

Laura M. Morett

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Research Interests

Broad: Cognitive neuroscience, neurobiology of language, autism spectrum disorder, bilingualism and second language acquisition, embodied cognition
Specific: Gesture, discourse processing, word learning, multimodal integration, eye-tracking, functional neuroimaging (fNIRS), neurophysiology (MEG, EEG)

Professional Positions

Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology and Neuroscience University of Alabama	2017-present
Postdoctoral Associate, Child Study Center Yale University	2016-2017
Postdoctoral Fellow, Learning Research and Development Center University of Pittsburgh	2013-2016

Education

Ph.D., Psychology (Cognitive) University of California, Santa Cruz	2012
M.S., Psychology (Cognitive) University of California, Santa Cruz	2010
B.A., Psychology and Spanish, English minor Washington College (<i>summa cum laude</i> , dept. and thesis honors)	2008

Awards and Honors

Fellow, Psychonomic Society Awarded to outstanding early career researchers	2018
Rising Star, Association for Psychological Science Awarded to outstanding early career researchers (94 recipients)	2017
Member Select-Speaker Award, Psychonomic Society Awarded to showcase exceptional research (10 recipients; \$1,500)	2016

Outstanding Poster Presentation Award, University of Pittsburgh Awarded for outstanding poster presentation (3 recipients; \$100)	2014
APS Society Convention Research Award, Psi Chi Awarded for outstanding graduate research (2 recipients; \$500)	2012
Student Research Award, Int'l. Assn. for the Study of Child Language Awarded for outstanding graduate research (4 recipients; \$250)	2011
First Honor Graduate, Washington College Awarded to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA	2008
Board of Visitors and Governors Medal, Washington College Awarded to the junior with the highest cumulative GPA	2007
Fox Freshman Scholarship Medal, Washington College Awarded to the freshman with the highest cumulative GPA	2005
George Washington Scholarship, Washington College Awarded to incoming freshmen with exceptional academic promise	2004

Grants, Fellowships, and Travel Awards

Early Career Research Grant, <i>Language Learning</i> (journal) 1-year award (10 awarded per year; \$10,000 in direct costs only)	2018
Small Grant, UA Office of Research and Economic Development 2-year award (58 awarded; \$6,000 in direct costs only)	2018
Southeastern Conference Faculty Travel Award (18 awarded; \$1540) Awarded to present research at Vanderbilt University	2018
Travel Award, Society for the Neurobiology of Language Awarded to support conference attendance (26 awarded; \$550)	2017
Student Travel Award, International Forum for Autism Research Awarded to support conference attendance (54 awarded; \$500)	2017
Diversity Travel Award, International Forum for Autism Research Awarded to support conference attendance (12 awarded; \$1,000)	2016
Hilibrand Postdoctoral Fellowship, Yale University 2-year award (1 awarded per year; \$109,072; second year declined)	2016
Seed Research Grant, UPMC Brain Mapping Center Awarded to support MEG research (6 awarded; \$11,475)	2014
T32 Institutional Training Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh 3-year award (2 awarded per year; \$129,288)	2013
Conference Grant and Research Fellowship, Cognitive Science Society Awarded for conference attendance & research (8 awarded; \$3,070)	2012
Student Travel Award, Conceptual Structure in Discourse & Language Awarded to support presentation of research (10 awarded; \$300)	2012
Regents' Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz Dept. of Psychology 6-year award (4 awarded; \$10,300)	2012
Federico and Rena Perlino Scholarship Award, UC Santa Cruz 6-month award (1 awarded per year; \$10,520)	2011

Graduate Research Grant, Psi Chi 1-year award (10 awarded; \$1,373)	2011
East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellowship, NSF 3-month award (214 awarded; \$15,617)	2010
Mini-Research Grant, Dept. of Psychology, UC Santa Cruz 1-year award (12 awarded; \$515)	2010
National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship, DoD 3-year award (200 awarded; \$93,000)	2008
Research Grant, Society of Junior Fellows, Washington College 3-month award (10 awarded; \$3,000)	2007

