

Megan G. Lorenz
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Augustana College
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Psychology Concentration: Developmental Science Advisor: Dr. Jodie Plumert University of Iowa, Iowa City	Aug. 2019
M.A. in Psychology University of Iowa, Iowa City	May 2016
B.A. in Psychology University of California, Los Angeles; Los Angeles, CA	June 2011

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor Department of Psychology & Neuroscience Augustana College, Rock Island, IL	2019-present
Teaching Fellow Department of Psychology & Neuroscience Augustana College, Rock Island, IL	2018-2019

TEACHING

Augustana College; Instructor
Introduction to Psychology; Child Development; Human Development; Cognitive Development;
Psychology of Play; Professional Development; First Year Inquiry: Rhetoric and the Liberal Arts;
Senior Inquiry

University of Iowa; Teaching Assistant
Elementary Psychology; Introduction to Developmental Science; Research Methods & Data Analysis I;
Childhood Psychopathology; Laboratory in Psychology: Development of Executive Function

Invited Guest Lectures

- *Language Acquisition*, February 2017, University of Iowa
- *Language Processes*, April 2015, November 2013, University of Iowa
- *Research Methods*, November 2011, California State University Northridge
- *Developmental Psychology*, July 2011, University of California Los Angeles

PUBLICATIONS

- Lorenz, M.G.** & Kucker, S.C. (2025). To touch or not to touch: The role of object exploration and vocabulary in generalization and retention. *Infancy*, 30(1), e12632. <https://doi.org/10.1111/infa.12632>
- Abreu-Mendoza, R.A., Barner, D.B., Boni, I., Cheung, P., Cordes, S., Feigenson, L., Hyde, D.C., IZard, V., Kibbe, M., Libertus, M., Sullivan, J., VanMarle, K., Adams, A.M., Anobile, G., Arias-Trejo, N., Artemenko, C., Bahnmüller, J., Banki, A., Benavides-Varela, S., Besser, N....**Lorenz, M.G.**, ... & Gunderson, E.A. (registered report; accepted in principle). ManyNumbers 1: A multi-lab international study of early number knowledge. *Developmental Science*.
- Simonetti, M. E., **Lorenz, M. G.**, Koch, I., & Roembke, T. C. (2024). The influence of bilingualism on statistical word learning: A registered report. *Peer Community in Registered Reports*.
- Bakopoulou, M., **Lorenz, M.G.**, Forbes, S.H., Tremblin, R., & Samuelson L.K. (2023). Vocabulary and automatic attention: The relationship between novel words and gaze dynamics in noun generalization. *Developmental Science*, 26(6), e13399.
- Kucker, S.C., Samuelson, L., Perry, L., Yoshida, H., Colunga, E., **Lorenz, M.**, & Smith, L.B. (2019). Reproducibility and a unifying explanation: Lessons from the shape bias. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 54, 156-165. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infbeh.2018.09.011>
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Plumert, J.M. (2019). Mother-child communication about relative proximity to a landmark: What role does prototypicality play? *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 178, 41-59. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2018.09.004>
- Perone, S., Plebanek, D., **Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.S. (2019). Empirical tests of a brain-based model of executive function development. *Child Development*, 90, 210-226. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12885>
- Samuelson, L. K., & **Galligan, M.** (2014). Dynamic systems theory and language development. In P. J. Brooks and V. Kempe (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Language Development*. Sage Publications.

Publications in Revision/Under Review

- Lorenz, M.G.**, Kucker, S.C., Perry, L.K., & Samuelson, L.K. (under review). Linguistic and cognitive development. In B. Kebede (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Experimental Social Science*.
- Lorenz, M. G.** & Perry, L. K. (under review). Over the reading rainbow: Frequency of color and spatial words in storybooks and child-directed speech.

Publications in Preparation

- Lorenz, M.G.** & Plumert, J.M. (in prep). How do young children code relative proximity? Relations with domain-general and domain-specific language ability.
- Kucker, S.C. & Lorenz, M.G. (in prep). Expanding the footnote: How minor methodological decisions have impactful consequences for developmental results.
- Vasich, S.* & **Lorenz, M.G.** (in prep). Calling all caregivers: “Technoference” in children’s museums exhibits.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*undergraduate co-author)

- Lorenz, M.G.** & Kucker, S.C. (May 2025). *Does the mode matter? How storytelling modality impacts parental social contingency and children’s word learning*. Poster to be presented at the 42nd Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Vasich, S.* & **Lorenz, M.G.** (May 2025). *Cellphones, caregivers, and children, oh my! Characterizing behavior with children’s museum exhibits*. Poster to be presented at the 42nd Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Nordling, J. (April 2025). *The Game of Life: Building team-work through a choose-your-own adventure assignment*. Poster to be presented at the biennial SRCD Developmental Science Teaching Institute, Minneapolis, MN.

