

# Catherine E. Laing

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I research the phonetics and phonology of infants' early vocalizations: how do rudimentary productions become words, and how does proprioceptive experience shape cognitive development? With expertise in quantitative analysis, data visualization and eye-tracking with babies, I am enthusiastic about open science, creative teaching, and public engagement.

## EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

**September 2017 - Present.** Lecturer, Cardiff University, UK.

**September 2016 – July 2017.** Post-doctoral Research Associate, Duke University, USA.  
Supervisor: Dr Erika Bergelson, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience.

**September 2015 – June 2016.** Associate Lecturer, University of York, UK.

**January 2016 – April 2016.** Visiting Lecturer, University of Huddersfield, UK.

**April 2013.** Visiting Scholar. Department of Linguistics, University of Stockholm, Sweden.

**October 2012 – October 2015.** PhD Linguistics, University of York, UK.

Supervisors: Professor Marilyn Vihman, Dr Tamar Keren-Portnoy

Thesis title: *"What does the cow say?" An exploratory analysis of onomatopoeia in early phonological development.*

**October 2009-September 2010.** MA General Linguistics, University of York, UK.

Thesis title: *Exploring the Role of Systematization in Phonological Development: A Dynamic Systems Perspective.*

**October 2005-July 2009.** BA(hons) French and German (Language & Linguistics), University of York.

## PUBLICATIONS

Laing, C. E. (2019). Phonological motivation for the early acquisition of onomatopoeia: An analysis of early words. *Language Learning and Development*, **15**, 177-197.

Laing, C. E. (2019). A role for onomatopoeia in early language: evidence from phonological development. *Language and Cognition*, **11**(2), 173-187.

Laing, C. E. & Bergelson, E. (2019). Mothers' Work Status and 17-month-olds' Productive Vocabulary. *Infancy*, **24**, 101-109.

Laing, C. E. (2017). A perceptual advantage for onomatopoeia in early word learning: Evidence from eye-tracking. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, **161**, 32-45.

Laing, C. E., Keren-Portnoy, T. & Vihman, M. M. (2017). How salient are onomatopoeia in the early input? A prosodic analysis of infant-directed speech. *Journal of Child Language*, **44**, 1117-1139

Laing, C. E. (2014). A phonological analysis of onomatopoeia in early word production, *First Language*, **34**, 387-405.

- Laing, C. E. (2014). Phonological ‘Wildness’ in Early Language Development: Exploring the Role of Onomatopoeia, *Proceedings from the PARLAY Conference 2013, York Papers in Linguistics*.
- Smith, C. E. (2013). Book Review: Supporting Early Language Development: Spirals for Babies and Toddlers, *Babel: The Language Magazine*, **2**, 51.
- Smith, C. E. (2011). Variation and Similarity in the Phonological Development of French Dizygotic Twins: Phonological Bootstrapping Towards Segmental Learning? *York Papers in Linguistics*, **2**, 74-87.

## TEACHING

**Autumn 2017 – Present.** Lecturer (Cardiff University).

How Language Works  
Phonetics and Phonology (MA)  
Children, Language and Communication  
Research Experience (MA)  
Experimental Psycholinguistics

**Spring semester 2017.** Guest Lectures (Duke University).

Language and Identity  
Infant Language Development

**Autumn 2015 – Spring 2016.** Associate Lecturer (University of York).

Psycholinguistics (BA & MA)  
Language Acquisition  
Psycholinguistic Approaches to SLA  
Phonetics and Phonology  
Quantitative Methods (MA)  
Neurolinguistics

**Spring 2016.** Lecturer (University of Huddersfield).

Child Language Acquisition  
Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics – Phonetics

**Autumn 2013 – Spring 2015.** Teaching Assistant (University of York).

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology  
Phonological Development  
Introduction to Language Acquisition  
History of English  
Intermediate Language Acquisition

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

**May 2019.** Research Innovation Fund, Cardiff University, **£865**

**May 2015.** ESRC RTSG Top-Up Grant, *Conference travel to WILD, Stockholm*, **£702**.

**February 2014.** WRDTC Interdisciplinary Network Funding, *PENCIL Project*, **£2,350**.

**March 2013.** LAGB Postgraduate Funding 2013, *PARLAY conference 2013*, **£250**.

**February 2013.** ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit, *University of Stockholm, Sweden*, **£1,270.65**.

**October 2012.** ESRC WR DTC (3) Scholarship, 2012-2015.

## AWARDS

- May 2019.** Enriching Student Life Award nomination, “Outstanding Doctoral Supervisor”.
- May 2018.** Enriching Student Life Award nomination, “Most Uplifting Member of Staff”.
- June 2015.** Humanities Research Centre Doctoral Fellowship Award, Language and Linguistic Science. University of York.
- June 2014.** Three Minute Thesis competition, 2nd prize: “*What does the cow say?*” *And what can it do for us?* University of York, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014.
- May 2014.** WRDTC Doctoral Research Collaboration Essay Prize: Runner up.
- May 2014.** WRDTC Engagement and Impact Poster Competition: Runner up.
- April 2014.** LAGB Anna Siewierska Essay Prize: Runner up.
- January 2014.** York Talks Postgraduate Poster Competition (Finalist).

