

**EILING YEE, PH.D.**

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Semantic memory, neural representation of concepts, word recognition, language processing, neural basis of language

**EMPLOYMENT**

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- 2014-Present      University of Connecticut, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Cognitive Science Program, CT Institute for Brain and Cognitive Sciences
- 2011-2014        Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language  
Staff Scientist (= *tenure-track research professor*)
- 2005-2010        University of Pennsylvania, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Center for Cognitive Neuroscience & Department of Psychology  
Mentor: Sharon Thompson-Schill

**EDUCATION**

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- 2005              Brown University, Ph.D., Department of Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences  
Advisors: Julie Sedivy & Sheila Blumstein
- 1996              University of Rochester, B.A., *magna cum laude* with Honors in Cognitive Science;  
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Michael Tanenhaus

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

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- 2019              “Composing concepts: A high density EEG study with high density MRI for source localization”;  
*UConn Brain Imaging Resource Center (PI)*
- 2018              “Using tDCS to explore dynamic conceptual activation”; *Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences (PI)*
- 2016-2017        “The Role of the Hippocampus in Understanding Abstract Concepts; *Research Excellence Program, UConn (PI)*
- 2016-2017        “Inhibition in Biologically-Plausible Models of Semantic Processing: Causal Studies using tDCS”; *Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences (PI)*
- 2014-2015        “Pathophysiology and linguistic impact of impact of impulse control disorder in Parkinson’s Disease”; *Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa. (PI, Maria Cruz Rodriguez-Orzo)*
- 2013-2015        “Concepts in contexts”; *Plan Nacional, Spanish Ministry of Economy & Competitiveness (PI)*
- 2011-2016        “How are concepts represented? Cognitive and neural investigations of typical and atypical populations”; *Ramon y Cajal Award, Spanish Ministry of Science & Innovation (PI)*
- 2011-2013        “Words and the infant brain”; *Modalidad Proyectos de Movilidad; (Co-PI with Nivedita Mani)*
- 2006-2009        “The organization of semantic memory”; *Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA*

**PUBLICATIONS** (*STUDENT CO-AUTHORS IN ITALICS*)

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- Davis, C. P., Joergensen, G. H., Boddy, P., Dowling, C., & Yee, E. (to appear in *Psychological Science*). Making it harder to 'see' meaning: The more you see something, the more its conceptual representation is shaped by visual experience. doi:[10.31234/osf.io/gpfn2](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/gpfn2)
- Davis, C. P., Altmann, G. T. M., & Yee, E. (to appear in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*). Language as a mental travel guide. [Peer commentary on "Above and beyond the concrete: The diverse representational substrates of the predictive brain," by M. Gilead, Y. Trope & N. Liberman].
- Davis, C. P., Altmann, G. T. M., & Yee, E. (2020, online access). Situational systematicity: A role for schema in understanding the differences between abstract and concrete concepts. *Cognitive Neuropsychology*. doi:[10.31234/osf.io/5qud8](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/5qud8)
- Yee, E. (2019). Abstraction and Concepts: when, how, where, what and why? *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, *34*(10), 1257-1265.
- Pejovic, J., Yee, E., Molnar, M. (2019, online access). Speaker Matters: Natural inter-speaker variation affects 4-month-olds' perception of audio-visual speech, *First Language*.
- Davis, C. P., Paz-Alonso, P., Altmann, G.T.M. & Yee, E. (2019). Abstract concepts and the suppression of arbitrary episodic context. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 1592-1598.
- Davis, C. P. & Yee, E. (2019). Features, labels, space, and time: Factors supporting taxonomic relationships in the anterior temporal lobe and thematic relationships in the angular gyrus. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, *34*(10), 1347-1357.
- Yee, E., Jones, M. N., & McRae, K. (2018). Semantic Memory. In J. T. Wixted & S. Thompson-Schill (Eds), *Stevens' Handbook of Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience* (4th Edition, Volume 3: Language and Thought, pp. 319-356). New York: Wiley.
- Yee, E., & Altmann, G. T. M. (2017). Memoria asociativa, arte figurativo y conceptos abstractos (Associative memory, figurative art, and abstract concepts). In G. Schwartz & V. Bermudez (Eds.), *#Nodos*, (pp. 334-339). Pamplona, Next Door Publishers.
- Yee, E. (2017). Fluid semantics: Semantic knowledge is experience-based and dynamic. In A. Lahiri & S. Kotzor (Eds), *The Speech Processing Lexicon: Neurocognitive and behavioural approaches* (pp. 235-262). Berlin/Boston: Mouton.
- Yee, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2016). Putting Concepts into Context. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, *23*(4), 1015-1027.
- Yee, E., Chrysikou, E.G., Hoffman, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2013). Manual experience shapes object representation. *Psychological Science*, *24*(6), 909-919.
- Yee, E., Chrysikou, E.G., Thompson-Schill, S.L. Semantic Memory. (2013). Semantic Memory. In Kevin Ochsner and Stephen Kosslyn (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Neuroscience* (pp. 353-374). Oxford University Press.
- White, K.S., Yee, E., Blumstein, S.E. & Morgan, J. (2013). Adults show less sensitivity to phonetic detail in unfamiliar words, too. *Journal of Memory and Language*, *68*, 362-378.
- Yee, E., Ahmed, S., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2012). Colorless green ideas (can) prime furiously. *Psychological Science*, *23* (4), 364-369.

