

Natalie Dowling

1155 E 60th St., Room 404
Chicago, IL 60637
ndowling@uchicago.edu
nrdowling.com

APPOINTMENTS

2023 - *present* **Assistant Instructional Professor in Psychology**

Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences
University of Chicago — Chicago, IL

2022 – 2023 **Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow**

Comparative Human Development & The College
University of Chicago – Chicago, IL

2021 – 2022 **Departmental BA Preceptor**

Comparative Human Development
University of Chicago – Chicago, IL

RESEARCH PROGRAM

My research centers on the development of multimodal discourse and pragmatic communication skills across the lifespan, particularly through social mechanisms of learning. I examine the functions of co-speech gesture as children become collaborative conversationalists and adults craft face-to-face interaction.

As a member of the interdisciplinary Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences and graduate of the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago, I share a commitment to cross-disciplinary research approaches to the study of communicative development. Combining methodologies such as conversation analysis, observational speech and gesture annotation, and eye-tracking experimental paradigms, my work investigates how the tools of cooperative conversation change over development.

EDUCATION

- 2022 **Ph.D. Comparative Human Development**
University of Chicago — Chicago, IL
- Dissertation: *Obviously I Don't Know but Whatever: Emblematic and Pragmatic Uses of Shrug Gestures in Early Childhood and Adolescence*
- Committee: Susan Goldin-Meadow (Chair), Marisa Casillas, John Lucy, Federico Rossano
- 2018 **M.A. Comparative Human Development**
University of Chicago — Chicago, IL
- Thesis: *Early Childhood Pronominal Reference: Shifts in Form and Function*
- 2010 **B.A. Linguistics**
University of Chicago — Chicago, IL

PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 – 2022 **Doctoral Student Researcher of Institute for Educational Sciences**
Predoctoral Fellow
Awarded the IES Certificate of Education Sciences
University of Chicago, Dept. of Comparative Human Development
- 2017 – 2021 **IES Apprenticeship**
Getting on Track Early for School Success
- 2018 – 2019 **IES Apprenticeship**
TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health
- 2010 – 2016 **Staff Research Assistant**
Language Development Project
University of Chicago, Dept. of Psychology

FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING

2022 – 2024	Social Sciences Teaching Fellowship (\$48,000/year)
2022	Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language Research Grant (\$2,500)
2021 – 2022	University of Chicago Social Sciences Doctoral Fellowship (\$31,000/year)
2020 – 2021	Comparative Human Development Undergraduate Preceptorship (\$18,000)
2016 – 2021	Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Fellowship (\$30,000/year)

PUBLICATIONS

Dowling, N., Vilà-Giménez, I., Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (*in preparation*). Two dimensions of non-referential gestures differentiate early developmental trajectories. Preprint: https://www.nrdowling.com/s/ND_Dimensions.pdf

Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (*in preparation*). Emblematic origins of pragmatic shrug gestures in early childhood. Preprint: https://www.nrdowling.com/s/ND_EarlyShrugs.pdf

Dowling, N. (2022). *Obviously I Don't Know but Whatever: Emblematic and Pragmatic Uses of Shrug Gestures in Early Childhood and Adolescence*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Chicago. <https://doi.org/10.6082/uchicago.4897>

Vilà-Giménez, I., **Dowling, N.**, Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021). The predictive value of beat gestures: Early use predicts narrative abilities at 5 years of age. *Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13583>

Frausel, R., Silvey, C., Freeman, C., **Dowling, N.**, Richland, L., Levine, S., Raudenbush, S., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2020). The Origins of Higher-Order Thinking Lie in Children's Spontaneous Talk Across the Pre-School Years. *Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104274>

PRESENTATIONS

Dowling, N., Casey, K., & Casillas, M. (2023). *Pragmatic shrug gestures in conversational interaction*. Invited talk presented at the Conference of the Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language. Chicago, IL.

- Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022).** *I dunno - I guess - I mean whatever: Children form a many-to-many pragmatic mapping of shrug gestures between early and late childhood* [Paper presentation]. Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Chicago, IL.
- Dowling, N., Vilà-Giménez, I., Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022).** *Non-referential gestures don't always flock together* [Paper presentation]. Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Chicago, IL.
- Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022).** *I dunno - I guess - I mean whatever: Children form a many-to-many pragmatic mapping of shrug gestures between early and late childhood*. Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society Biannual Meeting, Madison, WI.
- Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021).** *Emblematic and interactive uses of children's shrug gestures*. Poster presented at Lancaster Conference on Infant and Early Child Development, Lancaster, United Kingdom (remote).
- Dowling, N., Vilà-Giménez, I., Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021)** *Non-referential beat and flip gestures follow distinct developmental trajectories of function*. Poster presented at Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA (remote).
- Vilà-Giménez, I., **Dowling, N.**, Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021). *Early children's use of non-referential beat gestures predicts narrative abilities at 5 years of age*. Poster presented at Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA (remote).
- Dowling, N. (2021).** *"Obviously I don't know but whatever": What children reveal about knowledge, interest, and understanding through gesture*. Invited talk presented at The Chicago Education Workshop, Chicago, IL.
- Dowling, N. (2021).** *Emblematic and interactive uses of children's shrug gestures*. Invited talk presented at The Language Evolution, Acquisition and Processing Workshop, Chicago, IL.
- Dowling, N. (2020).** *That's (maybe a little bit) interesting!* Guest lecture presented at the Department of Human Development Trial Research Seminar, Chicago, IL.
- Dowling, N., Frausel, R., Richland, L., Levine, S., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2019).** *Relations between early and later domain-specific higher-order thinking*. Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society Biannual Meeting, Louisville, KY.
- Dowling, N. & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2018).** *Early Childhood Pronominal Reference: Shifts in Form and Function* [Master's thesis presentation]. Department of Comparative Human Development Student Conference, Chicago, IL.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

2023 – 2024	MAPSS Psychology Preceptor (20 MA students)
2023	Instructor of Record, <i>Perspectives in Social Science Analysis</i>
2023; 2024	Instructor of Record, <i>It Goes Without Saying: Conversation in Context</i>
2023	Instructor of Record, <i>Mind</i> Social Sciences Core (Winter/Spring quarters)
2023; 2024	Instructor of Record, <i>From Data to Manuscript in R</i>
2020 – 2022	Undergraduate student research mentor Psychology Honors Program; Leadership Alliance Program
2021	Instructor of Record & Preceptor, BA Honors Seminar
2021	Preceptor, Honors Thesis Writing Workshops (Winter/Spring quarters)
2020; 2023	Instructor of Record & Preceptor, BA Honors Paper Preparation
2020	Instructor of Record, <i>Mind</i> Social Sciences Core Sequence - Remote
2019	Teaching assistant section leader, Introduction to Human Development
2018 – 2019	Teaching intern, <i>Mind</i> Social Sciences Core Sequence
2017 – 2019	Graduate student research mentor Master's student mentees: Mackenzie Norman, MA June 2018; Sally Wolf, MA June 2019

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND NON-ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP

2019 – 2022	CHD Departmental Peer Mentor <i>Comparative Human Development Student Association</i>
2019-2021	Graduate Student Representative University of Chicago Graduate Student Council Committees: Social Sciences, Community, Health and Wellness
2018-2019	Welcome Chair Comparative Human Development Student Association
2016-2019	Head of Teaching and Outreach; Artistic Director University Ballet of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL AND PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

2024	Maroon Mental Health Matters Training <i>Grading for Growth</i> Reading Group Helping Students Help Themselves: Developing Self-Assessment Tasks Across Disciplines and Skills MAPSS Exploratory Teaching Group Demystifying the Hidden Curriculum, CDS pre-conference
2023	Teaching in the Age of AI: Initial Pedagogical Reflections Digital Tools for Teaching Writing Workshop
2022	Forum on Teaching in the Core
2020	Creating Inclusive and Accessible Learning Environments Workshop on Teaching Portfolios Introduction to Canvas and Zoom for Remote Teaching College Course Design and Teaching (CCTE 50000)
2019	Mid-course review, Introduction to Human Development Teaching by Discussion Workshop Seminar on Teaching Portfolios
2018	Fundamentals of Teaching: Research Methods and Designs Teaching@UChicago Conference

RESEARCH AND TEACHING SKILLS

Programming	R, Datavyu API Ruby scripting (Advanced)
Languages	HTML, CSS, Stata, Git, SQL (Intermediate)
Applications	Adobe Creative Suite, Canvas, Datavyu, ELAN, EyeLink, Google Workspaces, LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite, Panopto, R Studio