

Joseph R. Coffey

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Stanford University , Palo Alto, CA Postdoctoral Fellow PI: Michael C. Frank, Ph.D Language and Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology, Stanford University Ecole Normale Supérieure , Paris, France Postdoctoral Fellow PI: Alejandrina Cristia, Ph.D Laboratory of Cognitive Sciences and Psycholinguistics, Department of Cognitive Studies, ENS, EHESS, CNRS, PSL University	2026- 2024-2026
EDUCATION	Harvard University , Cambridge, MA Ph.D. in Psychology Advisor: Jesse Snedeker, Ph.D Dissertation: <i>Examining the robustness of input-outcome associations in children's language development and evaluating the effectiveness of a novel assessment in rural Ghana</i> University of Pennsylvania , Philadelphia, PA B.A. <i>summa cum laude</i> , Honors in Linguistics, Cognitive Science Advisor: Jeffrey Berman, Ph.D Thesis: <i>Effects of atypical white matter development and lateralization on language in children with autism-spectrum disorder</i>	2023 2017
RESEARCH	Interests: What is necessary for children to learn language within a healthy time-frame? What are the mechanisms that link language input to later outcomes? How can we more effectively measure linguistic and cognitive development across cultures? Methods: spoken word corpora, daylong recordings, meta-analysis, cognitive assessment, computational modeling, psychometrics, gene-environment interaction	
GRANTS	The earlier the better! Shifting parental belief on the importance of early verbal engagement* J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (\$75000) with A. Cristia, M. Rava, & V. Baranov (Co-PIs) * declined "Am I my brothers keeper?" The role of sibling caregivers in language acquisition Fyssen Foundation Postdoctoral Study Grant (€90000) with A. Cristia (Mentor) Language seeding: Older siblings as sources of language Restricted Funds Large Grant (\$3500), Harvard University with J. Snedeker (Mentor)	2024 2023 2020

AWARDS & HONORS	Certificate for Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University	2021
	Mind Brain Behavior Award (\$500), Harvard University	2019
	Diversity and Innovation Fund (\$1000), Harvard GSE	2019
	Elsie Hopestill Stimson Fund (\$1000), Harvard University	2018
	Henry Hoenigswald Prize, University of Pennsylvania	2017
PUBLICATIONS	In Progress	
	Coffey, J. , Spelke, E., & Snedeker, J. (in prep). Does caregiver speech predict children’s vocabulary growth? Findings from a large-scale longitudinal study in Ghana.	
	Walker, S., Delavande, A., Grosjean, P., & Coffey, J. (under review). Siblings: new evidence on the language environment of young children.	
	Submitted	
	Man, H., Snedeker, J., & Coffey, J. (in prep). Frequent, imageable, or both? Early lexical development of Chinese-speaking children.	
	Coffey, J. , Koziol, A., Kidd, E., Scaff, C., VanDam, M., Warlaumont, A., Cristia, A., Cychosz, M., & Havron, N. (in prep). Mapping the global geography of childhood conversation.	
	Scaff, C., Tey, K.J., Abdou, M., Borst, L., Coffey, J. , & Gautheron, L. (under review) Diurnal Patterns in Early Language Environments Across Cultures: Validating Automated Approaches to Naturalistic Data. Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=6459360 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6459360	
	Coffey, J. & Spelke, E. (under review). Direct cognitive testing in the field at scale: leveraging core knowledge to assess the development of young children in Ghana.	
	Published	
	Coffey, J. & Scaff, C. (accepted). "Making peer culture audible: Long-form recordings and the case for early child-to-child input." In S. Lew-Levy & D. Amir (2024). Children as agents of cultural change. <i>Behavioral and Brain Sciences</i> .	
	Coffey, J. , Baranov, V., Hu, X., Contreras Suarez, D., Cameron, L., & Cristia, A. (2026). Talking in Timor-Leste: siblings, urbanization, and other influences on children’s verbal environments. <i>Developmental Science</i> .	
	Coffey, J. & Snedeker, J. (2026). How strong is the relationship between caregiver speech and language development? A meta-analysis. <i>Journal of Child Language</i> .	
	Coffey, J. , Snedeker, J., & Spelke, E. (2025). Examining the lexical development of multilingual children in Ghana using a caregiver reported checklist. <i>First Language</i> .	
	Scaff, C., Coffey, J. , & Cristia, A. (2025). A meta-analysis of the correlation between socioeconomic status and direct measures of young children’s word comprehension. <i>Infancy</i>	
	Coffey, J. & Snedeker, J. (2024). Disentangling the roles of age and knowledge in early language acquisition: A fine-grained analysis of the vocabularies of infant and child language learners. <i>Cognitive Psychology</i> , 153, 101681.	
	Coffey, J. , Zeitlin, M., Crawford, J., & Snedeker, J. (2024) It’s all in the interaction:	

early acquired words are both frequent and highly imageable. *Open Mind*, 8, 309-332.

