant psychological research: The ManyBabies model. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 45, E35. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X21000455>
- Woodard, K., **Zettersten, M.**, & Pollak, S.D. (2022). The representation of emotion knowledge across development. *Child Development*, 93(3), e237-e250. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13716>
- Santolin, C., Garcia-Castro, G., **Zettersten, M.**, Sebastian-Galles, N., & Saffran, J. (2021). Experience with research paradigms relates to infants' direction of preference. *Infancy*, 26(1), 39-46. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inf.12372>
- Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2021). Sampling to learn words: Adults and children sample words that reduce referential ambiguity. *Developmental Science*, 24(3), e13064. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13064>
- Byers-Heinlein, K., Bergmann, C., Davies, C., Frank, M. C., Hamlin, K., Kline, M., ..., **Zettersten, M.**, & Soderstrom, M. (2020). Building a collaborative Psychological Science: Lessons from ManyBabies 1. *Canadian Psychology*, 61(4), 349-363. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cap0000216>
- Benitez, V., **Zettersten, M.**, & Wojcik, E. (2020). The temporal structure of naming events differentially affects children's and adults' statistical word-referent learning. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 200, 104961. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2020.104961>
- Zettersten, M.**, Potter, C., & Saffran, J. (2020). Tuning in to non-adjacencies: Exposure to learnable patterns supports discovering otherwise difficult structures. *Cognition*, 202, 104283. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104283>
- The ManyBabies Consortium (2020). Quantifying sources of variability in infancy research using the infant-directed-speech preference. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 3(1), 24-52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2515245919900809>
- Zettersten, M.**, Schonberg, C., & Lupyan, G. (2020). What does a radical exemplar view not predict? A commentary on Ambridge (2020). *First Language*, 40(5-6), 636-639. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0142723720903895>
- Zettersten, M.**, & Lupyan, G. (2020). Finding categories through words: More nameable features improve category learning. *Cognition*, 196, 104135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2019.104135>
- Lewis, M., **Zettersten, M.**, & Lupyan, G. (2019). Distributional semantics as a source of visual knowledge. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(39), 19237-19238. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1910148116>
- Zettersten, M.**, Wojcik, E. W., Benitez, V., & Saffran, J. R. (2018). The company objects keep: Linking referents together during cross-situational word learning. *Journal of Memory & Language*, 99, 62-73. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2017.11.001>
- Hoehl, S., **Zettersten, M.**, Schleihauf, H., Graetz, S., & Pauen, S. (2014). The role of social interaction and pedagogical cues for eliciting and reducing overimitation in preschoolers. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 122, 122-133. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2013.12.012>

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Lupyan, G., & **Zettersten, M.** (2021). Does vocabulary help structure the mind? In Sera, M., & Koenig, M (Eds.). *Minnesota Symposia on Child Psychology: Human Communication: Origins, Mechanisms, and Functions, Volume 40* (pp. 160-199). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119684527.ch6>. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/b74u9>
- Zettersten, M.** (2019). Learning by predicting: How predictive processing informs language development. In Busse, B., & Moehlig-Falke, R. (Eds.). *Patterns in Language and Linguistics: New Perspectives on a Ubiquitous Concept* (pp. 255-288). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110596656-010>

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Sepuri, T., **Zettersten, M.**, & Long, B. (2025). Examining the precision of infants' visual concepts by leveraging vision-language models and automated gaze coding. *Proceedings of 8th Annual Conference on Computational Cognitive Neuroscience*. <https://psyarxiv.com/p3mjt>

