

## DR SUZANNE AUSSEMS

E-mail: [s.aussems.1@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:s.aussems.1@warwick.ac.uk)

Webpage: [suzanneaussems.github.io](https://suzanneaussems.github.io)

### EMPLOYMENT

#### **Assistant Professor**

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

01/07/2020—present

#### **Postdoctoral Researcher in Developmental Psychology**

Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway University of London, UK

01/10/2019—30/06/2020

#### **ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

01/10/2018—30/09/2019

#### **IAS Early Career Fellow**

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

01/10/2017—30/09/2018

### EDUCATION

#### **PhD in Psychology**

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

28/09/2014—27/09/2017

#### **MPhil in Language & Communication (with distinction)**

Department of Communication and Information Sciences,  
Tilburg University, The Netherlands

23/08/2012—22/08/2014

#### **MA in Culture Studies (with distinction)**

Department of Culture Studies, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

01/09/2010—31/08/2012

#### **BA in Culture Studies (with distinction)**

Department of Culture Studies, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

01/09/2007—31/08/2010

### PUBLICATIONS

#### ***Peer-reviewed journal publications***

**Aussems, S.,** Mumford, K. H., & Kita, S. (in press). Prior experience with actions facilitates 3-year-old children's verb learning. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. doi: 10.1037/xge0001071

- Zuniga-Montanez, C., Kita, S., **Aussems, S.**, & Krott, A. (2021). Beyond the shape of things: Infants can be taught to generalise nouns by function. *Psychological Science*. doi: 10.1177/0956797621993107
- Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2020). Seeing iconic gesture promotes first- and second-order verb generalization in preschoolers. *Child Development*. doi: 10.1111/cdev.13392
- Aussems, S.** (2019). How seeing iconic gestures influences action event memory and verb learning in 3-year-old children. *Language Acquisition*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/10489223.2019.1624759
- Aussems, S.**, & Vogt, P. (2018). Adults use distributional statistics for word learning in a conservative way. *IEEE Transactions on Cognitive and Developmental Systems*, 12(2), 232-242. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1109/TCDS.2018.2870161
- Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2017). Seeing iconic gestures while encoding action events facilitates children's memory of these events. *Child Development*, 90(4), 1123-1137. doi: 10.1111/cdev.12988
- Aussems, S.**, Kwok, N., & Kita, S. (2017). GestuRe and ACTION Exemplar (GRACE) video database: stimuli for research on manners of human locomotion and iconic gestures. *Behavior Research Methods*, 50(3), 1270-1284. doi: 10.3758/s13428-017-0942-2
- Vogt, P., Mastin, J. D., & **Aussems, S.** (2015). Early vocabulary development in rural and urban Mozambique. *Child Development Research*, e189195, 1-15. doi: 10.1155/2015/189195

#### **Peer-reviewed conference proceedings**

- Aussems, S.**, Chu, M., Kita, S., & van Zaanen, M. (2015). Applying pattern-based classification to sequences of gestures. In Noelle, D. C., Dale, R., Warlaumont, A. S., Yoshimi, J., Matlock, T., Jennings, C. D., & Maglio, P. P. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 124-129). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Aussems, S.**, & Vogt, P. (2015). Adults track multiple hypotheses simultaneously during word learning. In Noelle, D. C., Dale, R., Warlaumont, A. S., Yoshimi, J., Matlock, T., Jennings, C. D., & Maglio, P. P. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 118-123). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- van Zaanen, M., van Huyssteen, G., **Aussems, S.**, Emmery, C., & Eiselen, R. (2014). The development of Dutch and Afrikaans language resources for compound boundary analysis. In N. Calzolari et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation* (pp. 1056-1062). Reykjavik, Iceland.
- Aussems, S.**, Goris, B., Lichtenberg, V., van Noord, N., Smetsers, R., & van Zaanen, M. (2013). Unsupervised identification of compounds. In *Proceedings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Belgian-Dutch Conference on Machine Learning* (pp. 18-25). Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

<b>FUNDING</b>
----------------

**GRP Small Research Grant (PI)**, 25/01/2021, "Are words that are more iconic processed faster? Evidence from a lexical decision task and naming task", Institutional Research Support Fund, £1,823.51.

**Marie-Curie Global Fellowship Grant (PI)**, 16/01/2020, “ORIGES: The origins of gestural communication in humans and chimpanzees”, European Commission, €265,000.

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant (PI)**, 01/10/2018—30/09/2019, “The role of gesture in language development and evolution”, ESRC: Economic and Social Research Council, £105,000

**GRP: Behavioural Science funding (Co-I)**, 08/05/2019—12/07/2019, “Audience effects in imperative pointing: When infants point to request objects, do they consider adult communication partners?”, £4,418

**Early Career Fellowship (PI)**, 01/10/2017—30/07/2018, IAS: Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick, UK, £6,560

**GRP: Behavioural Science funding (Co-I)**, 01/06/2017—30/07/2017, “Gesture as a window into the mind: Can pointing gestures reveal children’s psychological states during word learning?”, £1,350

**PhD Studentship**, 27/09/2014—27/09/2017, University of Warwick, Department of Psychology, UK, £45,000

## TEACHING

### Undergraduate Teaching

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

*Core Modules:*

Research Methods (Year 1)

Sleep and Health (Year 1)

Developmental Psychology (Year 2)

*Optional Modules:*

Persuasion and Influence (Year 3)

Theoretical Issues in Nonverbal Behaviour (Year 3)

