UCONN

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Wednesday,
April 15th, 2026
3:00pm - 6:45pm in
Konover / Bousfield

Sponsored by:

UCONN

INSTITUTE FOR THE BRAIN AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Plenary Session in Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center will take place from 3:00pm-5:00pm

3:00-3:30 **Registration in Konover**

3:30-3:40 **Welcome & Opening Remarks in Konover**
Hosted by: *Umay Suanda*, PSYC

3:40-4:45 **Graduate Student Symposium in Konover**
Hosted by: *Lydia Palaiologou*, LING**; *Kyler Jones*,** PSYC

4:45-5:00 **Undergraduate Commencement Address in Konover**
Given by: *Briana Ashton,* SLHS

The poster session and reception will take place in the atrium of the WA Bousfield Psychology Building. Snacks and light refreshments will be available during this time.

5:15-6:45 **Poster Session and Reception**

GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Nathan Lautz

Psychological Sciences

"Mapping experiential feature knowledge in the brain"

Zixi Liu

Linguistics

"Children's Parallel Comprehension of Speaker Uncertainty: Evidence from a Mandarin Epistemic Modal and a Sentence-Final Particle"

Marissa Chappell

Curriculum and Instruction

"Epistemic Downgrade and Teacher Positioning in a Design-Based-Research Debrief: An Analysis Using Critical Discursive Psychology"

GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Tamara Devine

Literatures, Culture, and Language

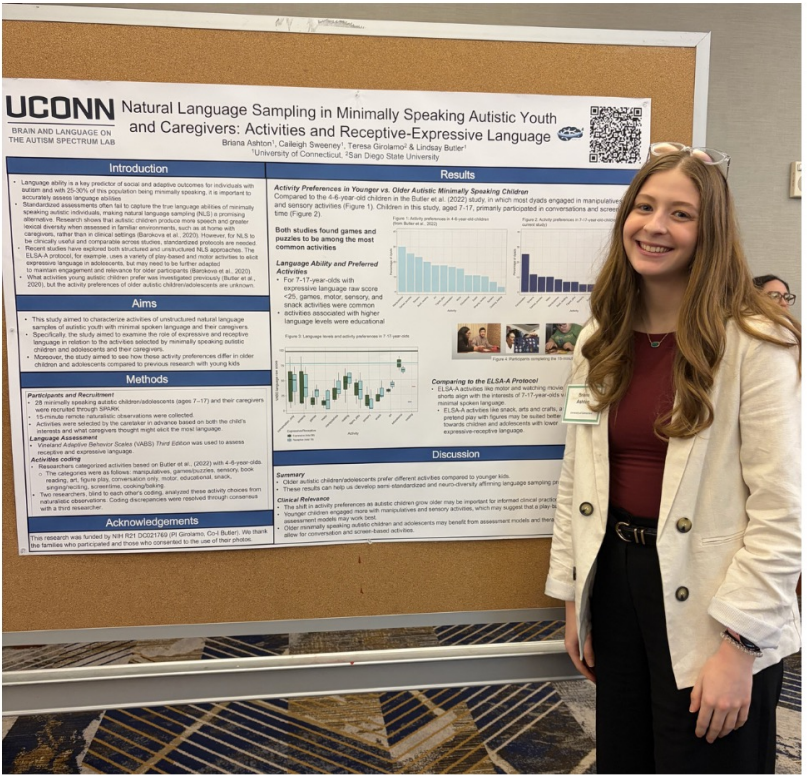
"The Intercultural Pragmatic Awareness of Au Pairs Working in the United States: An Ecological Qualitative Inquiry".

Kaila Cote

Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

"Quality over quantity? Investigating the impact of conversational content during real-world communication on quality of life for people with aphasia".

UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Briana Ashton

Brain and Language on the Autism Spectrum Lab &
Aphasia Rehab Lab
Mentors: Dr. Lindsay Butler and Dr. Jennifer Mozeiko

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1) Temporal Trends in Standardized Language Scores in Developmental Language Disorder: A Meta-Analysis

Arinjoy Bhattacharjee, COGS, IBACS, SLHS
Tammie Spaulding, COGS, IBACS, SLHS

2) Gradience in Innovatability

Hyosun Lee, IBACS, PSYC
Whitney Tabor, IBACS, PSYC

3) Structural Predictors of BrainAGE and Cognitive Performance

Mikayla Robinson, COGS
Portia Washington, PSYC, IBACS
Emily Myers, SLHS, PSYC, IBACS

4) Sensitivity to Informative Print-to-Sound and Print-to-Meaning Regularities Predicts Reading Skill and Growth in Reading Disability

Ana Bobrycki, PSYC
Daniel Kleinman, YCSC
Dasha Zdvizhkova, YCSC
Noam Siegelman, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jay G. Rueckl, PSYC
Nicole Landi, PSYC

5) Developing Infrastructure and Metadata for a Homesign Language Corpus in Nicaragua

Marie Coppola, PSYC
Kellyn Thayer, PSYC
Adriana Tillison, SLHS

6) The Language of Lady Gaga: Semiotics, Rhetoric, and Expression of the Self in the Music of Mother Monster

Austin Fitterer, MUSC

7) Sensitivity to Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences, but Not Imageability, Predicts Nonword Reading Gains in Children with Reading Disability

Dasha Zdvizhkova, YCSC
Dan Kleinman, YCSC
Ana Bobrycki, PSYC
Nicole Landi, PSYC

8) How Are Researchers Identifying Children with Developmental Language Disorder? An Updated Review of Diagnostic Tests Used (2020-2024)

Annalise Kish, SLHS
Arinjoy Bhattacharjee, IBACS, SLHS, COGS
Tammie Spaulding, IBACS, SLHS, COGS

9) Receptive Language Development in Minimally Speaking Autistic Children: The Role of Bilingual Exposure and Language Environment

Maren Hill, SLHS
Anais Albarran, SLHS
Lindsay Butler, SLHS

10) Does Timing Matter? The Role of Contiguity in Correlating Resting State EEG Arousal to Verbal Memory Task Improvement

Molly Rourke, SLHS
Isabella Piskator, SLHS
Vladimir Klyukin, SLHS
Sarah Gallagher, SLHS
Jenna Triolo, SLHS
Sanavi Gokhale, SLHS
Julia Majenski, SLHS
Adrián Garcia-Sierra, SLHS

11) Semantic-World Knowledge Interactions During Processing

Emma Wing, IBACS, PSYC
Whitney Tabor, IBACS, PSYC

12) Dynamic Restructuring of VOT–F0 Relations in Mandarin Stop Perception Across Tonal Context

Zimin Wu, LCL
Adrián Garcia-Sierra, SLHS

13) Polygenic Risk Scores and Reading (Dis)Abilities: A Systematic Review

Rue Amaya, PSYC
Alysssa Bahadur, PSYC
Martina Villa, IBACS, PSYC, YCSC
Katie Hooker, Department of Epidemiology, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Nicole Landi, IBACS, PSYC, YCSC

14) Assessing whole-person communication in minimally speaking autistic youth

Lindsey Kuniewch, SLHS
Abrielis Mejia, SLHS
Sheldon Felix, SLHS
Allyson Currier, SLHS
Teresa Girolamo, San Diego State University
Lindsay Butler, SLHS

15) Watch This! Learning Verbs from their Observational Contexts

Aditi Thaker, MCB
Courtney Pizza, PSYC
Nina Schoener, UC Berkeley
Sumarga H. Suanda, IBACS, PSYC

16) Effects of DCDC2 on Superior Colliculus Volume in Mouse Model of Developmental Dyslexia

Kaitlyn Beaupre, PSYC
Holly R. Fitch, PSYC
Ted Rosenkrantz, UConn Health

17) Morphological Features of Sign Language in Sentence Processing

Madison Stevenson, PSYC
James Payton, PSYC
Gerry Altmann, PSYC

18) The Effects of the Heggerty Curriculum Advanced Phonemic Awareness Instruction in First Grade