Coffey, J., Shafto, C. L., Geren, J. C., & Snedeker, J. (2022). The effects of maternal input on language in the absence of genetic confounds: Vocabulary development in internationally adopted children. *Child Development*, 93(1), 237-253.

Papers

Kunze, T., Mtais, M., Titeux, H., Elbert, H., Gautherson, L., **Coffey, J.**, Dupoux, E., Cristina, A., & Lavechin, M. (under review). Challenges in automated processing of speech from child wearables: the case of Voice Type Classifier. *Interspeech 2025*, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Coffey, J., Rasanen, O., Scaff, C., & Cristia, A. (2024). The difficulty and importance of estimating the lower and upper bounds of infant speech exposure. *Interspeech 2024*, Kos Island, Greece.

Coffey, J. & Cristia, A. (2024). Long-form recordings to study children's language input and output in under-resourced contexts. In Mabuya, R., Matfunjwa, M., Setaka, M., & van Zaanen, M. (eds.) *Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop on Resources for African Indigenous Languages @ LREC-COLING 2024*, Torino, Italy.

Buerkin-Pontrelli, A., **Coffey, J.**, & Swingley, D. (2018). Outputs as inputs: Sequential models of the products of infant statistical learning of language. In *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Presentations

Coffey, J., Rava, M., Cristia, A. (2025). Addressing the challenges of large-scale language acquisition studies with long-form audio recordings: examples from three societies. *Long-Form Recording Interdisciplinary Summit (LFRIZ) 2025*, Paris, France.

Coffey, J., Delavande, A., Grosjean, P., Walker, S., & Cristia, A. (2025). How verbal experience relates to children's vocal output: Evidence from long-form recordings in 40 Solomon Island villages. *Workshop in Infant Language Development (WILD) 2025*, San Sebastian, Spain.

Coffey, J., Baranov, V., Hu, X., Contreras Suarez, D., Cameron, L., & Cristia, A. (2025). Talking in Timor-Leste: leveraging speaker diarization to study children's verbal environments *Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Cristia, A., Baranov, V., Barone, C., **Coffey, J.**, Grosjean, P., & Walker, S. (2024). Using long-form child-centered recordings to measure intervention effects. *Learning Together for Children's Learning 2024*, Paris, France.

Coffey, J., Snedeker, J., & Spelke, E. (2024). How WEIRD is that? A comparative study of language input and outcomes in Ghana. *Workshop in Infant Language Development (WILD) 2024*, Lisbon, Portugal.

Coffey, J., Snedeker, J., & Spelke, E. (2023). Vocabulary and the early linguistic environment in rural Ghana. *Many Paths to Language 2023*, Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

Buerkin-Pontrelli, A., **Coffey, J.**, & Swingley, D. (2018). Individual-outcome corpus modeling to constrain parameters of statistical learning models. In *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Boston University Conference for Language Development*.

Posters

Coffey, J. & Spelke, E. (2024). Caregiving quality and childrens cognitive development: A new look at an old question [Poster presentation]. *International Congress for Infant Studies 2024*, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Coffey, J., Snedeker, J., & Spelke, E. (2024). Examining lexical development of multilingual children in rural Ghana using an adapted vocabulary checklist [Poster presentation]. *International Congress for Infant Studies 2024*, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Coffey, J., Zhang, S., & Spelke, E. (2023). Validation of LENA measures of parent speech in Ghana [Poster presentation]. *Society for Research in Child Development 2023 Biennial Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.

Coffey, J., Buerkin-Pontrelli, A., & Swingley, D. (2020). Conditional probability and token frequency as predictors of individual infants word knowledge [Poster presentation]. *International Congress for Infant Studies 2020* (Remote).