- Zettersten, M.**, Chen, J., & Lew-Williams, C. (2025). Children explore conservatively when learning novel word extensions. *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/kwj7b>
- Plate, R., Perkins, E. R., Waller, R., & **Zettersten, M.** (2024). Learning and generalizing associations between social cues and outcomes. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Preprint: <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/hqcxm>
- Zettersten, M.**, Cutler, M., & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/ecq85/>
- Zettersten, M.**, Bergey, C. A., Bhatt, N., Boyce, V., Braginsky, M., Carstensen, A., deMayo, B., Kachergis, G., Lewis, M., Long, B., MacDonald, K., Mankewitz, J., Meylan, S. C., Saleh, A. N., Schneider, R. M., Tsui, A.S.T., Uner, S., Xu, T. L., Yurovsky, D., & Frank, M.C. (2021). Peekbank: Exploring children's word recognition through an open, large-scale repository for developmental eye-tracking data. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/ep693/>
- Zettersten, M.**, Suffill, E., & Lupyan, G. (2020). Nameability predicts subjective and objective measures of visual similarity. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2019). Sampling to learn words: Adults and children sample words that reduce referential ambiguity. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Koranda, M.*, **Zettersten, M.***, & McDonald, M. (2018). Word frequency can affect what you choose to say. *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Zettersten, M.**, Potter, C., & Saffran, J. (2018). Tuning in to non-adjacent dependencies: How experience with learnable patterns supports learning novel regularities. *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Lupyan, G. (2018). Using language to discover categories: More nameable features improve category learning. In C. Cuskley, M. Flaherty, H. Little, Luke McCrohon, A. Ravignani, & T. Verhoef (Eds.), *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 12th International Conference (EVLANGXII)*.

Presentations

* equal authorship contribution

INVITED TALKS

- Diverse Intelligences Summit, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 2025.
- Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute, St. Andrews, Scotland, 2025.
- Developmental Proseminar, University of California, Riverside, 2025.
- Stanford Developmental Brownbag, Stanford University, 2023.
- Early Childhood Cognition Research Group, Arizona State University, 2023.
- Comparative Cognition Lab, University of California San Diego, 2023.
- Developmental Meeting, Princeton University, 2022.
- Cognitive Science Department Seminar, University of California San Diego, 2022.
- Language and Development Seminar, University of Oxford, 2022.
- Cognitive Development and Learning Lab Meeting, UC Berkeley, 2021.
- Language & Cognitive Development Lab Meeting, UC Berkeley, 2021.
- Goldstone Lab Meeting, Indiana University, 2021.
- Bergelson Lab Meeting, Duke University, 2020.
- Cognitive Area Meeting, Lehigh University, 2020.
- Baby BRAIN Group meeting, Donders Institute, 2020.
- Departmental Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019.

Language Brownbag, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2019.

Princeton Baby Lab Meeting, Princeton University, 2019.

Developmental Brownbag, University of Chicago, 2017.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Zettersten, M., Chen, J., & Lew-Williams, C. (2025). Children explore conservatively when learning novel word extensions. Talk. 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. San Francisco, CA.

Chen, J., **Zettersten, M.**, & Lew-Williams, C. (2025). Children explore conservatively when learning novel word extensions. Talk (Presenter Role). Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Zettersten, M.*, Kosie, J.*, & the ManyBabies5 team (2024). ManyBabies 5: Testing Hunter & Ames' model of infant looking. 2024 Big Team Science Conference. Virtual.

Plate, R., Perkins, E. R., Waller, R., & **Zettersten, M.** (2024). Learning and generalizing associations between social cues and outcomes. Virtual Poster (accepted as talk). 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Exner, A., Mayor, J., Oliveira, C., Seehagen, S., Soderstrom, M., Visser, I., & **Zettersten, M.** (2024). Test-retest reliability of rule learning measures in infancy. Poster. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Glasgow, Scotland.

Zettersten, M. & the Peekbank team (2024). Peekbank: Exploring children's word recognition through an open, large-scale repository for developmental eye-tracking data. Talk. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Glasgow, Scotland.

Zettersten, M. & the ManyBabies team (2024). ManyLessons: What (else) have we learned about infant-directed speech preference from ManyBabies1 and its spin-off projects? Talk. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Glasgow, Scotland.

Zettersten, M., Kaaronen, R., Terwilliger, J., Zacks, O., & Lew-Williams, C. (2024). Curious collectors: What do children collect? Poster. 12th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Pasadena, CA.

