

# Robert Cavanaugh

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Ph.D Candidate, Communication Sciences and Disorders

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

✉ rob.cavanaugh@pitt.edu · 🌐 robcavanaugh.com · 🎓 Google Scholar

🆔 orcidID · 🏠 Github · 🐦 Twitter

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I'm a fourth-year Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh. I'm also a clinical speech-language pathologist. My research emphasizes quantitative methods and open science in pursuit of improving treatment outcomes and research translation in aphasia rehabilitation.

## Education

- 2018 — PhD Candidate, Communication Science and Disorders  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015 M.S. Speech and Hearing Sciences  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- Thesis: *Working Memory Capacity and Subjective Communication Difficulties in High Level Aphasia*
- 2013 B.A. Communication Science and Disorders  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

## Appointments & Positions

- 2018 — Graduate Student Researcher  
Language Rehab and Cognition Lab  
University of Pittsburgh  
PI: William S. Evans
- 2018 — Graduate Research Assistant, WOC  
Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
- 2019 — 2021 NRSA TL1 Predoctoral Fellow  
Institute for Clinical Research Education  
University of Pittsburgh  
TL1TR001858 (PI: Kraemer)
- 2013 — 2015 Graduate Research Assistant  
Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders  
UNC - Chapel Hill  
PI: Katarina Haley

2010 — 2013 Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Eye and Ear Institute  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
PI: Patrick Sparto

## Clinical Training

2016 — 2018 Speech-Language Pathologist II  
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health  
Formerly, Carolinas Healthcare System, Charlotte, NC

2016 — 2018 Speech-Language Pathologist II  
Carolinas Neurosciences Institute, Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC

2015 — 2016 Speech-Language Pathologist - Clinical Fellow  
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC

## Grant Support

2021 — 2023 Audrey Holland Endowed Award: *Determinants of multilevel discourse outcomes in anomia treatment for aphasia*  
Role: PI; Direct Costs: \$2000

2021 — 2023 1 F31 DC019853-01 NIH-NIDCD NRSA individual predoctoral fellowship: *Determinants of multilevel discourse outcomes in anomia treatment for aphasia*  
Role: PI; Impact Score: 25  
Sponsors: Michael Walsh Dickey & William S. Evans

2019 The University of Pittsburgh CTSI-Clinical and Translational Science Fellowship:  
*Comparing Treatment Intensity between Research and Clinical Practice in Post-Stroke Aphasia*  
Role: Predoctoral Fellow  
TL1TR001858 (PI: Kraemer)  
Mentors: Michael Walsh Dickey, William S. Evans, & Catherine Palmer

2019 School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Research Development Fund  
Role: PI; Direct Costs: \$1000  
Faculty Sponsor: William S. Evans

## Scholarships and Awards

2022 Plural Publishing Research Scholarship

2020 ANCDs Conference Student Fellowship

2020 NIH-NIDCD Academy of Aphasia conference grant (R13 DC017375-01)

2019 NIH-NIDCD Fellowship: Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology

2014 Adult Communication Disorders Annual Scholarship, UNC-Chapel Hill

2014 Robert W. Peters Award for excellence in research, UNC-Chapel Hill

## Publications

- 2022 Boyle, M., Akers, C. M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Hula, W. D., Swiderski, A. M., & Elman, R. J. (2022). Changes in discourse informativeness and efficiency following communication-based group treatment for chronic aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 1-35.
- Nguy, B., Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Evans, William S. (2022) Representation in aphasia research: an examination of US treatment studies published between 2009 and 2019. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*
- Cavanaugh R**, Quique YM, Dickey MW, Hula WD, Boss E, & Evans WS (2022). Practice-Related Predictors of Semantic Feature Verification Treatment for Aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2021\\_AJSLP-21-00296](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_AJSLP-21-00296)
- 2021 **Cavanaugh, R.**, Kravetz C., Jarold L., Quique Y., Turner R., & Evans, W.S. (2021). Is There a Research–Practice Dosage Gap in Aphasia Rehabilitation? *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 30(5), 2115–2129. [10.1044/2021\\_AJSLP-20-00257](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_AJSLP-20-00257).
- Evans W.S., **Cavanaugh R.**, Quique Y, Boss E, Starns J.J., & Hula W.D. (2021). Playing With BEARS: Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in a Semantic Feature Verification Anomia Treatment Game. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2021\\_JSLHR-20-00543](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_JSLHR-20-00543)
- Kersey, J., Evans, W. S., Mullen, K., Askren, A., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Wallace, S. E., Hula, W. D., Walsh Dickey, M., Terhorst, L., & Skidmore, E. (2021). Metacognitive Strategy Training Is Feasible for People With Aphasia. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15394492211023196>
- Evans, W. S., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Gravier, M. L., Autenreith, A. S., Doyle, P. J., Hula, W. D., Dickey Michael, W., & Dickey, M. W. (2021). Effects of Semantic Feature Type, Diversity, and Quantity on Semantic Feature Analysis Treatment Outcomes in Aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2020\\_AJSLP-19-00112](https://doi.org/10.1044/2020_AJSLP-19-00112)
- 2020 **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Haley, K.L. (2020) Subjective communication difficulties in very mild aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 29(1S), 437–448. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2019\\_AJSLP-CAC48-18-0222](https://doi.org/10.1044/2019_AJSLP-CAC48-18-0222)

