

**Shawn N. Cummings, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

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<b>Ph.D., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition)</b>	2025
<i>Joint affiliation with Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences</i>	
University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore	
<i>Dissertation:</i> Linking lexically guided perceptual learning to statistical patterns in speech input	
 <b>M.S., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition)</b>	2024
University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore	
<i>Thesis:</i> Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning	
 <b>Graduate Certificate in Neurobiology of Language</b>	2024
University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. William Snyder	
 <b>Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science</b>	2023
University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Dimitris Xygalatis	
 <b>B.A., Linguistics, University of Rochester</b>	2021
Minors in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, English (Theatre), and Music	

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

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<b>Postdoctoral researcher, Language Science</b>	2025
University of California, Irvine; Advisors: Drs. Xin Xie and Chigusa Kurumada	

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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DOE Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship	2023-2025
NSF NRT Traineeship: Science of Learning & Art of Communication	2022-2023
NIH T32 Fellowship: Cognitive Neuroscience of Communication	2021-2023
Donald Shankweiler Language Sciences Award (University of Connecticut)	2021

## PEER REVIEWED PAPERS (PUBLISHED)

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\* = equal contributions; + = undergraduate student I mentored

**Cummings, S.N.**, Karboga, G., Yang, M., & Jaeger, T.F. (2025, In press). [Compensation in audiovisual speech perception: discounting the pen in the mouth](#). *Journal of Experimental Psychology*. [\[OSF\]](#)

Mechtenberg, H.\*, **Cummings, S. N.\***, Myers, E. B., & Luthra, S. (2025). [Cents and shenshibility: The role of reward in talker-specific phonetic recalibration](#). *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 1-22. [\[OSF\]](#)

**Cummings, S.N.**, Duda, B.+, & Theodore, R. M. (2024). [Autistic listeners demonstrate robust lexically guided perceptual learning](#). *Autism Research*. [\[OSF\]](#)

**Cummings, S. N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (2023). [Hearing is believing: Lexically guided perceptual learning is graded to reflect the quantity of evidence in speech input](#). *Cognition*, 235, 105404. [\[OSF\]](#)

**Cummings, S. N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (2022). [Perceptual learning of multiple talkers: Determinants, characteristics, and limitations](#). *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 84(7), 2335-2359. [\[OSF\]](#)

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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**Cummings, S.N.**, Hodges, E.+, & Theodore, R. M. (Revision under review). [Easy come, not so easy go: Stability of lexically guided perceptual learning over time](#).

Hodges, E.+, **Cummings, S.N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (In revision). [Lexically guided perceptual learning is robust to linguistically engaging distraction](#). [\[OSF\]](#)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Cummings, S.N.**, Jaeger, T.F., Kurumada, C., & Xie, X. (2026, June). Even high-resolution data on perceptual learning do not distinguish mechanisms. Submitted for presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

Ferrer, G.+, Lee, K.+, **Cummings, S.N.**, & Xie, X. (2026, June). Probing the cognitive loci of compensation for co-articulation. Submitted for presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

Jaeger, T.F., & **Cummings, S.N.**, (2026, June). No specialized learning or memory mechanisms needed? Perceptual compensation might explain blockage of perceptual learning. Submitted for presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Ontario, Canada.

**Cummings, S. N., & Theodore, R. M.** (2024, November). Lexically guided perceptual learning is not a task-based artifact. Oral presentation at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York, New York.

**Cummings, S. N.** (2024, November). Lexically guided perceptual learning is robust! But what is it? Oral presentation at the EDULANG meeting on Variation and Diversity in Language Acquisition and Processing, Storrs, Connecticut.

**Cummings, S. N., Duda, B.+, Medeiros, W., & Theodore, R. M.** (2024, June). Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning. Oral presentation at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian Association for Language and Cognition, Trondheim, Norway.

**Cummings, S. N., Duda, B.+, Medeiros, W., & Theodore, R. M.** (2024, May). Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning. Poster presentation at the 186<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Giovannone, N., **Cummings, S. N., García-Sierra, A., Magnuson, J. S., & Theodore, R. M.** (2023, November). Early neural encoding of acoustic-phonetic information is consistent across language ability. Poster presentation at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA.

Giovannone, N., **Cummings, S. N., García-Sierra, A., Magnuson, J. S., & Theodore, R. M.** (2023, October). Early neural encoding of acoustic-phonetic information is consistent across language ability. Poster presentation at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Marseille, France.

**Cummings, S. N., Choi, J. Y., Shattuck-Hufnagel, S., & Theodore, R. M.** (2023, May). Linking lexically guided perceptual learning to statistical patterns in speech input. Poster presentation at the 184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Chicago, Illinois.

Hodges, E.+, **Cummings, S. N., & Theodore, R. M.** (2023, May). Easy come, easy go: Examining the stability of lexically guided perceptual learning over time. Poster presentation at the 184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Chicago, Illinois.

**Cummings, S.N., Karboga, G., Yang, M., & Jaeger, T.F.** (2021, November) Causal Inference in the Perception and Learning of Audio-Visually Presented Speech. Poster presentation at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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\* = course designed by me

### Instructor:

\*SLHS 6367: Topics in Hearing and Speech Science Spring 2025  
UNIV 1800: University Learning Skills Fall 2024

### Teaching Assistant:

SLHS 2156Q: Speech and Hearing Science Fall 2023, 2024, Spring 2024, 2025

### Guest Lectures/Invited Talks:

University of California, Irvine: Introduction to Speech Science Fall 2025  
Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language: [External Speaker Series](#) Fall 2025  
University of Rochester: Speech Perception as an Adaptive Mechanism Fall 2025  
University of Connecticut: Current Topics in Developmental Psychology Spring 2024  
University of Rochester: Undergraduate Research in Cognitive Science Spring 2022

## SERVICE

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Ad hoc Reviewer

*Applied Psycholinguistics*

*Glossa Psycholinguistics*

*Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*

*Language and Speech*

*National Council on Undergraduate Research*

2023

Student Facilitator

2023-2024

“Talk Shop” series, *University of Connecticut*

Poster Session Chair

2023

*186th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*

Member, J-Term Committee

2021-2022

*Science of Learning and Art of Communication Program, University of Connecticut*

Member, Organizing Committee

2021

*LangFest, University of Connecticut*

## SKILLS

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Programming: R (proficient), Python (intermediate), Javascript (novice), MATLAB (novice)

Experimental design: Gorilla (proficient), OpenSesame (novice), PsychoPy (novice)

Acoustic analysis: Praat (proficient, annotation and scripting)

Electrophysiology recording: Brainvision product suite (proficient)

Language: English (native fluency), Spanish (rudimentary), American Sign Language (rudimentary)