- Yee, E., Huffstetler, S., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. Function follows form: Activation of shape & function features during object identification. (2011). *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 140(3), 348-363. doi: 10.1037/a0022840
- Mirman\*, D., Yee\*, E., Blumstein, S.E., & Magnuson, J.S. (2011). Theories of spoken word recognition deficits in aphasia: Evidence from eye-tracking and computational modeling. *Brain and Language*, 117, 53-68.  
\*The first two authors contributed equally to this work.
- Yee, E., Drucker, D.M., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2010). fMRI-adaptation evidence of overlapping neural representations for objects related in function or manipulation. *NeuroImage*, 50, 743-763.
- Myung, J., Blumstein, S.E., Yee, E., Sedivy, J., Thompson-Schill, S.L., & Buxbaum, L. (2010). Impaired access to manipulation features in apraxia: Evidence from eyetracking and semantic judgment tasks. *Brain and Language*, 112, 101-112.
- Yee, E., Overton, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2009). Looking for meaning: Eye movements are sensitive to overlapping semantic features, not association. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 16(5), 869-874.
- Yee, E., Blumstein, S.E., & Sedivy, J.C. (2008). Lexical-semantic activation in Broca's and Wernicke's aphasia: Evidence from eye movements. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 20, 592-612.
- Yee, E., & Sedivy, J.C. (2006). Eye movements to pictures reveal transient semantic activation during spoken word recognition. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition*, 32(1), 1-14.
- Ullman, M. T., Izvorski, R., Love, T., Yee, E., Swinney, D., & Hickok, G. (2005). Neural correlates of lexicon and grammar: Evidence from the production, reading and judgment of inflection in aphasia. *Brain and Language*, 93, 185-238.
- Yee, E., Blumstein, S.E., & Sedivy, J.C. (2004). The Time course of lexical activation in Broca's and Wernicke's aphasia: Evidence from eye movements. *Brain and Language*, 91, 62-63.

## INVITED TALKS

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- Is your lemon the same as mine? Probing the cognitive and neural representations of concepts:* Austin Riggs Center, September, 2018.
- Fluid Semantics: Semantic knowledge is experience-based and dynamic:* University of Maryland, College Park, April, 2018.
- Can sound symbolism facilitate learning to read?* Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, July, 2016.
- Concepts in Contexts*, Brown University, April 2016.
- The embodiment of abstract concepts?* Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, January, 2016.
- What the eyes reveal about the cognitive and neural representations of object concepts.* Keynote at CLaS-CCD Eye-tracking Workshop at Macquarie University, June, 2015
- The cognitive and neural representations of object concepts*, Stony Brook University, February, 2015.
- Concepts in Contexts*. University of Connecticut, January, 2015.
- Concepts in Contexts*. Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, January, 2015.
- The cognitive and neural representations of object concepts*, Haskins Laboratories, December, 2014.
- The neural representation of lexical concepts*. Workshop on Lexical Processing, Oxford, UK, August, 2014
- Word meanings can be quite handy (and shapely!)*. Workshop on "Understanding the meaning of words and sentences: The role of non-linguistic processes", Tübingen, Germany, September, 2012
- Word recognition: From sound to meaning*. The University of Göttingen, Germany, June, 2012
- Experience influences object representations*. The University of Pennsylvania, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, April, 2012