MaryKate DeSantis, NEAG

19) Is my Joy your Joy: How Religion Influences the Concept of Joy

Ashley Bejar, HDFS, PSYC
Kyler Jones, PSYC
Eiling Yee, COGS, PSYC
Nairán Ramirez-Esparza, COGS, PSYC

20) Pragmatic Knowledge in Adult Homesign: Analyzing Noun-Modifier Ordering Using ELAN

Sofia Ilardi, SLHS, PSYC

21) Between the Gates: Hausa Architecture and the Dispoietic Interior

Patience Odeh, LCL

22) PRISM: Priming Relationships in Syntax and Mathematics

Michelle Zhu, IBACS, NEAG, MATH
Adrián Garcia-Sierra, IBACS, SLHS

23) Autistic children with minimal spoken language: How much language do they understand?

Alexa Jackson, SLHS
Sheldon Felix, SLHS
Allyson Currier, SLHS
Kelly Liang, SLHS
Lindsay Butler, SLHS

24) Words, votes, and gender: Dissecting the 2024 election discourse

Nairán Ramírez-Esparza, PSYC
Emma Wedell, PSYC

25) Quality over quantity? Investigating the impact of conversational content during real-world communication on quality of life for people with aphasia.

Kalia Cote, SLHS
Jennifer Mozeiko, IBACS, SLHS

26) A Roadmap to Language: Supporting Early Communication in Childcare Settings Through Accessible Media

Aidan Laliberte, SLHS
Allison Shane, SLHS

27) Bilingualism and the Brain: Structural Differences Between Bilinguals and Monolinguals in the Caudate Nucleus

Daisy Delgado, SLHS
Janet Desmarais, SLHS
Erika Skoe, SLHS
Andrew Collins, SLHS

28) Childrens Parallel Comprehension of Speaker Uncertainty: Evidence from a Mandarin Epistemic Model and a Sentence-Final Particle

Zixi Liu, LING

29) Mapping Experiential Feature Knowledge in the Brain

Nathan Lautz, PSYC
Sisira Vandara, PSYC
Gary Hernandez, PSYC
Leonardo Fernandino, PSYC
Eiling Yee, PSYC

30) Imagery and Meaning: How Individual Differences in Visual Imagery Affect Conceptual Knowledge

Nathan Lautz, PSYC
Janise James, PSYC
Diqing Li, PSYC
Fanola Dede, PSYC
Eiling Yee, PSYC

31) Syntax Development in English by Deaf Children Acquiring both American Sign Language and English

Shuyan Wang, LING
Margaret Chui Yi Lee, LING
Kayla Vernon, SLHS
Deborah Chen Pichler, Gallaudet University
Diane Lillo-Martin, LING

32) When Pears Become Guitars: Continuity of Object Identity During Event Processing

Grettel Atterberry, PSYC
Jonathan Baig, PSYC
Giavanna M. Scognamiglio, PSYC
Gerry T.M Altmann, PSYC

Abbreviations

AHS - Allied Health Sciences
ASL - American Sign Language Studies
ANT- Anthropology
COGS - Cognitive Science Program
COMM - Communications
EPSY - Educational Psychology
HDFS - Human Development & Family Studies
IBACS - Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences
LING - Linguistics
LCL - Literature, Cultures, and Languages
LCL-AL- Literature, Cultures, and Languages: Applied Linguistics
MCB - Molecular & Cell Biology
MUSC- Music
NBL - Neurobiology of Language
NEAG- NEAG School of Education
PHIL - Philosophy
PNB- Physiology and Neurobiology
PSYC - Psychological Science
SLHS - Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences
YCSC - Yale Child Study Center

Collaborators

San Diego State University; Gesiel School of Medicine at Dartmouth; UC Berkeley; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; UConn Health

ABOUT LANGUAGE FEST

Language Fest is a University-wide research conference that brings together the full community of language researchers at UConn, including undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, for a day of sharing results, ideas, methodologies and fostering future interdisciplinary collaborations.

Language Fest is funded by the Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Briana Ashton
Kyler Jones
Lydia Palaiologou
Maria Brennan
Mikayla Robinson
Portia Washington
Zhupeng Li
Dr. Umay Suanda

https://languagefest.uconn.edu/