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

- Morett, L. M. & Fraundorf, S. H. (in press). Beat gesture alters how pitch accenting affects discourse memory: Evidence from top-down use of talker expectations. *Memory and Cognition*.
- Morett, L. M. (in press). The influence of tonal and atonal bilingualism on children's lexical and non-lexical tone perception. *Language and Speech*.
- Morett, L. M. (2019). The power of an image: Images enhance L2 word learning more than glosses. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 48, 643-664.
- Morett, L. M. (2018). In hand and in mind: Effects of gesture production and viewing on L2 word learning. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 39, 355-381.
- Morett, L. M., O'Hearn, K., Lynn, A. S., Luna, B., & Ghuman, A. S. (2016). Altered gesture and speech production in ASD detract from in-person communicative quality. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46, 998-1012.
- Morett, L. M. (2015). Lending a hand to signed language acquisition: Enactment and iconicity enhance sign recall in hearing adult American Sign Language learners. *Journal of Cognitive Psychology*, 27, 251-276.
- Morett, L. M., & Chang, L. Y. (2015). Emphasising sound and meaning: Pitch gestures enhance Mandarin lexical tone acquisition. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 30, 347-353.
- Morett, L. M. (2014). When hands speak louder than words: The role of gesture in the communication, encoding, and recall of a novel second language. *The Modern Language Journal*, 98, 834-853.
- Morett, L. M., & MacWhinney, B. (2013). Syntactic transfer in English-speaking Spanish learners. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 16, 132-151.
- Morett, L. M., Clegg, B. A., Blalock, L. D., & Mong, H. M. (2009). Applying multimedia learning theory to map learning and driving navigation. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology & Behaviour*, 12, 40-49.

Peer-Reviewed Proceedings Papers

- Morett, L. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2019). Eye see what you're

saying: Beat gesture facilitates online resolution of contrastive referring expressions in spoken discourse. In A. Goel, C. Seifert, & C. Freksa (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Morett, L. M., Roche, J. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2018).

Pupillometry and multimodal processing of beat gesture and pitch accent: The eye's hole is greater than the sum of its parts. In C. Kalish, M. Rau, J. Zhu, & T. Rogers (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Morett, L. M., MacWhinney, B., & Gibbs, R. W. (2012). The role of gesture in second language word learning: acquisition, communication, and retention. In N. Miyake, D. Peebles, & R. Cooper (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Morett, L. M., MacWhinney, B., & Gibbs, R. W. (2012). The effects of mental imagery and embodied action on L2 word learning. In N. Miyake, D. Peebles, & R. Cooper (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Morett, L. M. (2012). How the hands cue the mind: the effects of iconicity and enactment on sign language acquisition. In N. Miyake, D. Peebles, & R. Cooper (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Manuscripts in Revision/Under Peer Review

Morett, L. M., Landi, N., Irwin, J., & McPartland, J. C. (submitted). N400 magnitude and variability reflect temporal gesture-speech alignment.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Morett, L. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. Beat gesture and contrastive pitch accenting influence online reference resolution in spoken discourse.

Morett, L. M., Roche, J. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. Beat gesture increases cognitive load during online contrastive reference resolution.

Morett, L. M., Feiler, J. B., Hughes Berheim, S., & Nelson, C. The effects of representational and beat gestures on learning: A meta-analysis.

Conference Papers

Morett, L. M. (2019, July). *Eye see what you're saying: Beat gesture facilitates online resolution of contrastive referring expressions in spoken discourse.* To be presented at the 41st annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, QC.

Morett, L. M. (2019, March). *All hands on deck: Elucidating gesture's impact on L2 speech sound acquisition.* Presented at the 47th annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics, Atlanta, GA.

Morett, L. M., & Fraundorf, S. H. (2018, October). *Convergent contrastive cues: Beat gesture and L+H* pitch accenting influence online reference resolution similarly in spoken language processing.* Presented at Experimental and Theoretical Approaches to Prosody 4, Amherst, MA.