*How are concepts represented? Neural and behavioral evidence for distributed representations.* University of Waterloo, Department of Psychology, April, 2012

*Roses are red. Jeans are blue. Frisbees are round, and triangles can be too.* Talk presented as part of: Interactions Between Vision and Language: The state of the art Symposium presented at the 17th Meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, San Sebastian, Spain. September 2011.

*How are concepts represented? Converging evidence for distributed representations.* University of Nevada - Reno, Department of Psychology, March, 2011

*Overlap of semantic representations: Converging evidence from eye-tracking and fMRI.* 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Computers in Psychology (Psychonomic Society Satellite Conference), November, 2009

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PARTIAL LIST; STUDENT CO-AUTHORS IN ITALICS)

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*Morrow, H. M., Barry, J. T., & Yee, E. (2019).* Composing Concepts: EEG oscillations during integration of visual, lexical, and auditory stimuli. *Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA.*

*Davis, C. P., Paz-Alonso P. M., Altmann, G. T. M., & Yee, E. (2019).* Is arbitrary episodic context suppressed in abstract concepts? *Presented at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA.*

*Boddy, P., Paz-Alonso, P.M. & Yee, E. (2019).* The representation of garlic (and other odor-associated concepts) is shaped by odor experience. Oral presentation at *International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France.*

*Davis, C. P., Paz-Alonso P. M., Altmann, G. T. M. & Yee, E. (2018).* Encoding of episodic context in abstract and concrete concepts. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA.

*Morrow, H. M., Joergensen, G. H. & Yee, E. (2018).* Open arms and open minds: The effects of posture and modality on the recall of affect-related concepts. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA.

*Davis, C. P., Joergensen, G. H. & Yee, E. (2017).* Silence! An auditory task disrupts processing of auditorily experienced concepts. Poster at the Psychonomic Society's Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC.

*Davis, C. P., Joergensen, G. H., Boddy, P., Dowling, C. & Yee, E. (2017).* Get your head out of the clouds: Performing a visual task makes it harder to think about art than music. Poster at the Annual Workshop on Object Perception, Attention, and Memory, Vancouver, BC.

*Joseph, J., Joergensen, G. H., Myers, E. & Yee, E. (2017).* Phonetic Integration: Can visual shapes influence phoneme perception? Poster at the Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Boston, MA.

*Boddy, P., Paz-Alonso, K. & Yee, E. (2016).* Does smelling pine cones make it harder to think about strawberries? Poster at the Psychonomic Society's Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

*Welles, R. & Yee, E. (2016).* Orthographical Learning: The Impact of Cross-modal Interaction. Poster at the Psychonomic Society's Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

*Joergensen, G. H., Welles, R., Seng, K., Orvis, P., Ryan, J. & Yee, E. (2016).* Body Posture and the Representation of "Abstract" Concepts. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, New York, NY.

*Yee, E., & Molnar, M. (2015)* Does sound symbolism influence speech production? Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Chicago, IL.

*Boddy, P. & Yee, E. (2015).* Visual Properties of Object Semantics are Experience Related. Poster at Embodied and Situated Language Processing (ESLP), Lyon, France.

*Pejovic, J., Molnar, M., Yee, E. & Martin, M. (2015).* Development of the sound-shape correspondence effect. Poster at Workshop on Infant Language Development (WILD 2015), Stockholm, Sweden.