Weaver, H.*, **Zettersten, M.***, & Saffran, J. (2024). Infants' early word meanings include both typical and atypical category members. Poster. 12th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Pasadena, CA.

Zettersten, M. & the ManyBabies team (2024). ManyLessons: What (else) have we learned about infant-directed speech preference from ManyBabies1 and its spin-off projects? Talk. BCCCD24.

Zettersten, M. & Lew-Williams, C. (2024). Curious collectors: What do children collect? Talk. BCCCD24.

Zettersten, M., Guilla, A., & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). The dynamics of child-driven information-seeking and caregiver scaffolding during word learning. Talk. BUCLD 48.

Cutler, M., **Zettersten, M.**, & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words. Talk. BUCLD 48.

Zettersten, M., Guilla, A. & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). The dynamics of child-driven information-seeking and caregiver scaffolding during word learning. Poster. 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Sydney, Australia.

Zettersten, M., Cutler, M., & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words. Poster. 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Sydney, Australia.

Zettersten, M., Guilla, A., & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). The dynamics of child-driven information-seeking and caregiver scaffolding during word learning. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Plate, R., & **Zettersten, M.** (2023). Learning and Generalizing the Structure of Emotion-Based Reward Associations. Oral presentation. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Salt Lake City, UT.

Zettersten, M., Bergey, C. A., and the Peekbank team (2022). Peekbank: Exploring children's word recognition through an open, large-scale repository for developmental eye-tracking data. Oral presentation. Plenary Symposium: Methodological advances in gaze-based measures of language understanding. BUCLD 47.

Zettersten, M.*, Kosie, J.*, & the ManyBabies5 team (2022). ManyBabies 5: Testing Hunter & Ames' model of infant looking. 2022 Big Team Science Conference. Virtual.

Zettersten, M., Bergey, C. A., Bhatt, N., Boucaud, E., Boyce, V., Braginsky, M., Carstensen, A., deMayo, B., Handa, K., Kacherigis, G., Lewis, M., Long, B., MacDonald, K., Mankewitz, J., Marchman, V. A., Meylan, S. C., Saleh, A. N., Schneider, R. M.,