- Morett, L. M. & Fraundorf, S. H. (2016, November).** *The impact of beat gesture and pitch accenting on memory for spoken discourse.* Presented at the 57th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, MA. [Select Speaker Award]
- Morett, L. M., Li, Y., Coffman, B. A., Luna, B., & Ghuman, A. S. (2016, May).** Biomarkers of abnormal temporal gesture-speech integration in ASD. In L. M. Morett (Chair), *Translational approaches to abnormal communication in ASD.* Presented at the 15th annual meeting of the International Forum for Autism Research, Baltimore.
- Morett, L. M. (2013, October).** *Images prime the pump for L2 word-meaning association.* Presented at the 22nd annual Second Language Research Forum, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, October).** *Pitch gestures enhance Mandarin lexical tone perception and word learning.* Presented at the 21st annual Second Language Research Forum, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, August).** *The role of gesture in second language word learning: Acquisition, communication, and retention.* Presented at the 34th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sapporo, Japan.
- Morett, L. M., Gibbs, R. W., & MacWhinney, B. (2012, May).** *From hands to mouths to minds: Enhancement of second language acquisition via conversational gesture.* Presented at the 11th biannual Conceptual Structure in Discourse and Language Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, March).** *Gesture facilitates second language acquisition, communication, and retention.* In L. M. Morett (Chair), *The psycholinguistic bases of second language acquisition: Consistency and change across languages.* Presented at the 100th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Morett, L. M. & Tan, S. H. (2011, July).** *Lexical tone affects speech perception and word learning by bilingual children.* Presented at the 12th triannual meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language, Montréal, QC. [IASCL Student Research Award]

Conference Posters

- Morett, L. M., Roche, J., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2019, March).** *Beat gesture increases cognitive load during online contrastive reference resolution.* Presented at the 32nd annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Boulder, CO.
- Morett, L. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2018, November).** *Eye see what you're saying: Beat gesture and contrastive pitch accent facilitate online reference resolution in discourse processing.* Presented at the 59th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New Orleans, LA.
- Morett, L. M., Roche, J., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2018, November).** *Seeing double: Beat gesture and pitch accent increase listeners' cognitive load during*

- discursive reference resolution*. Presented at the 59th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New Orleans, LA.
- Morett, L. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2018, July).** *Pupillometry and multimodal processing of beat gesture and pitch accent: The eye's hole is greater than the sum of its parts*. Presented at the 40th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
- Morett, L. M., & Fraundorf, S. H. (2018, June).** *Inferring importance from multiple prosodic cues: The impact of beat gesture and pitch accent on memory for discourse*. Presented at the 6th International Workshop on Advanced Learning Sciences, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Morett, L. M., Fraundorf, S. H., & McPartland, J. C. (2018, March).** *Multimodal cue integration affects referent prediction in real-time sentence comprehension: Evidence from pitch accent and beat gesture*. Presented at the 31st annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
- Morett, L. M., Landi, N., Irwin, J. & McPartland, J. C. (2018, March).** *Sentence-by-sentence N400 variability during multimodal cue integration reflects prediction violation: Evidence from pitch accent and beat gesture*. Presented at the 31st annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
- Morett, L. M., Landi, N., Irwin, J. & McPartland, J. C. (2017, November).** *Neural substrates of beat gesture-pitch accent integration: An ERP investigation*. Presented at the 58th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, BC.
- Morett, L. M., Landi, N., Irwin, J. & McPartland, J. C. (2017, November).** *Trial-by-trial N400 variability reflects temporal gesture-speech integration*. Presented at the 9th annual meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, MD.
- Morett, L. M., Landi, N., Irwin, J. & McPartland, J. C. (2017, May).** *The hands have it: Variation in the latency of neural activity during beat gesture-speech integration in ASD*. Presented at the 16th annual meeting of the International Forum for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Morett, L. M., & Fraundorf, S. H. (2017, March).** *Top-down emphasis affects integration of multiple cues to emphasis in discourse*. Presented at the 30th annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Cambridge, MA.
- Morett, L. M., Li, Y., Luna, B., & Ghuman, A.S. (2015, October).** *The role of pSTC and IFG in temporal gesture-speech integration*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, IL.
- Morett, L. M. (2014, May).** *Gesture and speech production indicate audience hypersensitivity in ASD*. Presented at the 13th annual meeting of the International Forum for Autism Research, Atlanta, GA.
- Morett, L. M. (2013, November).** *Signs in the mind's eye: Embodied action and mental imagery enrich sign representation*. Presented at the 54th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, ON.