- Boddy, P., Yee, E. (2015). Experience Related Interference to Object Semantics from Visual Task. Poster at the Workshop on Concepts, Actions and Objects, Rovereto, Italy.
- Pejovic, J., Molnar, M., Martin, C., & Yee, E. (2014). Shape-sound matching abilities are limited in young monolingual and bilingual infants. Poster at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Amsterdam.
- Molnar, M., Pejović, J., Yee, E. & Carreiras, M. (2014). Are all bilingual infants created equal? Cognitive gains in preverbal Basque-Spanish bilingual and Spanish monolingual infants. Poster presented at International Conference on Infant Studies, Berlin, Germany.
- Pejovic, J., Molnar, M., Martin, C., & Yee, E. (2014). The development of sound-shape correspondence effect in infants Poster at the Basque neuroscience meeting, Neurogune. San Sebastian, Spain.
- Antzaka, A. & Yee, E. (2014). How does recent attention to colour modify colour's salience as a semantic feature? Poster at the workshop "Color in Concepts: Color Representation and Processing in Language and Cognition", Düsseldorf, Germany.
- Boddy, P., & Yee, E. (2014). What the Ear Hears Affects What the Eyes See: Semantic Interference on Visual Task Performance. Poster at the CNS Annual meeting in Boston, MA.
- Bobb, S., Thomas, C., Yee, E. & Mani N. (2014). When “dog” activates “cat” to prime “cap”: Cascaded semantic to phonological activation in toddler word recognition. Poster at the International Conference on Infant Studies, Berlin, Germany.
- Yee, E., & Heller, D. (2012). Looking more when you know less: Goal-dependent eye movements during reference resolution. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Minneapolis, MN.
- Yee, E., & Altmann, G.T.M. (2012). Balancing long-term syntactic knowledge against short-term experience: The case of the missing adjective. Poster at the Annual conference on Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing. Rival De Garda, Italy.
- Yee, E., Musz, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2012). Mapping the similarity space of concepts in sensorimotor cortex. Talk presented at Embodied and Situated Language Processing, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.
- Musz, E., Yee, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2012). Mapping the similarity space of concepts in sensorimotor cortex. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Chicago, IL.
- Yee, E., Lupyan, G., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2011). Made you look: Linguistic information can cause (instruction-violating) eye movements to irrelevant objects. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Seattle.
- Yee, E., Ahmed, S., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2011). Priming in context: Colorless green ideas *can* prime furiously. Poster at the conference on Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing. Paris.
- Yee, E., Chrysikou, E.G., Hoffman, E., Levesque, A., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2011). Playing patty-cake while listening to words: A concurrent manual task interferes with comprehending the names of objects that are interacted with manually. Talk presented at the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Yee, E., Ahmed, S., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2010). Colorless green ideas (can) prime furiously. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Yee, E., Chrysikou, E.G., Navarro, C., Akbar, M., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2010). a concurrent manual task interferes with the naming of objects that are frequently manipulated. Poster at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Yee, E., Huffstetler, S., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2009). Function follows form: activation of shape & function features during concept retrieval. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Yee, E., & Drucker, D.M., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2009). fMRI-adaptation evidence of overlapping neural representations for objects related in function or manipulation. Poster presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Yee, E., Heller, D., & Sedivy, J.C. (2009). On the relationship between eye-movements and activation: Active vs. passive tasks during ambiguous pronoun resolution. Poster presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