- Tsui, A.S.T., Uner, S., Xu, T. L., Yurovsky, D., & Frank, M.C. (2022). Peekbank: Building a large-scale infant eye-tracking database to understand the development of word recognition. Oral presentation. 2022 Big Team Science Conference. Virtual.
- Zettersten, M.***, Kosie, J.*, & the ManyBabies5 team (2022). ManyBabies5: A large-scale, collaborative investigation of the Hunter & Ames model of infant looking preference. Poster. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Ottawa, CA.
- Weaver, H.*, **Zettersten, M.***, & Saffran, J. (2022). Becoming word meaning experts: Infants' processing of familiar words in the context of typical and atypical exemplars. Poster. 12th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Madison, WI.
- Zettersten, M.**, Saleh, A., Bhatt, N., Yurovsky, D., Xu, T. L., Uner, S., Tsui, A., Schneider, R. M., Meylan, S. C., Marchman, V., Mankewitz, J., MacDonald, K., Long, B., Lewis, M., Kachergis, G., deMayo, B., Carstensen, A.S.T., Braginsky, M., Boyce, V., Bergey, C., & Frank, M. C. (2021). Increases in speed and accuracy of children's online word recognition measured via a large-scale, open database of developmental eye-tracking data. Oral presentation. BUCLD 46. Virtual.
- Zettersten, M.**, Bergey, C. A., Bhatt, N., Boyce, V., Braginsky, M., Carstensen, A., deMayo, B., Kachergis, G., Lewis, M., Long, B., MacDonald, K., Mankewitz, J., Meylan, S. C., Saleh, A. N., Schneider, R. M., Tsui, A.S.T., Uner, S., Xu, T. L., Yurovsky, D., & Frank, M.C. (2021). Peekbank: Exploring children's word recognition through an open, large-scale repository for developmental eye-tracking data. Poster. 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Virtual.
- Zettersten, M.**, Choi, K., Kirkorian, H., & Saffran, J. (2021). Children actively sample information in support of learning new words. Oral presentation. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Kosie, J.*, **Zettersten, M.***, & the ManyBabies5 team (2021). ManyBabies5: A large-scale, collaborative investigation of the Hunter & Ames model of infant looking preference. Oral presentation. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Benitez, V., **Zettersten, M.**, & Wojcik, E. (2021). Developmental differences in the role of temporal structure in ambiguous word learning. Oral presentation. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Campbell, E., **Zettersten, M.**, Lewis, M., & Bergelson, E. (2021). Early language in blind, deaf/hard-of-hearing, and typically-developing infants. Oral presentation. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Woodard, K., **Zettersten, M.**, & Pollak, S.D. (2021). How is emotion knowledge represented across development? Oral presentation. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Schonberg, C., Valentyn, E., Yang, R., Masters, M., & **Zettersten, M.** (2021). Characterizing the practices of reporting sex differences in infancy research. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Anderson, L., Hwang, H., Kamhout, S., Gilliat, S., Lundwall, R., Black, A., Kartushina, N., Kosie, J., Tsui, A., **Zettersten, M.**, & Bergmann, C. (2021). A fresh look at infant-directed speech preference through an updated meta-analysis. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual.
- Zettersten, M.**, Black, A., Bergmann, C., Bacon, D., Weaver, H., & Saffran, J. (2020). Investigating the relationship between infant learning and measured effect size in preferential looking paradigms. Poster. Many Paths to Language (MPaL) Workshop. Virtual.
- Zettersten, M.**, Suffill, E., & Lupyan, G. (2020). Nameability predicts subjective and objective measures of visual similarity. Oral presentation. 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Virtual.
- Woodard, K., **Zettersten, M.**, & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Developmental changes in children's knowledge of facial configurations. Poster. 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Virtual.
- Zettersten, M.**, Black, A., Bergmann, C., Bacon, D., Weaver, H., & Saffran, J. (2020). Investigating the relationship between infant learning and measured effect size in preferential looking paradigms. Poster. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Virtual.
- Schreiner, M., Lippold, M., & ManyBabies Consortium Test-Retest (2020). Assessing test-retest reliability of the infant preference measures. Poster. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Virtual.
- Santolin, C., Garcia-Castro, G., **Zettersten, M.**, Sebastian-Galles, N., & Saffran, J. (2020). Prior experience with the Head-turn Preference Procedure relates to infants' direction of preference in learning studies. Poster. Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Virtual.
- Woodard, K., **Zettersten, M.**, & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Developmental changes in children's knowledge of facial configurations. Oral presentation. Annual Conference of the Society for Affective Science. San Francisco, CA (cancelled, COVID-19).

