

Robert Cavanaugh

M.S. CCC-SLP

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

- Current
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2018

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PhD Candidate, Communication Science and Disorders
University of Pittsburgh
📍 Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015
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2013

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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
|
2009

●

B.A. Communication Science and Disorders
University of Pittsburgh
📍 Pittsburgh, PA
 - Magna cum laude

Appointments & Positions

- Current
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2018

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Graduate Student Researcher
Language Rehab and Cognition Lab
University of Pittsburgh
PI: William S. Evans
- Current
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2018

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Graduate Research Assistant, WOC
Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
- 2021
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2019

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Predoctoral Fellow
Institute for Clinical Research Education
University of Pittsburgh
TL1TR001858 (PI: Kraemer)
- 2015
|
2013

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Graduate Research Assistant
Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders
UNC - Chapel Hill
PI: Katarina Haley
- 2013
|
2010

●

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

Contact

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Key Interests

- 📈 Aphasia treatment outcomes
- 👤 Implementation Science
- 📊 Data science & Statistics
- 🔗 #R Stats & R Shiny

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Last updated on 2022-01-24.

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Clinical Training

- 2018
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2016 • Speech-Language Pathologist II
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health
Formerly, Carolinas Healthcare System 📍 Charlotte, NC
- 2018
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2016 • Speech-Language Pathologist II
Carolinas Neurosciences Institute, Atrium Health 📍 Charlotte, NC
- 2016
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2015 • Speech-Language Pathologist - Clinical Fellow
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health 📍 Charlotte, NC



Grant Support

- 2021 - • 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
- Current
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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



Publications

- 2022 • Boyle, M., Akers, C.M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Hula, W.D., Swiderski, A.M., Elman, R.J. (In Press) Changes in Discourse Informativeness and Efficiency Following Communication-Based Group Treatment for Chronic Aphasia. *Aphasiology*
- 2022 • Nguy, B., Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Evans, William S. (In Press) Representation in aphasia research: an examination of US treatment studies published between 2009 and 2019. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*
- 2022 • **Cavanaugh, R.**, Quique, Y.M., Dickey, M.W., Hula, W.D., Boss, E., Evans, William S. (In Press) Practice-related predictors of semantic feature verification treatment for aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*
- 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.
- 2021 • 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

- 2021 ● 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>
- 2021 ● Evans, W. S., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Gravier, M. L., Autenreith, A. S., Doyle, P. J., Hula, W. D., Dickey Michael, W., & Dickey, M. W. (2020). 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
- 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

Refereed Presentations

- 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
- 2021 ● **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
- 2021 ● 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..
- 2021 ● 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.
- 2021 ● 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.
- 2021 ● 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
- 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? Abstract for poster presentation, Aphasia Access Leadership Summit, online.
- 2021 ● 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

- 2020 ● **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.
- 2020 ● 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).
- 2020 ● **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.



Publications Under Review & Revision

- Under Review ● Nguy, B., Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Evans, William S. (Under Review) Representation in aphasia research: an examination of US treatment studies published between 2009 and 2019
- Under Review ● Boyle, M., Akers, C., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Hula, W.D., Swiderski, A.M., Elman, R., (Under Review) Changes in Discourse Informativeness and Efficiency Following Communication-Based Group Treatment for Chronic Aphasia.
- 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.
- In Revision ● **Cavanaugh, R.**, Swiderski, A.M., Terhorst, L., Hula, W.D., Evans, William S. (In Revision) Comparing effect size measures in aphasia single-case experimental design research.



Teaching

- 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
- 2021 ● CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project (2019-2021)
 - Peer-review of 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

- 2020 ● SPHS 742: Aphasia (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. Katarina Haley)
 - Guest Lecture: Applying treatment research in clinical practice settings
- 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



Honors and Awards

- 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



Certification, Licensure, Memberships, and Service

- 2020 - ● Reviewer, ASHA Annual Convention: Adult Language Section
- 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



Software

- 2021 ● Kowalski, J., and Cavanaugh R.B. (2021). TBDBr: Easy Access To TalkBankDB via R API. <https://github.com/TalkBank/TalkBankDB-R>, <https://talkbank.github.io/TalkBankDB-R/>.
- 2021 ● Cavanaugh, R., Swiderski, A.M., Fergadiotis, G. & Hula, W.D. (2021). pnt: Computer adaptive forms of the Philadelphia Naming Test. Version 0.0.0.9 Available from <https://github.com/aphasia-apps/pnt>.