

# Emma James

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## Research and Academic Appointments

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

## Qualifications

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

## Awards and Prizes

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

## Grants and Fellowships

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

## 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

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### Appointments

2022 +	<b>Lecturer</b> , Department of Psychology, University of York Programme lead for MSc in Data Science (Human Behaviour); Module coordinator for Advanced Research Methods (Y3) and Developmental and Educational Neuroscience (MSc); Supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate taught research projects; Pastoral supervision
2021 – 2022	<b>Stipendiary Lecturer</b> , 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	<b>Statistics Workshop Presenter</b> , Maths Skills Centre, University of York Lead introductory statistics workshops for postgraduate students across disciplines
2017 – 2018	<b>Statistics Tutor</b> , Maths Skills Centre, University of York Held drop-in advice sessions for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students
2016 – 2018	<b>Academic Skills Workshop Presenter</b> , Learning Enhancement, University of York Delivered academic skills workshops to pre-university students
2015 – 2018	<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b> , Department of Psychology, University of York Including Advanced Research Methods support; Development & Language tutorials; supervision of first-year research projects; marking

### Coding support

- **Certified Instructor, The Carpentries**. Trained to teach programming workshops via live coding
- **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

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### External

2022 – Present	<b>Committee Member (ECR Representative)</b> , Experimental Psychology Society Review grants and award nominations; chair conference sessions; organise social and networking events for ECRs, coordinate national mentorship scheme.
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- 2021 – Present **Editorial Board Member**, Cogent Psychology
- 2018 **Workshop Organiser**, Experimental Psychology Society sponsored workshop  
Co-organised and hosted workshop on poor comprehender research.
- Ad hoc* **Reviewed for:** Psychological Bulletin; Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience; Developmental Science; Developmental Psychology; JCPP Advances; 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; International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research

### Internal

- 2024 – Present **Ethics Committee Member**, Department of Psychology, University of York
- 2023 – Present **Lead for School Partnerships & Engagement (SUNRAY)**, Department of Psychology, University of York
- 2023 - Present **Open Research Advocate**, University of York
- 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.
- 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.

### Outreach and Engagement

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- 2024 **Sleep Workshop**, York International-State School Partnership Summer School  
(+ 2019, 2018) Organised half-day workshop on sleep and memory for 11- to 13-year-olds.
- 2023 **Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) Podcast**  
Papers Podcast: *Heterogeneity in children's reading comprehension difficulties* [[link](#)]
- 2022 **Oxford Sparks**  
Online video: *A book at bedtime* [[link](#)]
- 2020 **I'm a Scientist – Stay at Home edition**  
Engaged in live web chats with school students; won *Scientist of the Week* award.
- 2019 **Scientific expert for popular science documentary**, Boundless Productions  
*The Chasers Road Trip: Trains, Brains & Automobiles*; broadcast ITV Jan 2021.
- 2018 **Pint of Science Speaker**  
Public talk: *From zzzs to AAAs: the importance of sleep in childhood learning*
- 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.

*Ad hoc*      **STEM Ambassador**, STEMnet  
Science outreach ambassador for schools.

## Invited Talks

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- James, E.** (2024, January). *Heterogeneity in children's reading comprehension difficulties: a latent class approach*. University College Dublin Academic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry webinar series, online.
- 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

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- James, E.**, Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (Stage 1 in principle acceptance). Language and beyond: a registered report examining single and multiple risk models of later reading comprehension weaknesses. *Developmental Science*.
- James, E.**, Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (2024). What are the long-term prospects for poor comprehenders? A registered report investigating education and employment outcomes. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 116(6), 1019-1033. <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000898>
- 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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)

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- James, E.**, Thompson, P.A., Bowes, L., & Nation, K. (2024, July). *The educational attainment and wellbeing of children with comprehension weaknesses*. Paper presented at the Child Language Symposium, Newcastle, UK.
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.