- Morett, L. M., Gibbs, R. W., & MacWhinney, B. (2012, August).** *The effects of mental imagery and embodied action on L2 word learning.* Presented at the 34th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sapporo, Japan.
- Morett, L. M., Gibbs, R. W., & MacWhinney, B. (2012, August).** *How the hands cue the mind: The effects of iconicity and enactment on sign language acquisition.* Presented at the 34th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sapporo, Japan.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, May).** *Enactment enhances ASL sign acquisition.* Presented at the 24th annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL. [Psi Chi Research Award]
- Morett, L. M. (2012, May).** *Saying it with the hands: How gesture promotes second language acquisition.* Presented at the 24th annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, May).** *The role of mental imagery and embodied motion in sign language learning.* Presented at the 11th biannual Conceptual Structure in Discourse and Language Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, March).** *Can gesture enhance second language word learning?* Presented at the 100th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association.
- Morett, L. M. (2012, March).** *Enactment facilitates ASL sign acquisition.* Presented at the 100th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Morett, L. M., MacWhinney, B., & Gibbs, R. W. (2011, November).** *The role of gesture in second language word learning.* Presented at the 15th annual Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Raleigh, NC.
- Morett, L. M., & MacWhinney, B. (2011, April).** *Bilingual sentence processing strategies in English-speaking learners of Spanish.* Presented at the 3rd annual meeting of the California Cognitive Science Conference, Berkeley, CA.
- Morett, L. M., & MacWhinney, B. (2010, November).** *The relationship between cue-based sentence interpretation strategies and proficiency of second language learners.* Presented at the 51st annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, St. Louis, MO.
- Morett, L. M., Massaro, D. W., & Gawade, M. (2010, May).** *Second language pronunciation training by ear and eye: The role of internal articulators in phonetic acquisition.* Presented at the 2nd annual meeting of the California Cognitive Science Conference, Berkeley, CA.
- Morett, L. M., Massaro, D. W., & Gawade, M. (2009, November).** *Second language pronunciation training by ear and eye: The role of internal articulators in phonetic acquisition.* Presented at the 50th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, MA.
- Morett, L. M., Clegg, B.A., Blalock, L.D., & Mong, H.M (2008, May).** *Applications of multimedia learning theory to map learning and driving navigation.* Presented at the 20th annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Morett, L. M., Clegg, B.A., Blalock, L.D., & Mong, H.M (2008, April).** *Applications of multimedia learning theory to map learning and driving navigation.* Presented at the 78th annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association, Boise, ID.

Morett, L. M. (2008, March). *Applications of psycholinguistics: Undergraduate L2 learning.* Presented at the 96th annual meeting of Eastern Psychological Association, Boston.

Technical Skills

Experimental design: Open Sesame, E-Prime, EyeLink, Praat, Adobe Creative Suite
Data analysis: R, Python, MATLAB, EEG/ERPLab, MNE, ELAN, CHAT/CLAN

External Invited Talks

University of South Alabama, Dept. of Psychology, April 2019.
Millsaps College, Dept. of Psychology, Jan. 2019.
University of Memphis, Dept. of Psychology, Oct. 2018.
Vanderbilt University, Dept. of Psychological Sciences, Sept. 2018.
Georgia State University, Dept. of Psychology, Jan. 2018.
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dept. of Psychology, Nov. 2017.
Mississippi State University, Dept. of Psychology, Oct. 2017.
University of Tennessee, Dept. of Psychology, Sept. 2017.
Stony Brook University, Dept. of Psychology, May 2017.
Tufts University, Dept. of Psychology, May 2017.
Boston University, Dept. of Psychological & Brain Sciences, May 2017.
University of Pennsylvania, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, May 2017.
Villanova University, Dept. of Psychology, May 2017.
Duquesne University, Dept. of Speech-Language Pathology, Apr. 2017.
University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Apr. 2017.
Yale University, Dept. of Linguistics, Feb. 2017.
University of Connecticut, Dept. of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences, Jan. 2017.
University of Alabama, Dept. of Educational Studies in Psychology, Jan. 2017.
Haskins Laboratories, Jan. 2017.
University of New Hampshire, Dept. of Communication Disorders, Nov. 2016.
University of Connecticut, Dept. of Psychology, Sept. 2016.
University of Rochester, Dept. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, May 2016 (remote).
Kent State University, Dept. of Speech Pathology and Audiology, May 2016.
Louisiana State University, Dept. of Communication Disorders, Jan. 2016.
Bowling Green State University, Dept. of Communication Disorders, Dec. 2015.
University of South Carolina, Dept. of Communication Disorders, Dec. 2015.
University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Psychiatry, Feb. 2013.
University of Canterbury, NZ Institute of Brain and Behavior, Nov. 2012 (remote).

