

Emma James

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Research and Academic Appointments

- 2022 – Present **Lecturer**, Department of Psychology, University of York
- 2021 – 2022 **Stipendiary Lecturer**, St Catherine's College, University of Oxford
- 2020 – 2022 **Research Associate (Co-I)**, Dept. of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford
PI: Prof. Kate Nation
- 2019 – 2020 **ESRC Independent Research Fellow**, Department of Psychology, University of York
- 2019 **Research Associate**, Department of Psychology, University of York
PI: Dr Aidan Horner
- 2017 Oct-Dec **Visiting Scholar**, Haskins Laboratories, USA
Host: Prof. Kenneth Pugh
- 2013 – 2014 **Research Associate**, Department of Psychology, Lancaster University
PI: Prof. Kate Cain, Prof. Xiuli Tong

Qualifications

- 2015 – 2019 **PhD Psychology**, University of York
Understanding individual differences in learning and consolidating new vocabulary. Supervisors: Dr Lisa Henderson, Prof. Gareth Gaskell
- 2014 – 2015 **MSc Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience**, University of York
- 2010 – 2013 **BA Experimental Psychology**, University of Oxford

Awards and Prizes

- 2023 **York Open Research Award: Research Group Prize**, University of York (£1000)
Enhancing transparency when working with existing data: A case study examining reading comprehension difficulties in a large-scale birth cohort
- 2021 **York Open Research Award**, University of York (£200)
Awarded to ReproducibiliTea Team for contributions to the open research community.
- 2020 **9th Frith Prize Lecturer**, Experimental Psychology Society (£500)
Sole recipient of early career award recognising exceptional PhD work.
- 2018 **Pre-Registration Challenge Prize**, Center for Open Science (\$1000)
Awarded for successful pre-registration of methods in published research.
- 2017 **Poster Prize**, British Psychological Society Developmental Section
- 2015 **MSc Project Prize**, University of York

Grants and Fellowships

- 2020 – 2022 **ESRC Secondary Data Analysis Initiative** (£293,401; Nation, K., James, E., Thompson, P., & Bowes, L.) *Taking the long view: understanding the precursors and consequences of poor reading comprehension identified in mid-childhood.*
- 2019 – 2020 **ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship** (£123,568) *Studies great and small: convergent approaches to understanding language learning.*
- 2014 – 2018 **ESRC 1+3 Research Studentship** (£78,190) *Understanding individual differences in learning and consolidating new vocabulary.*

Small Grants

- **Experimental Psychology Society Small Grant** (2023 – 2024; £5545; PI with Co-I Unger). *Online and offline mechanisms of memory integration over development*.
- **Experimental Psychology Society Workshop Grant** (2018; Co-Applicant with Ricketts, Colenbrander, Henderson, & Joseph). *Mapping the future for poor comprehender research: taking stock and moving forward*.
- **ESRC Researcher Training Support Grant Top-Ups** (2016, 2018) to support summer school attendance.
- **Experimental Psychology Society Grindley Grants** (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020) for conference attendance.
- **ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Grant** (2017) to visit Haskins Laboratories.
- **Guarantors of Brain Travel Award** (2017) to support conference attendance.

Teaching

Appointments

2022 +	Lecturer , Department of Psychology, University of York Current responsibilities include supervision of undergraduate research projects and literature surveys; pastoral supervision;
2021 – 2022	Stipendiary Lecturer , St Catherine’s College, University of Oxford Acting Director of Studies and Subject Tutor for Psychology, responsible for organising and delivering undergraduate tuition, pastoral supervision
2018 – 2019	Statistics Workshop Presenter , Maths Skills Centre, University of York Lead introductory statistics workshops for postgraduate students across disciplines
2017 – 2018	Statistics Tutor , Maths Skills Centre, University of York Held drop-in advice sessions for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students
2016 – 2018	Academic Skills Workshop Presenter , Learning Enhancement, University of York Delivered academic skills workshops to pre-university students
2015 – 2018	Graduate Teaching Assistant , Department of Psychology, University of York Including Advanced Research Methods support; Development & Language tutorials; supervision of first-year research projects; marking

Project supervision

- Currently supervising research projects for BSc and MSci students in Psychology
- Co-supervised MSc students from *Development, Disorders & Clinical Practice* and *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience* courses, University of York (2-3 students/year; 2016-2018, 2020)

Coding support

- **Certified Instructor, The Carpentries**. Trained to teach programming workshops via live coding, with expertise in R.
- **Online resource: From Gorilla to Tidy Data**. Online tutorial for extracting and cleaning data files in R. <https://emljames.github.io/GorillaR/>
- **Lead Instructor, Introduction to R and Mixed Effects Models**. Two-day workshop organised for York St. John University Psychology Department (July 2020), including development of original materials. [\[link\]](#)