POPULAR
PRESS

Coffey, J. & Tsuji, S. (2024). How well do you understand your child's development? for BOLD. <https://bold.expert/how-well-do-you-understand-your-childs-development/>

ACADEMIC
SERVICE

Conference Organization

Symposium Chair, "A Global Perspective on SES and Language Development", *International Congress for Infant Studies 2026*, Panama City, Panama

July 2026

Symposium Chair, "Social and structural contributors to individual differences in language development", *LFR Interdisciplinary Summit 2025*, Paris, France

June 2025

Instructor, *Long-Form Recordings A-Z (LFRAZ) Summer School 2025*, Paris, France

June 2025

Symposium Chair, "Using long-form recordings to study individual differences in childrens exposure to speech", *Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN

May 2025

Peer Review

Developmental Science

2025

First Language

2025

Journal of Child Language

2024

Open Mind

2024-2025

Developmental Psychology

2024

CogSci

2025

Workshop on Infant Language Development (WILD)

2024-2025

Special Interest Group on Under-resourced Languages (SIGUL)

2024

Seminar Organization

Language++ Seminar 2024-2025

Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

Biweekly talk series: Department of Cognitive Sciences (LSCP)

2021-2022

Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Weekly talk series: Department of Psychology (Developmental)

2019-2020

PsychED Seminar, Harvard GSE

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Weekly talk series: Collaboration with Harvard FAS, GSE, and Boston U. students and faculty on interdisciplinary research

Volunteering

Prospective Ph.D. & RA Event in Psychology (PPREP) Mentor 2021-2022

Boston U. Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 2017-2019

INVITED TALKS

Daylong Audio Recordings of Children's Language Environments (DARCLE) November 2025

Center on Early Childhood (Stanford) November 2025

Rural Action Education Program (Stanford) November 2025

Language and Cognition Seminar (Harvard) November 2025

Laboratory for Developmental Studies (Harvard) October 2025

Learning Together for Children's Learning (JPAL - Europe) June 2024

Culture, Cognition, and Coevolution Lab (Harvard) April 2022

Integrated Language Sciences and Technology (UPenn) December 2021

Language and Cognitive Development Lab (UC Berkeley) October 2021

Foundations of Learning (JPAL - Europe) June 2021

ADVISING

Thesis Advisor

Dafna Yosef (Masters), University of Haifa '24, *Relationship between family interactions and age gap, gender and culture*

Hillarie Man (Undergraduate), University of Bath '21, *Imageability and frequency of words in Chinese-Speaking children's early vocabulary* - University College London

Research Assistants

Dani Chahhal (Spring 2025)

Olivia Vera (Fall 2024 - Spring 2025) - Paris School of Economics

Grace Shan (Summer 2022) - University of Cambridge

Erica Qin (Summer 2021)

Shan Zhang (Spring 2021 - Spring 2023) - University of Florida

Sophie Kim (Spring 2021) - Teach for America

Alexandra Brind (Summer 2021 - Spring 2022)

Sophie De Angelis (Fall 2020) - The University of Notre Dame Australia Medical School

Chung Yi See (Fall 2020) - Ministry of Finance (Singapore)

Konstantina Katsimeni (Summer 2020) - Columbia Law School

Claire Lin (Spring 2020 - Fall 2020) - Harvard Medical School

Stephanie Farah (Spring 2020 - Fall 2020) - University of Konstanz

London Dixon (Summer 2019) - University of Maryland, College Park

Kailee Zhu (Fall 2018 - Spring 2019) - UC Merced

Heyang Yin (Spring 2019)

Wangjing Yu (Summer 2018) - Columbia University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Guest Lecturer <i>Transcription in CHAT Practical</i> L+ Summer/Winter School in Language Acquisition, University of Padova (Webinar)	August 2021, August 2023
	Teaching Assistant <i>Developmental Psychology</i> Harvard University (Jesse Snedeker) <i>Introduction to Psychology</i> Harvard University (Dan Gilbert, Steven Pinker) <i>Rationality</i> Harvard University (Steven Pinker) <i>Abnormal Psychology</i> Harvard University (Josh Buckholz)	Spring 2022 Fall 2020 to Fall 2021 Spring 2019 Fall 2019
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Linguistic Data Consortium University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA <i>Web Text Programmer</i> , Supervisor: Jonathan Wright	2017
	The Language Conservancy Bloomington, IN <i>Fieldwork Intern</i> , Supervisor: Wilhelm Meya	2017
FIELDWORK	Antipolo, Rizal, Philippines Save the Children Conducted training seminars and piloting testing of surveys and long-form audio recordings for a parent-targeted child development intervention	January 2025
	Accra, Ghana Innovations for Poverty Action Conducted training seminar for surveyors; collected pilot data for assessment battery and LENA	August 2019
	MHA Nation, New Town, ND, USA Language Conservancy Elicited spoken Hidatsa from local informants for the creation of educational materials; assistant for the MHA Summer Institute	July 2017