- Benitez, V., **Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2019). Preschooler's remembering and learning from predictable and unpredictable events. Oral presentation. 11th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Louisville, KY.
- Zettersten, M.**, Choi, K., Kirkorian, H., & Saffran, J. (2019). How does active sampling support learning new words? Poster. 11th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Louisville, KY.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2019). Sampling to learn words: Adults and children sample words that reduce referential ambiguity. Oral presentation. 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Montreal, CA.
- Zettersten, M.**, Bredemann, C., Kaul, M., Vlach, H., Kirkorian, H., & Lupyan, G. (2019). Verbal labels support rule-based category learning in children. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Baltimore, MD.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2018). How do infants sample novel object-label associations? Oral presentation. XXI Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. Philadelphia, PA.
- Koranda, M., **Zettersten, M.**, & McDonald, M. (2018). Word frequency can affect what you choose to say. Oral presentation. 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Madison, WI.
- Zettersten, M.**, Potter, C., & Saffran, J. (2018). Tuning in to non-adjacent dependencies. Poster. 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Madison, WI.
- Hopman, E. & **Zettersten, M.** (2018). Immediate feedback is critical for learning from your own productions. Poster. Psycholinguistics in Flanders. Ghent, Belgium.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Lupyan, G. (2018). Using language to discover categories: More nameable features improve category learning. Poster. EvoLang XII. Torun, Poland.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2017). Choosing words wisely: How infants strategically seek information when learning novel words. Poster. 10th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Portland, OR.
- Zettersten, M.**, Potter, C., & Saffran, J. (2017). Tuning in to non-adjacent dependencies. Poster. International Conference on Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning. Bilbao, Spain.
- Zettersten, M.**, Benitez, V., & Saffran, J. (2017). When prediction violation boosts memory: 5-year-olds remember images involved in unexpected events better. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Austin, TX.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Saffran, J. (2016). Choosing words wisely: How infants strategically seek information when learning novel words. Oral presentation. XX Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies. New Orleans, LA.
- Zettersten, M.**, & Lupyan, G. (2015). The role of language in categorical statistical learning. Poster. 56th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Chicago, IL.
- Zettersten, M.**, Paul, J., & Lupyan, G. (2015). Language augments relational reasoning. Oral presentation. 9th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Columbus, OH.
- Zettersten, M.**, Wojcik, E., Benitez, V., & Saffran, J. (2015). Learning multiple kinds of associations during cross-situational word learning. Poster. 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.
- Zettersten, M.**, Paul, J., & Lupyan, G. (2015). Language augments relational reasoning: The effect of late exposure to a standardized language. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Philadelphia, PA.
- Schleihauf, H., **Zettersten, M.**, Pauen, S., & Hoehl, S. (2015). Both causal and social reasoning underlies overimitation in five-year-olds. Poster. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Philadelphia, PA.
- Pleyer, M. & **Zettersten, M.** (2012). From cognition to corpus, from corpus to cognition: How corpus research in child language can benefit from research in developmental psychology, and vice versa. Poster. 11th Biannual Meeting of the German Cognitive Science Society. Bamberg, Germany.

Teaching

2025	COGS 203: Cognitive Science Foundations: Theories and Methods in the Study of Cognitive Phenomena , Instructor, University of California, San Diego
2025	COGS 219: Programming for Behavioral Sciences , Instructor, University of California, San Diego
2024-	COGS 119: Programming for Experimental Research , Instructor, University of California, San Diego
2023-	COGS 1: The Cognitive Science of Babies , Guest Instructor, University of California, San Diego
2021/ 2023	Programming experiments in PsychoPy , /L+/ Summer/ Winter School, Instructor, https://osf.io/7kfbu/
2019	Psychology 601: Developing babies, building robots , Instructor, UW-Madison
2019	Psychology 460: Child Development , Guest Lecturer, UW-Madison
2019	Psychology 711: Language Acquisition in Infancy and Early Childhood , Guest Instructor, UW-Madison
2019	Psychology 710: Design & Analysis of Psychological Experiments II , Guest Instructor, UW-Madison
2018	Psychology 601: Language Development , Guest Lecturer, UW-Madison
2017	Psychology 710: Design & Analysis of Psychological Experiments II , Teaching Assistant, UW-Madison
2016	Psychology 610: Design & Analysis of Psychological Experiments I , Teaching Assistant, UW-Madison
2015	Psychology 521: The Structure of Human Thought , Guest Lecturer, UW-Madison
2014-2015	Adult Role Models in Science , Instructor, Sandburg Elementary School, weekly science classes
2012-2013	English Department: Introduction to Linguistics , Teaching Assistant, Heidelberg University
2010-2012	English Department: Introduction to English Literature , Teaching Assistant, Heidelberg University
2010-2011	Mathematics Department: Linear Algebra I , Teaching Assistant, Heidelberg University

Mentoring

GRADUATE RESEARCH

2025-	Urvi Suwal , graduate student, University of California, San Diego
2025-	Junyi Chen , graduate student, University of California, San Diego
2024-	Victoria Hennessy , graduate student, University of California, San Diego