Service

2023 – Present	Lead for School Partnerships & Engagement , Department of Psychology, University of York
2022 – Present	Committee Member (ECR Representative) , Experimental Psychology Society
2021 – Present	Editorial Board Member , Cogent Psychology
2021 – 2022	Language & Development Seminar Organiser , Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford
2019 – 2020	ReproducibiliTea Organiser , Department of Psychology, University of York Established and co-organised a fortnightly journal club to discuss open research
2015 – 2020	ECR Forum Committee Member , Department of Psychology, University of York Organised academic training and social events for early career researchers.
2018	Workshop Organiser , Experimental Psychology Society sponsored workshop Co-organised and hosted workshop on poor comprehender research.
2015 – 2018	Sixth Form Conference Organiser , Department of Psychology, University of York Established an annual conference day for pre-university students to experience psychology research; organised for four years before securing its continuation.
2015 – 2018	Developmental Group Organiser , Department of Psychology, University of York Co-organised monthly seminars for researchers in developmental psychology.
<i>Ad hoc</i>	Reviewed for: Psychological Bulletin; Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Journal of Memory and Language; Psychonomic Bulletin & Review; PeerJ; Scientific Studies of Reading; Journal of Research in Reading; Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research

Outreach and Engagement

2023	Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) Podcast Papers Podcast: <i>Heterogeneity in children's reading comprehension difficulties</i> [link]
2022	Oxford Sparks Online video: <i>A book at bedtime</i> [link]
2020	I'm a Scientist – Stay at Home edition Engaged in live web chats with school students; won <i>Scientist of the Week</i> award.
2019	Scientific expert for popular science documentary , Boundless Productions <i>The Chasers Road Trip: Trains, Brains & Automobiles</i> ; broadcast ITV Jan 2021.
2019, 2018	Sleep Workshop , York International-State School Partnership Summer School Organised half-day workshop on sleep and memory for 11- to 13-year-olds.
2018	Pint of Science Speaker Public talk: <i>From zzzs to AAAs: the importance of sleep in childhood learning</i>
2016	Pint of Science Organiser Co-organised three nights of public science talks.
2012	British Science Festival Volunteer , British Science Association Co-organised a daily highlights show during the festival.
2011	Publishing Intern , Wellcome Trust Wrote blog posts and featured articles for Wellcome Trust publications.
<i>Ad hoc</i>	STEM Ambassador , STEMnet Science outreach ambassador for schools.

Invited Talks

- James, E.** (2023, June). *Who are the children with reading comprehension difficulties, and why does it matter?* Departmental Research Seminar, York, UK
- James, E.** (2023, March). *Specific comprehension difficulties are very rarely specific: tales from experimental and data-driven approaches.* Birkbeck Psychology Seminar, London, UK.
- James, E.** (2022, November). *The reading difficulties of children with (even mild) language impairments.* Invited speaker for Judy Dunn Conference on Speech and Language Disorders, Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH), online.
- James, E.** (2021, April). Invited panellist for *Gorilla Presents... Speech Production Research Online.* Hosted by Gorilla, online. [[link](#)]
- James E.** (2021, January). *Word learning through the lens of prior knowledge.* Ninth Frith Prize Lecture at the Experimental Psychology Society meeting, online. [[link](#)]
- James, E.** (2020, November). *It'll be alright on the night? Exploring bedtime benefits for learning new vocabulary.* Talk for the Language & Cognition Seminar series, University College London, online.
- James, E.** (2020, September). *Accessing prior lexical knowledge in explicit and incidental word learning.* Guest speaker at the Language, Learning, & Cognition Lab meeting, Royal Holloway, online.
- James, E.** (2020, August). *Learn, Sleep, Recall, Repeat: the importance of sleep for language learning.* Talk for the MemTalks series at Memrise, online.
- James, E.** (2020, July). *A (half) marathon, not a sprint: Preparing to conduct multi-session memory studies online.* Talk at the 2020 BeOnline meeting, online. [[link](#)]
- James, E.** (2020, June). *Open research means open conversation.* Talk at the University of York Open Research Launch Event, online. [[link](#)]
- James, E.** (2018, February). *The rich get richer? Examining influences of existing knowledge on learning new words.* Guest speaker at the Language and Reading Acquisition Lab meeting, Royal Holloway, London, UK.

Publications

- James, E.,** Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (under Stage 1 review). Language and beyond: a registered report examining single and multiple risk models of later reading comprehension weaknesses.
- James, E.,** Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (under Stage 2 Review). What are the long-term prospects for poor comprehenders? A registered report investigating education and employment outcomes. *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
- James, E.,** Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (2023). Heterogeneity in children's reading comprehension difficulties: a latent class approach. *JCPP Advances*, e12177. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcv2.12177>
- Sullivan, E.C., **James, E.,** Henderson, L.M., McCall, C., & Cairney, S.A. (2023). The Influence of Emotion Regulation Strategies and Sleep Quality on Mental Health. *Cortex*, 166, 286-305. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2023.06.001>
- James, E.,** Gaskell, M.G., Murphy, G., Tulip, J., & Henderson, L.M. (2022). Word learning in the context of semantic prior knowledge: Evidence of interference from feature-based neighbours in children and adults. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2022.2102198>
- James E.,** Gaskell, M.G., Pearce, R., Korell, C., Dean, C., & Henderson, L.M. (2021). The role of prior lexical knowledge in children's and adults' word learning from stories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0001080>
- Henderson, L.M., van Rijn, E., **James, E.,** Walker, S.A., Knowland, V., & Gaskell, M.G. (2021). Timing