Teaching Experience and Preparation

Instructor of Record, Learning and Cognition, Spring 2018; 2019
University of Alabama (Master's-level seminar)

Instructor of Record, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Fall 2017; 2018
University of Alabama (Ph.D.-level seminar)
Instructor of Record, Embodied and Situated Approaches to Education, Spring 2018
University of Alabama (Ph.D.-level seminar)
Practitioner Level Certification in STEM instruction, Spring 2016
University of Pittsburgh
Associate Level Certification in STEM instruction, Fall 2015
University of Pittsburgh
Teaching Assistant, Human Learning and Memory, Fall 2010
University of California, Santa Cruz
Teaching Assistant, Human Factors, Winter 2009
University of California, Santa Cruz

Mentoring: Ph.D. Students

Mingyeong Choi, Educational Psychology, 2019-present
Sarah Hughes Berheim, Educational Psychology, 2018-present
Cailee Nelson, Educational Psychology, 2018-present
Jacob Feiler, Educational Psychology, 2018-present
Nan Mu, Educational Psychology, 2018-present
Nathaniel Shannon IV, Educational Psychology, 2017-present

Mentoring: Undergraduate Students

3 summer interns
20 research assistants

Dissertation Committees

Catanya Stager, Dept. of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology,
and Counseling, University of Alabama, 2018-present
Lauren Neal, Dept. of Psychology, University of Alabama, 2018-2019.

Professional Workshop Participation

ERP Boot Camp, Summer 2017
University of California, Davis
Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, Summer 2017
University of California, Santa Barbara
Summer Institute for Autism Research, Summer 2015, 2016
International Society for Autism Research
Dynamics of Music and Language Summer School, Summer 2014
University of California, Merced
Multimodal Neuroimaging Summer Workshop, Summer 2012

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center Summer School, Summer 2011
Carnegie Mellon University
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, Summer 2009
University of California, Berkeley

Professional Affiliations

Association for Psychological Science
American Association for Applied Linguistics
Cognitive Science Society
Psychonomic Society
Women in Cognitive Science
AILA Research Network: Gesture, Multimodality, and Second Language Acquisition

Ad Hoc Reviewing

Grant agencies: National Science Foundation, Leverhulme Trust
Journals: *Applied Psycholinguistics* (2); *Behavioural Brain Research* (3); *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* (5); *Brain and Language*, *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology* (2); *Cognitive Science*, *Computers and Education* (3); *Developmental Science*; *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* (9); *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*; *Journal of Memory and Language* (2); *Language Learning* (6); *Language Teaching Research* (2); *Psychological Science*; *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*; *Speech Communication*
Conferences: SRCD, SLRF, Cognitive Science Society (program committee, 2016)

Professional Service

Program Development, Dept. of Educational Psychology, 2018-present
Editorial Board, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 2017-present
Postdoctoral Representative, Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, 2015-2016
Graduate Panelist, Psi Chi Roundtable, Dept. of Psychology, UCSC, 2011
Organizer, Bilingualism Journal Club, Dept. of Psychology, UCSC, 2010-2011
Graduate Student Representative, Dept. of Psychology, UCSC, 2010-2011
Member, University of California Student Regent Selection Committee, 2009-2010
External Vice President, Graduate Student Association, UCSC, 2009-2010
Reviewer, Association for Psychological Science Student Research Award, 2009-2010

Community Service and Outreach

Judge, International Science and Engineering Fair, 2015
Judge, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, 2014-2015
Judge, Pittsburgh FIRST Lego League Competition, 2013

Judge, Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, 2012-2016
Judge, Santa Cruz County Board of Education Science Fair, 2010-2011

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