- Aceves, I.*, Jocson, R.*, Thames, C*., Kucker, S.C., & **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2025). *Temperament, storybook modality, and word learning: A tale not yet told*. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Perry, L.K. (July 2024). *Spatial and color words are more prevalent in storybooks than speech*. In Perry, L. K. (chair) Learning by the Book: How Visual and Linguistic Regularities in Infant Storybooks Support Language Development. Symposium presented at the 24th Biennial Meeting of the International Congress for Infant Studies, Glasgow, Scotland.
- Akau, O.*, Anderson, L.*, Taylor, A.*, West, K.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (April 2024). *“Look, a doff!”: Word learning from books and screens through socially contingent interactions*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Jocson, R.*, Thames, C.*, Vasich, S.*, & **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2024). *What really counts: Comparing sources of math talk in childhood*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Notestein, K. A.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (April 2024). *Parent gestures across modalities: The impacts on children’s word learning*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Vasich, S.*, & **Lorenz, M.G.** (March 2024). *Calling all caregivers: ‘Technoference’ in children’s museums exhibits*. Poster presented at the 13th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA, and the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (March 2024). *The effect of modality and contingency on retention and generalization of novel words*. Poster presented at the 13th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
- Freitag, N.G.*, Notestein, K.A.*, Witecha, G.L.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (April 2023). *Mip, mip hooray! Comparing the effects of social contingency on word learning from books and screens*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Koebel, M.C.*, Vasich, S.*, Doyle, N.J.*, & **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2023). *Blocking distraction with the shield effect*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Smuck, R.L.*, West, K.*, & **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2023). *The role of prototypicality in learning proximity terms from storybooks*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Perry, L.K. (March 2023). *Over the reading rainbow: Frequency of color and spatial words in storybooks and child-directed speech*. Talk presented at the 41st Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Lorenz, M.G.** (March 2023). *The role of prototypicality in training “close” and “far” from storybooks*. Poster presented at the 41st Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Flinchem, J.A.*, Koebel, M.C.*, Doyle, N.J.*, * **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2022). *Reading retention across paper, computer, and smartphone modalities in college students*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Freitag, N.G.*, Notestein, K.A.*, Witecha, G.L.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (April 2022). *What does it Neem? The role of social contingency in word learning through digital media*. Poster presented at the 12th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI.
- Hall, S.L.*, Dillon, K.E.*, & **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2022). *Training “close” and “far” during shared book reading*. Poster presented at the 12th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI.
- Dillon, K.*, Ferruzza, S.*, Flinchem, J.*, Gustafson, M.*, Niederer, B.*, & **Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2021). *Spatial language learning via storybooks*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

- Flinchem, J.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (April 2021). *Influential factors on generalization and retention in a novel noun generalization task*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, & Kucker, S.C. (April 2021). *Exploration facilitates retention during novel noun generalization*. In Kucker, S.C., & Lorenz, M.G. (Chairs). Cascading consequences of object play on cognition. Symposium presented at the 40th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Tucker, N*. & Plumert, J.M. (October 2019). *Links between young children's spatial and language skills: Coding relative proximity to a landmark*. Poster presented at the 11th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY.
- Samuelson, L.K., **Lorenz, M.G.**, Dickinson, J., Tremlin, R., Bates, J., & Spencer, J.P. (March 2019). *Nested timescales of looking and learning: Visual exploration and simulations of the shape bias*. In Samuelson, L. (Chair). 30 Years of Shape Bias Research: Lessons for Word Learning, Atypical Development, Categorization, and Beyond. Symposium presented at the 39th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Carlton, M.*, Tucker, N.*, & Plumert, J.M. (March 2019). *Do close and far labels aid young children's coding of relative proximity?* Poster presented at the 39th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Buksa, A.*, & Plumert, J.M. (July 2018). *How absolute distance from a landmark impacts young children's understanding of relative proximity*. Poster presented at the 21st Biennial Meeting of the International Congress of Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
- Buksa, A.M.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Plumert, J.M. (November 2017). *Better close than far: How young children code relative proximity to a landmark*. Poster presented at the Fall Undergraduate Research Festival at the University of Iowa.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Williams, B.M., Buksa, A.*, & Plumert, J.M. (October 2017). *Better close than far: How young children code relative proximity to a landmark*. Poster presented at the 10th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, & Plumert, J.M. (April 2017). *Giving and following directions: Mothers' sensitivity to young children's understanding of relative proximity*. Poster presented at the 38th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.
- Lorenz, M.G.** (September 2016). *Giving and following directions: Mothers' sensitivity to young children's understanding of relative proximity*. Invited talk given to developmental area at the University of East Anglia, UK.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (September 2016). *Changes in children's use of egocentric v. allocentric location cues influence both object search and early word learning tasks*. Poster presented at the pre-conference workshop on Language Learning for the 6th Joint IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning and on Epigenetic Robotics, Paris, France.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Mattis, J.*, & Samuelson, L.K. (May 2016). *Online processing during novel noun generalization*. Poster presented at the 20th Biennial Meeting of the International Congress on Infant Studies, New Orleans, LA.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (May 2016). *Memories for object features and spatial location bolster early word learning*. In Hay, J. (Chair). Incorporating Memory Processes in the Study of Early Language Acquisition. Symposium presented at the 20th Biennial Meeting of the International Congress on Infant Studies, New Orleans, LA.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, & Plumert, J.M. (April 2016). *Giving and following directions: Mothers' sensitivity to young children's understanding of relative proximity*. Talk presented to the University of Iowa Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Brown Bag.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (October 2015). *The effects of spatial location coding on word learning*. Poster presented at the 9th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society.