- storytime to maximise children's ability to consolidate new vocabulary. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 210, 105207. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2021.105207>
- James, E., Ong, G., Henderson, L.M., & Horner, A.J.** (2021). The formation and retrieval of holistic event memories across development. *Journal of Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.5334/joc.149>
- James, E., Ong, G., Henderson, L.M., & Horner, A.J.** (2020). Make or break it: Boundary conditions for integrating multiple elements in episodic memory. *Royal Society Open Science*, 7, 200431 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.200431>
- James, E., Koutraki, Y.G., & Tickle, H.** (2020). Sleep-associated consolidation in app-based language learning. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 1178-1184.
- James, E., Currie, N., Tong, X., & Cain, K.** (2020). The relations between morphological awareness and reading comprehension in beginner readers through to young adolescents. *Journal of Research in Reading*, 44, 110-130. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9817.12316>
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2020). Sleep-dependent consolidation in children with comprehension and vocabulary weaknesses: It'll be alright on the night? *Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry*, 61, 1104-1115. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13253>
- James, E., Joechner, A-K., & Muehlroth, B.E.** (2020). From ZZZs to AAAs: Why sleep is an important part of your study schedule. *Frontiers Young Minds*, 8, 51. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frym.2020.00051>
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2019). Offline consolidation supersedes prior knowledge benefits in children's (but not adults') word learning. *Developmental Science*, e12776. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12776>
- Henderson, L.M., & **James, E.** (2018). Consolidating new words from repetitive versus multiple stories: Prior knowledge matters. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 166, 465-484. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2017.09.017>
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., Weighall, A., & Henderson, L.M.** (2017). Consolidation of vocabulary during sleep: the rich get richer? *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 77, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2017.01.054>
- James, E., & Cairney, S.A.** (2017). Commentary: Knowledge Acquisition during Exam Preparation Improves Memory and Modulates Memory Formation. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 10, 245. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2016.00245>

Selected Conference Presentations (peer-reviewed, presenting author only)

- James, E., Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K.** (2023, July). *The characterisation and consequences of reading comprehension difficulties: a data-driven approach*. Paper presented at the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Swansea, UK.
- James, E., Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K.** (2022, September). *A data-driven approach to understanding reading comprehension difficulties*. Paper presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Sheffield, UK.
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2021, July). *The role of prior knowledge in sleep-associated consolidation of new vocabulary: insights from good and poor comprehenders*. Poster presented at the 15th International Congress of the Association for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, USA (online).
- James, E., Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M.** (2020, October). *The changing contributions of prior knowledge and offline processes to vocabulary learning across development*. Poster presented at the Many Paths to Language workshop, hosted by the Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen, The Netherlands (online).
- James, E., Koutraki, Y.G., & Tickle, H.** (2020, July). *Sleep-associated consolidation in app-based language learning*. Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada (online).

- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2020, April). *Accessing prior linguistic knowledge when learning new words from spoken stories*. Poster accepted for the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Beijing, China (meeting cancelled due to COVID-19).
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2019, July). *Consolidation of new vocabulary in good and poor comprehenders*. Poster presented at the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Bournemouth, UK.
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2018, August). *Word learning and consolidation in poor comprehenders*. Paper presented at the 8th International Summer School on Literacy Research, Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands.
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2018, June). *The role of prior knowledge in vocabulary consolidation*. Paper presented at Child Language Symposium, Reading, UK.
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, November). *Prior knowledge influences in learning and consolidating new words*. Poster presented at the Society for Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, USA.
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, September). *The rich get richer? The role of existing knowledge in learning new words*. Paper presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK.
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, September). *How can a chicken sleep upside down? The influence of prior knowledge in learning novel concepts*. Poster presented at the BPS Developmental Section Annual Conference, Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK.
- James, E.**, Gaskell, M.G., & Henderson, L.M. (2017, July). *Matthew effects in word learning: does prior knowledge aid consolidation?* Paper presented at the Experimental Psychology Society Meeting, Reading, UK.
- James, E.**, Henderson, L.M., Gaskell, M.G. (2016, July). *Consolidating new semantic information during word learning: does prior knowledge help?* Poster presented at the 6th International Conference on Memory, Budapest, Hungary.
- James, E.**, & Cain, K. (2014, September). *Morphological awareness in poor comprehenders: clues to the source of the difficulties*. Paper presented at the 31st BPS Cognitive Psychology Section Conference, Nottingham, UK.
- James, E.**, & Cain, K. (2014, July). *Morphological awareness in poor comprehenders: clues to the source of their difficulties*. Paper presented at the 5th UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Lancaster, UK.
- Katuszka, V., & **James, E.** (2012, November). *Is there another 'P' to consider in relation to longitudinal birth cohort studies? Reflections on participant involvement in Children of the 90s*. Paper presented at the National Institute for Health Research INVOLVE Conference, Nottingham, UK.