

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

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EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition)** 2025

*Joint affiliation with Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences*

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore

*Dissertation:* Linking lexically guided perceptual learning to statistical patterns in speech input

**M.S., Psychological Sciences (Language and Cognition)** 2024

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Rachel Theodore

*Thesis:* Potential influences of autistic traits and perceptual acuity on lexically guided perceptual learning

**Graduate Certificate in Neurobiology of Language** 2024

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. William Snyder

**Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science** 2023

University of Connecticut; Advisor: Dr. Dimitris Xygalatis

**B.A., Linguistics, University of Rochester** 2021

Minors in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, English (Theatre), and Music

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

**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*.

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

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

**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.

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

#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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**Cummings, S.N.**, Udell, A., & Theodore, R. M. (Under review). Lexically guided perceptual learning is not a task based artifact.

**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. [preprint at <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/5j6hp>]

Hodges, E., **Cummings, S.N.**, & Theodore, R. M. (In revision). Lexically guided perceptual learning is robust to linguistically engaging distraction. Under revision. [preprint at <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/q2mhs>]

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**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, NY.

**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. C., **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

\* = 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:

PSYC 5470: Current Topics in Developmental Psychology

Spring 2024

BCSC 261: 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 (intermediate fluency), American Sign Language (rudimentary)