### Postgraduate Teaching

Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

*Core Modules:*

Advanced Quantitative Research Methods (MSc Clinical Psychology)

## AWARDS

### Prizes

**Postdoctoral Paper Award (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)**, 2019, Faculty of Science, University of Warwick, £500

**PhD Dissertation Award (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)**, 2018, Faculty of Science, University of Warwick, £500

**Student Paper Award (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)**, 2017, Faculty of Science, University of Warwick, £100

**Student Poster Award (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)**, 2016, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick

## ***Bursaries***

- Conference Bursary**, 2018, BCCCD: Budapest CEU conference on Cognitive Development, €150
- Conference Attendance Bursary**, 2018, ISGS: International Society for Gesture Studies, £300
- Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Workshop Funding**, 2018, EPS: Experimental Psychology Society, University of Lancaster, UK, £1,200
- Conference Bursary**, 2017, IASCL: International Congress for the Study of Child Language, £250
- Funding for Student-Led Conferences**, 2017, RSSP: Research Student Skills Programme, University of Warwick, UK, £300
- Grindley Grant for Conference Attendance**, 2015, EPS: Experimental Psychology Society, University of Lancaster, UK, £500
- Research Costs and Travel Expenses Bursary**, 2013, Department of Communication & Information Sciences, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, €2,000
- Academy of Arts and Sciences Bursary**, 2012, KNAW: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, €3,000

<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>
----------------------

## ***Invited talks***

- Aussems, S., & Kita, S.** (08/05/2019). Seeing iconic gestures promotes first- and second-order verb generalization in preschoolers. Invited talk in Susan Goldin-Meadow's Gesture Lab Meeting in the Department of Psychology at the University of Chicago, Chicago, USA
- Aussems, S.** (21/03/2019). How seeing iconic gestures facilitates action event memory and verb learning in 3-year-old children. Invited talk at the Cluster of Excellence Cognitive Interactive Technology (CITEC) at Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany
- Aussems, S.** (19/06/2018). How seeing iconic gestures facilitates action event memory and verb learning in 3-year-old children. Invited talk in the Seminar Series of the Language and Cognition Group at the University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK
- Aussems, S., Mumford, K., & Kita, S.** (28/10/2017). Can prior exposure to actions shape children's linguistic representation of action events? Invited talk at the Workshop "Event Representations in Brain Language and Development", Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- Aussems, S., Mumford, K., & Kita, S.** (25/11/2016). Prior experience with actions facilitates early verb learning when children are guided by iconic gestures. Invited talk at the conference "Multimodalité et interaction didactique en classe de langue", Institut National de Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France

## Conferences

Zuniga-Montanez, Kita, S., **Aussems, S.**, & Krott, A. (2020). Teaching infants to focus on the function of objects facilitates word generalization. Online meeting of the International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS)

**Aussems, S.**, Mumford K., & Kita, S. (2020). Seeing iconic gestures with unlabeled actions facilitates children's subsequent verb learning. Online meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society (EPS)

**Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2019). Seeing iconic gesture promotes first- and second-order verb generalization in preschoolers. Talk at the Child Language Symposium (CLShef19), University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

**Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2019). Seeing iconic gesture promotes second-order verb generalization in preschoolers. Poster at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

**Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2018). Seeing iconic gestures promotes lasting word-category knowledge about verbs in children. Talk at the 8th conference of the International Society of Gesture Studies (ISGS8), Cape Town, South Africa

Kita, S., **Aussems, S.**, & Mumford, K. (2018). Seeing iconic gestures helps three-year-olds learn verbs. Talk at the 8th conference of the International Society of Gesture Studies (ISGS8), Cape Town, South Africa

**Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2017). *Who did what?* How iconic gestures help young children to encode action events. Poster at the "Iconicity Focus Group Workshop", Centre for Language Studies & Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**Aussems, S.**, Mumford, K., & Kita, S. (2017). Prior experience with actions that were highlighted by iconic gestures facilitates verb learning in 3-year-olds. Poster at the 14th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Université Lyon, Lyon, France

**Aussems, S.**, Mumford, K. H., & Kita, S. (2017). Seeing iconic gestures helps 3-year-olds link multiple exemplars for verb learning. Talk at the International Conference on Gesture and Multimodality (iGesto'17), University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

**Aussems, S.**, & Kita, S. (2016). How iconic hand gestures can change children's memory of action events. Poster at the 7th Conference of the International Society of Gesture Studies (ISGS7), Paris, France

## ORGANISED EVENTS

**Workshop: Gesture & Technology (primary organiser)**, 03/06/2018, University of Warwick, 57 participants

**Workshop: The Role of Gesture in Cognitive and Linguistic Processes (primary organiser)**, 25/07/2017, University of Warwick, 27 participants

**Workshop: Gesture in Language Development (co-organiser)**, 19/07/2015, University of Warwick, 80 participants. Pre-conference workshop organised for the Child Language Symposium

**Workshop: Tilburg Gesture Research (TiGeR) (co-organiser)**, 19/06/2013—21/06/2013, Tilburg University, 250 participants

<b>INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH VISITS</b>
--------------------------------------

**University of Chicago**, 19/04/2019—12/05/2019, ESRC-funded research visit to Professor Susan Goldin-Meadow's gesture lab, Department of Psychology, USA

**University of Osnabrück**, 12/03/2019—29/03/2019, ESRC-funded research visit to Professor Simone Pika's bio cognition lab, Institute of Cognitive Science, Germany