## Publications Under Review & /In Revision

- Under Review Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh R.**, Lescht, E., Evans, William S. (Under Review) Effects of adaptive distributed practice and stimuli variability in self-managed flashcard anomia treatment: a single-case experimental design.
- Under Review **Cavanaugh, R.**, Quique, Y.M., Swiderski, A.M., Kallhoff, L., Terhorst, L., Wambaugh J., Hula, W.D., Evans, William S. (Under Review) Reproducibility in small-N treatment research in aphasia and related disorders: a tutorial. Preprint: <https://osf.io/exyqp/>

## Refereed Presentations

- 2022      **Cavanaugh, R.**, Brancamp, T, Harmon, T, Wallace, S, Biel, M, Hambridge, T, Caputo, M, Evans, WS (2022). Measuring Post-traumatic Growth in People with Aphasia. Abstract for poster presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC
- Brancamp, T, **Cavanaugh, R.**, Harmon, T, Wallace, S, Biel, M, Hambridge, T, Caputo, M, Evans, WS (2022). Individual-level predictors of post-traumatic growth and depreciation in aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC
- Goldberg, E, Dickey, M.W., Hula, W.D., **Cavanaugh, R.** Swiderski, A., Autenreith, Alyssa. (2022). Cognitive functions supporting learning over time in naming treatment for aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC
- Schliep, M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, , Tierney-Hendricks, C., Schnek, S., Douglas, N., (2022). Leveraging Implementation Science to Advance the Reach of Aphasia Best Practices. Abstract for roundtable presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC
- Evans, WS, Kelly, A, Meyer, E, Skidmore, E, Pompon, R, Flowers, R, Cavanaugh, R (2022). Adapting acceptance and commitment therapy for stroke survivors with aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC.
- Steel, S., **Cavanaugh R.**, Fergadiotis, G., Hula, W.D., (2022) Bridging the gap: Measuring perceived barriers and facilitators of a novel anomia assessment tool. Lightning talk, Implementation Science is for All: A CSD Practice-Research Exchange (April 2022). Online
- 2021      Evans, W.S., Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Lescht, E. (2021). Effects of adaptive distributed practice and stimuli variability in flashcard-based anomia treatment. Abstract for poster presentation, 59th Academy of Aphasia, Online
- Cavanaugh, R.** Quique, Y, Boss, E, Hula, W.D., and Evans, W.S. (2021). Practicing with BEARS: Active Ingredients in Semantic Feature Analysis. Abstract for poster presentation, 51st annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online
- Evans, W.S., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Quique, Y., Boss, E., Dickey, M.W., Doyle, P, Starns, J.J., and Hula, W.D., (2021). BEARS-Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in semantic feature verification anomia treatment. Abstract for platform presentation, 50th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online..
- Quique, Y., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Starns, J.J., Boss, E., Hula, W.D., and Evans, W.S. (2021). Estimating the speed-accuracy tradeoff “Sweet Spot” in language performance for people with aphasia: replication and extension of a diffusion-model based approach. Abstract for poster presentation, 50th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online.
- Boyle M, Akers C, **Cavanaugh R.**, Hula WD, Swiderski A, Elman R. (2021) Changes in informativeness following communication-based group treatment for chronic aphasia . Abstract for platform presentation, 50th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online.

Akers, C, Boyle M, Swiderski A, Hula WD, **Cavanaugh R.**, Elman R. (2021) Using complete utterances to measure change in conversational discourse following communication- based group treatment. Abstract for poster presentation, 51st annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online

**Cavanaugh, R.**, Kravetz, C., Jarold, L., Quique, Y., Turner, R., Evans, W.S. (2021). Is there a research-practice dosage gap in aphasia rehabilitation? Abstract for poster presentation, Aphasia Access Leadership Summit, online.