- Yee, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2008). When you hear “frog”, you look at the *peas* (even when they’re in black and white). Poster presented at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Yee, E., Huffstetler, S., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2008). Looking for meaning: Using eye movements to characterize the organization of semantic memory. Poster at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Mirman, D., Yee, E., Magnuson, J.S., & Blumstein, S.E. (2008). Statistical and computational investigations of the time course of spoken word recognition in aphasia. Poster at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Yee, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2007). Does lexical activation flow from word meanings to word sounds during spoken word *recognition*? Poster presented at the 48<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Heller, D., Yee, E., & Sedivy, J.C. (2007). What do eye movements tell us about reference resolution? Using ambiguous pronouns to evaluate the linking hypotheses. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Yee, E., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2006). Semantic activation of rhyming words during spoken word recognition. Poster presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Yee, E., Huffstetler, S., Dahan, D., & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2006). Does hearing the name of an object partially activate objects that are similar in shape and size? Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Myung, J., Blumstein, S.E., Buxbaum, L.J., & Yee, E. (2006). Impaired access to manipulation features in apraxia: Evidence from eyetracking and semantic judgment tasks. Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Yee, E., Dahan D., Huffstetler, S., Taylor, J. & Thompson-Schill, S.L. (2005). Hearing the name of an object partially activates objects with similar functions. Poster presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Yee, E., Blumstein, S.E., & Sedivy, J.C. (2004). The time course of lexical activation in Broca’s and Wernicke’s aphasia: Evidence from eye movements. Paper at the annual meeting of the Academy of Aphasia.
- Yee, E., & Sedivy, J.C. (2003). Listeners activate the semantic representations of rhyming words during spoken word recognition. Poster presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Yee, E., Taylor, J., & Sedivy, J.C. (2002). When all you’ve got is *hammock* everyone looks at a *nail*. Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on the Mental Lexicon.
- Yee, E., & Sedivy J. (2001). Using eye movements to track the spread of semantic information during spoken word recognition. Paper presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Yee, E., Blumstein, S. & Sedivy J. (2000). The time course of lexical activation in Broca’s aphasia: Evidence from eye movements. Poster at the annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

## TEACHING

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### *University of Connecticut*

2015- present	<i>The Psychology of Language</i>
Fall 2016	<i>Seminar on Concepts: From Theory to Brain</i>
Fall 2015, 2018	<i>Seminar on Psycholinguistics</i>
Fall 2014	<i>Seminar on Semantic Memory</i>

### *Basque Center on Cognition, Brain & Language*

Fall 2013	<i>The Mental Lexicon</i>
Spring 2012	Guest Lecturer: <i>The Mental Lexicon</i>
Fall 2012	<i>Acquired Language Disorders</i>
Spring 2012	Guest Lecturer: <i>The Mental Lexicon</i>
Fall 2011	<i>Acquired Language Disorders</i>

## **MENTORING (PARTIAL LIST)**

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2016-present	Hannah Morrow: <i>PhD supervisor</i>
2015-present	Charles Davis: <i>PhD supervisor</i>
2015-present	<u>Numerous</u> <i>Undergraduate Psychology Researchers</i>
2013-present	Peter Boddy & Jovana Pejovic: <i>PhD supervisor</i>
2013-2014	Alex Gorbakov: <i>Masters thesis supervisor</i>
2012-2013	Peter Boddy & Alexia Antzaka: <i>Masters thesis supervisor</i>

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Ad Hoc Reviewer: *Psychological Science; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Cognition; Journal of Memory and Language; NeuroImage; Cortex; Journal of Experimental Psychology: HPP; Journal of Experimental Psychology: LMC; Neuropsychologia; Cognitive Neuroscience; Cerebral Cortex; Cognitive Science; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; Memory and Cognition; Language, Cognition & Neuroscience; Acta Psychologica; Cognitive Processing; Language and Speech; Frontiers in Cognitive Science; Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology; CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing; Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing; European Society for Cognitive Psychology; Cognitive Science Society; Embodied and Situated Language Processing.*

Editorial Boards: *Cognition (2011-2014); Frontiers in Language Sciences*

### External Service:

European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Scientific Committee, 2011

Grant reviewing: *NSF Linguistics Program; Human Frontier Science Program*

External Examiner for Ph.D. thesis of Claire Moody *Investigating the Link between Action Language and Action Performance*, Department of Psychology, University of York, UK.

Co-organizer or ESCoP symposium: *Interactions Between Vision and Language: The state of the art.* ESCOP, San Sebastian, Spain. September 2011

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Cognitive Science Society, Psychonomic Society, Association for Psychological Science, European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Society for the Neurobiology of Language.