Lillianna Righter

lilli.righter@gmail.com, 410-842-3925

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park · Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics · 2020
Summa Cum Laude (GPA 4.0)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Macwhinney Lab, Carnegie Mellon University, August 2025-present
Clean, organize, process, and transcribe language recordings using ASR and manual annotation; maintain TalkBank open source data repository; develop analysis tools in CLAN for clinicians and researchers; recruit new corpora contributors; analyze child speech and clinical language data; provide support and consultation for corpus researchers; index and archive literature for bibliographies

Lab Manager, Bergelson Lab (August 2020 - July 2025)
Harvard University, 2023-2025
Duke University, 2020-2023
Collect, manage, clean, visualize, and analyze infant language learning data for 10+ simultaneous projects; lead participant communication and scheduling; create and execute science communication programs for local K-12 schools; build lab documentation; transcription and natural language processing of >3000 hrs of audio; construct project pipelines using task management platforms; oversee 40+ undergraduate researchers; write publications and present research findings; create and execute science communication programs with audience experience in mind; hire and train lab personnel; plan events; manage project timelines, IRB protocols, and grant submissions; manage data sharing; manage $1M+ grant portfolio; liaise with faculty and senior administration

Curriculum designer, UMD Linguistics, May-September 2020
Create a database of teaching resources, educational media, and assessments for introductory linguistics courses, from individual problems to higher level subfield units (morphology, phonology, syntax, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, sign languages

Interim Outreach Coordinator, Infant and Child Studies Consortium at UMD, summer 2018 and 2019
Plan 11-lab consortium's presence at community events for recruiting family research participants

Research Assistant, Project on Children's Language Learning, January 2017-May 2020
Collect and organize infant language acquisition data

Outreach Assistant, Infant and Child Studies Consortium at UMD, May 2018-May 2020
Attend community events to share research findings and recruit participants

SKILLS

Research methods: corpus linguistics, survey, transcription, EEG, eyetracking, infant psycholinguistics and language development (Habituation, headturn preference procedure, elicitation tasks, preferential looking), phonological transcription, semantic annotation

Languages: English (native), Intermediate-high Spanish (non-native), beginner Korean. Intermediate proficiency in R. Basic proficiency in Git, Python, SQL, and HTML

Software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud (PremierePro, Audition, PhotoShop, InDesign), Google Suite, Zoom, Qualtrics, Asana, FileMakerPro database maintenance, Audacity, LucidPress, Praat, Habit, SuperCoder, TalkBank corpora, Databrary, CLAN, ELAN, Datavyu, EyeLink Experiment Builder

Outreach: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, traditional blogging, and MailChimp email listerv platform, K-12 educational programming

PUBLICATIONS

Righter, L., Garrison, H., & Bergelson, E. (2024). Language science outreach through schools and social media: critical considerations. *Linguistics Vanguard*. https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2024-0078

Campbell, E. E., **Righter, L**., Lukin, G., & Bergelson, E. (2025). Comparing Language Input in Homes of Blind and Sighted Children: Insights from Daylong Recordings. *Language Development Research.* https://doi.org/10.34842/ldr2025-846

Kalenkovich, E., Koorathota, S., Tor, S., Amatuni, A., Egan-Dailey, S., Moore, C., Laing, C., Garrison, H., Baudet, G., Bulgarelli, F., Uner, S., **Righter, L.**, & Bergelson, E. (2025). Study of Environmental Effects of Developing LINGuistic Skills: the SEEDLingS-Nouns Dataset. *Behavior Research Methods.*

Lukin, E., Campbell, E.E., **Righter, L**., Mair, P., & Bergelson, E. (2026). Comparing Utterance Types and Contents in the Input to Blind and Sighted Infants. *Language Learning and Development*, 1–23. https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2026.2700996

Zhu, L.Z., Amatuni, A., Egan-Dailey, S., Garrison, H., Kalenkovich, E., Koorathota, S., **Righter, L.**, Tor, S. & Bergelson, E. (2026). Experience Shapes Early Noun Comprehension from 8-18 Months: The Roles of Word Frequency and Referent Familiarity. *Journal of Memory and Language.*

Righter, L., Emmert, A., Campbell, E.E., Houston, D., & Bergelson, E. (under revision). Examining the spoken language input of infants with cochlear implants and its relationship to language outcomes.

Righter, L., Campbell, E.E., & Bergelson, E. (submitted). Morphosyntax sans sight: Development of linguistic structure in blind toddlers.

Campbell, E.E., Bachman, M., **Righter, L**., Roberts, K., Woldorff, M., & Bergelson, E. (in prep). Electrophysiological signatures of wordform recognition in infants across the second year of life.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Schoenbohm, S.R., Kovaleva, A., Campbell, E.E., Lukin, E.E., Nguyen, K., **Righter, L**. & Bergelson, E. Validity of the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventory in blind children (poster). Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, November 2026.

Righter, L. Parent - child interaction (guest lecture). EDE 565-01 Social and Emotional Development. Erin E. Campbell, instructor. University of Rochester, September 10th, 2026.

Emmert, A., **Righter, L.,** Campbell, E.E., Houston, D., & Bergelson, E. Examining Spoken Language Input to Infants with Cochlear Implants (talk). Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, November 2025.

Zhu, L.Z., Kalenkovich, E., Dong, y., **Righter, L.,** and Bergelson, E. Experience Shapes Early Noun Comprehension from 8-18 Months: The Roles of Word Frequency and Referent Familiarity (talk). Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, November 2025.

Righter, L., & Bergelson, E. The Sticking Point: Connections between real-time point comprehension and word knowledge in infancy (talk). Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, November 2024.

Righter, L., Campbell, E.E., Lukin, E., & Bergelson, E. The Interdependence of Vocabulary & Morphosyntax Development in Blind and Sighted Children (poster). Many Paths to Language, Nijmegen, October 2023.

Campbell, E.E., **Righter, L.,** Lukin, E., & Bergelson, E. Comparing language input in homes of blind and sighted children: Insights from daylong recordings (talk). Many Paths to Language, Nijmegen, October 2023.

Lukin, E., Campbell, E.E., **Righter, L.,** & Bergelson, E. Comparing utterance composition and conversational content in everyday language input to blind and sighted toddlers (poster). Many Paths to Language, Nijmegen, October 2023.

Linguistics Communication 2023: online, February 6-10, 2023
Memes—**Righter, L.**, & Bullions, E. (panel).
LingComm in Schools—Shaver, A., Clayton, D., & **Righter, L.** (panel).

Righter, L., & Lidz, J. Look, it's linking: Infants' use of the verb-event link to learn verb meaning (talk). Virginia Area Linguistics Colloquium (VALING), Williamsburg, April 2019.

Righter, L. "Mama Who Bore Me: biography exploring motherhood and the women who came before me." Honors Humanities Keystone Symposium, College Park, April 20th 2018.

MENTORSHIP & TEACHING

Supervised summer research projects: Crismely Fermin, Praise Kidimbu, Juliette Jiminez, Samantha Chaney, Alex Emmert.

Co-supervised undergraduate theses: Grace Benkelman, Olivia O'Connell.

Trained & supervised >50 undergraduate research assistants.

Teaching Assistant:

Language and Mind (Introduction to Linguistics), spring 2018, fall 2019, spring 2020.
Instructors: Dr. Tonia Bleam, Dr. Peggy Antonisse

Professional Writing—Writing about Food, spring 2019. Instructor: Martha Thomas.