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

2025-	Sihan Yang , graduate student, University of California, San Diego
2025-	Jack Terwilliger , graduate student, University of California, San Diego
2025-	Khuyen Le , graduate student, University of California, San Diego
2024-	Betina Karshaleva , graduate student, University of California, San Diego
2024-	Lauren Sakowski , graduate student, University of California, San Diego

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

2025-	Christina Lin , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Julia Huynh , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Colin Sutedja , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Maureen Chowdhury , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Elizabeth Sushkova , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Katherine Liang , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025	Ryan Ni , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Isabella Yang , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Maya Kim , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2025-	Christine Kwon , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2024-	Stacy Yang , undergraduate, UC San Diego
2023-	Isabella Stahlman , undergraduate, senior thesis mentee, Princeton University
2023-	Jaime Chen , undergraduate, senior thesis mentee, Dr. Robert J. Glushko Independent Research Prize in The Program in Cognitive Science (senior thesis prize), Princeton University
2022-	Jasmine Hao , ReMatch+ mentee and undergraduate, Princeton University
2021-	Molly Cutler , ReMatch+ mentee and undergraduate, Princeton University
2021-	Kunal Handa , summer research intern, Peekbank project
2020-2023	Annie Jain , undergraduate, senior thesis mentee, Princeton University
2018	Andrew Kressin , Welton Summer Research Apprenticeship, UW-Madison
2017-2018	Maddie Cincebeaux , undergraduate, UW-Madison
2017-2018	Michaela McCabe , undergraduate, UW-Madison
2016-2017	Ellen Breen , undergraduate, UW-Madison
2016-2017	Lizzie Hoff , undergraduate, UW-Madison
2015	Nicholas Baird , NSF-funded PREP summer research program, UW-Madison

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2025 -	Mentor , Cognitive Development Society Mentorship Program
2021-2023	Mentor , Next-Gen Psych Scholars Program
2020-2023	Mentor , Científico Latino, Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative (GSMI)
2020-2022	Mentor , ManyBabies5 mentoring network

Service

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2024	California Meeting on Psycholinguistics , Session Chair, UCSD
2024	Peekbank Hackathon , Co-Organizer, Stanford University
2021-2023	Young Women's Conference in STEM , session organizer, Princeton, NJ
2018	40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society , Local Arrangements Chair, UW-Madison
2016	Psychology Department Writing Workshop , co-creator and session organizer, UW-Madison
2013-2018	Psychology Colloquium Series Committee , President (2016-2017), committee member, UW-Madison
2013-2015	Expanding Your Horizons , presenter, workshop for young women exploring science careers, UW-Madison
2013	3rd Linguistic Conference for Doctoral Students , organizing committee, Heidelberg, Germany

REVIEWING

Ad-Hoc Reviewer. Child Development; Cognition; Cognitive Science; Current Directions in Psychological Science; Developmental Psychology; Developmental Science; First Language; Frontiers in Psychology; Infancy; Infant Behavior and Development; Journal of Child Language; Journal of Experimental Child Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research; Language Acquisition; Language Learning and Development; Nature Communications; Open Mind; PLOS Computational Biology; PLOS One; Psychonomic Bulletin & Review; Quarterly Journal

of Experimental Psychology; Scientific Reports

Conferences. Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (meta-reviewer; reviewer); Boston University Conference on Language Development; Evolang; Multiple Paths to Language Workshop

Grants. NSF Developmental Sciences Program (CAREER); NSF Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences; NSF Division of Social and Economic Sciences

References

Dr. Jenny Saffran

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Psychology
1202 West Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53706-1611
Email: jsaffran@wisc.edu

Dr. Gary Lupyan

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Psychology
1202 West Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53706-1611
Email: lupyan@wisc.edu

Dr. Casey Lew-Williams

Princeton University
Department of Psychology
216 Peretsman Scully Hall
Princeton, NJ 08540
Email: caseylw@princeton.edu

Dr. Michael C. Frank

Stanford University
Department of Psychology
450 Jane Stanford Way
Stanford, CA 94305
Email: mcfrank@stanford.edu