Nguy, B, **Cavanaugh, R.**, Quique, Y, Evans, WS. (2021). Are Aphasia Research Participants Representative of the Post-Stroke Aphasia Population in the US? Abstract for poster presentation, Aphasia Access Leadership Summit. Online conference.

2020 **Cavanaugh, R.**, Kravetz, C., Jarold, L., Quique, Y., Turner, R., Evans, W.S. (2020). Is there a research-practice dosage gap in aphasia rehabilitation? Abstract for poster presentation, 16th Annual Rehabilitation Institute Research Day. Pittsburgh, PA

**Cavanaugh, R.**, Terhorst, L., Swiderski, A.W., Hula, W.D., Evans, W.S. (2020). A Systematic Appraisal of Individual Effect Sizes in Aphasia Single-Case Designs via Simulation. Abstract for poster presentation, 58th Academy of Aphasia, Philadelphia PA.

Evans, WS, **Cavanaugh, R.**, Quique, Y, Boss, E, Dickey, MW, Doyle, P, Starns, J, and Hula, W (2020). BEARS- Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in semantic feature verification anomia treatment. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Academy of Aphasia Conference (virtual online conference).

**Cavanaugh, R.**, Kravetz, C., Evans, W.S. Utilization and Disparities in Outpatient Aphasia Rehabilitation in Western Pennsylvania. Abstract for poster presentation, Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (Conference Canceled).

2019 **Cavanaugh, R.**, Evans, W.S., Gravier, M., Autenreith, A., Ashmore, E., Doyle, P., Hula, W., Dickey, M.W., (2019). Do the kinds of features that patients generate during Semantic Feature Analysis affect treatment outcomes? Poster presented at the 2019 Clinical Aphasiology Conference in Whitefish, MT.

2018 **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Haley, K.L. (2018) Subjective communication difficulties in very mild aphasia. Abstract for poster presentation, 48th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Austin, TX.

2014 **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, & Haley, K. (2014, April) Accounting for Aphasia-Related Language Deficits in Verbal Working Memory Assessments: A Literature Review. Poster presented at the 2014 SPHS Student Research Day in Chapel Hill, NC.

## Software & Technology

2022 Cavanaugh, R., Aphasia Research Finder. <https://aphasiaresearch.org>

2022 Cavanaugh, R., Swiderski, A.M., Fergadiotis, G. & Hula, W.D. (2022). pnt: Computer adaptive forms of the Philadelphia Naming Test. Version 0.0.0.9 Available from <https://github.com/aphasia-apps/pnt>.

2021 Kowalski, J., and Cavanaugh R.B. (2021). TBDBr: Easy Access To TalkBankDB via R API. <https://github.com/TalkBank/TalkBankDB-R>

## Teaching

- 2022 CSD M.S. Clinical Integration Project
- Review and feedback for M.S. - SLP students 1st year projects
- 2021 SPHS-S 685: Research and Ethics in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (University of Indiana Bloomington; Dr. Brielle Stark)
- Guest Lecture: Writing an NIH NRSA F31 Fellowship Application
- CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
- Review and feedback for M.S. - SLP students comprehensive exams
- 2020 CSD 2230: Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Communication Disorders
- Guest Lecture 1: TBI: Pathophysiology and Medical Considerations
  - Guest Lecture 2: Case studies in adult neurological communication disorders
- SPHS 742: Aphasia (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. Katarina Haley)
- Guest Lecture: Applying treatment research in clinical practice settings
- CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
- Review and feedback for M.S. - SLP students comprehensive exams
- 2019 CSD 2230: Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Communication Disorders
- Guest Lecture 1: TBI: Pathophysiology and Medical Considerations
  - Guest Lecture 2: Case studies in adult neurological communication disorders
- CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
- Review and feedback for SLP students comprehensive exams

## Professional Memberships

- 2021 — Member, Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists: Effectiveness of Aphasia Interventions, Implementation Science
- 2020 — Member, Aphasia Access
- 2020 — Member, Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences
- 2016 — CCC-SLP: American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA)
- 2015 — SLP: Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology, North Carolina
- 2015 — Member, ASHA SIG 2: Neurogenic Communication Disorders

## Service

- 2022 — Ad hoc reviewer. Journal of Speech Language Hearing Research
- 2022 — Ad hoc reviewer. American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology.
- 2020 — 2021 Ad hoc reviewer, ASHA Annual Convention: Adult Language Section