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Presentations

- January 2019.** *From babble to words: Infants’ early productions match input speech and attended objects.* Paper presented at the Research Colloquium, Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- November 2017.** *Variable homelife effects on early language development.* Paper presented at the Psychology Research Meeting, Swansea University, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.
- October 2016.** *‘What does the cow say?’ An analysis of onomatopoeia in early interactions.* Paper presented at the Developmental Research Meeting, Duke University, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- April 2016.** *A role for onomatopoeia in early language development? Perspectives from production, perception and interaction.* Paper presented at the Language and Linguistic Science Colloquium, University of York, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- March 2014.** *Exploring the Role of Onomatopoeia in Phonological Development,* White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (WRCoAH) Launch Event, University of York, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- November 2013.** *Experimental Methods in Infant Language Research.* Talk presented at the University of York Linguistic Society’s LingChat, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 University of York, UK.
- April 2013.** *Phonological ‘Wildness’ in Early Language Development: Exploring the Role of Onomatopoeia.* Paper presented at the Högre Seminarium i Lingvistik, University of Stockholm, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013. University of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden.

### Other presentations

- June 2018.** Laing, C. E. & Bergelson, E. *From babble to words: Infants’ early productions match attended objects.* Paper presented at the Child Language Symposium, Reading, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- December 2017.** Laing, C. E. *Tracing bilingual lexical acquisition via infants’ phonological preferences.* Paper presented at the BAAL-Routledge Research Development Workshop: Bilingual First Language Acquisition: Current Theories and Methodologies, University of York, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

- November 2017.** Laing, C. E. & Bergelson, E. *What did you say? Infants' Early Productions Match Caregiver Input.* Paper presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Boston University Conference on Child Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, MA, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- July 2017.** Laing, C. E. & Bergelson, E. *More siblings means lower input quality in early language development.* Paper presented at CogSci 2017, London, UK, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- July 2017.** Laing, C. E. *Producibility and accuracy in early acquisition: The case for onomatopoeia.* Paper presented at IASCL 2017, Lyon, France, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017.
- November 2016.** Laing, C. E. *'What does the cow say?' An analysis of onomatopoeia in early interactions.* Paper presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Boston University Conference on Child Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, MA, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- July 2015.** Laing, C. E. *Interaction and onomatopoeia in early language development.* Paper presented at the Child Language Symposium 2015, University of Warwick, UK, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015.
- June 2015.** Laing, C. E. *Is the early acquisition of onomatopoeia internally or externally motivated?* Paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Infant Language Development (WILD), Stockholm, Sweden, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- March 2015.** Laing, C. E. *The iconic mapping of onomatopoeia in early word learning,* Paper presented at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS) conference, Leipzig, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015.
- September 2014.** Laing, C. E., Villanueva Aguilera, A. B., Hanan, R., Bassetti, B. & Cook, V., *Beauty is in the Ear of the Beholder: Monolinguals' and Bilinguals' Perception of Five Languages.* Poster presented at EUROSLA 24, York, UK, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

- Articles**      Babies prefer the sounds of other babies to the cooing of their parents. *The Conversation*, 18/5/2018
- Here's why 'baby talk' is good for your baby. *The Conversation*, 10/11/2016.
- Radio**            Interview on *Jet Set Weekend Breakfast*, South Africa FM, aired live 24/6/2018.
- The Story of Oh! *Fry's English Delight*, BBC Radio 4, first broadcast 12/2/2017.
- Interview on *Top of the Mind with Julie Rose*, BYUradio, first broadcast 24/1/2017.
- Interview on *The Matt Townsend Show*, BYUradio, aired live 16/12/2016.

## **OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

- Current supervision** Co-supervisor (2 PhDs), Panel member (2 PhDs), Second supervisor (1 PhD), Supervisor (UG and MA dissertations)
- Reviewer**            Bilingualism: Language and Cognition; Cognition; Child Development; Language, Cognition and Neuroscience; *Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica*; RCUK; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; York Papers in Linguistics.

## ADMINISTRATION, ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

- Academic roles** Year 1 tutor (August 2019 – present).
- Coordinator** Cardiff BookTalk, September 2017 – June 2019.
- Committee member** Extenuating circumstances committee, Marketing and recruitment committee, Internationalization committee, Equality and diversity committee (Cardiff University, September 2017 – present).
- Outreach Officer.** Language and Linguistic Science, University of York. March-June 2016.
- Project coordinator.** *PENCIL Project*, WRDTC. September 2013 – October 2014
- Co-Chair.** Inaugural *Postgraduate Academic Researchers in Linguistics at York (PARLAY) Conference*, University of York, UK. January-September 2013.

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- March 2011 – April 2012.** Assistant Publisher. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Bingley, UK.
- September 2010 – March 2011.** Research Assistant. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Bingley, UK.

## MEMBERSHIPS AND SOCIETIES

BAAL, DARCLE, DARCLE New Investigators, International Association for the Study of Child Language, NorPhLex

## SKILLS

**Languages:** native fluency in English, strong proficiency in French and German, basic knowledge of Japanese, Russian and Swedish.

**Computer programmes:** EyeLink and Tobii eye-trackers, R including R Markdown and Papaja, Praat, SPSS, ELAN, CLAN, DataVyu, PsychoPy, Audacity, GitHub.