- Perone, S., **Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (June 2015). *A theoretically guided approach to laboratory-based interventions*. Talk presented at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Toronto, Canada.
- Mattis, J.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Samuelson, L.K. (April 2015). *Examining toddler decision making in novel noun generalization*. Poster presented at the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival at the University of Iowa.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (March 2015). *The impact of spatial coding on word learning in 17-20 and 27-30-month-old children*. In Kucker, S.C. (Chair). From Initial Exposure to Retention: The Impact of Non-Linguistic and Linguistic Factors on Word Learning. Symposium presented at the 37th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (March 2015). *The role of spatial consistency in category formation*. Poster presented at the 37th biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
- Perone, S., **Lorenz, M.G.**, Spencer, J.P., & Samuelson, L.K. (March 2015). *Fostering executive function across contexts*. In Perone, S. (Chair), *Thinking beyond the lab: Understanding cognition across contexts can advance the application of developmental research*. Talk presented at the 37th Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
- Mattis, J.*, **Lorenz, M.G.**, & Samuelson, L.K. (November 2014). *Developing a method to examine decision making in novel noun generalization*. Poster presented at the Fall Undergraduate Research Festival at the University of Iowa.
- Galligan, M.**, Cross, M., Vishnevsky, R., Thom, E., & Sandhofer, C. (April 2011). *Examining the relationship between word learning and experience within categories*. Poster presented at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles, and at the SOCAL Development Conference at the California State University, Los Angeles.

PRESENTATIONS /WORKSHOPS

- Lorenz, M.G.** & Thompson, A. (April 2025). *Play to engage: Using board games to teach lifespan development*. Roundtable discussion at the biennial SRCD Developmental Science Teaching Institute, Minneapolis, MN.
- Lorenz, M.G.** (August 2024). Panelist in L. Adolph's (chair) breakout session, *How can CORE enhance your teaching?* at Augustana College's annual Faculty Retreat.
- Lorenz, M.G.**, & Thompson, A. (March 2024). Mentoring undergraduate students in research for the long-run. Roundtable discussion leads at J. Clegg and K. Warnell's (Chairs) pre-conference entitled *Developmental Science at Non-R1 Institutions: Collaborative Strategies for Success* for the 13th biennial Cognitive Development Society Meeting in Pasadena, CA.
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Nordling, J.K. (September 2023). *Ch-ch-ch-changes: The Peaks and Valleys of Human Development*. Talk giving at Augustana College's annual Symposium Day.
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Nordling, J.K. (September 2022). *Emerging Adulthood and the Augustana Experience*. Workshop presented at a Center for Faculty Enrichment Thursday Conversation at Augustana College.
- Lorenz, M.G.** & Marklevitz, F. (March 2022). *Reading Digital Texts*. Workshop presented to faculty members who teach in Augustana's FYI sequence.
- Gordon, R.G. & **Lorenz, M.G.** (September 2021). *How do socioeconomic environments shape the developing brain? And what can we do about it?* Talk given at Augustana College's annual Symposium Day.
- Lashley, S. **Lorenz, M.G.** (August 2021). *More than content: Helping students learn how to learn*. Workshop presented at Augustana College's annual faculty retreat.
- Lorenz, M.G.** (April 2019). *Small college teaching workshop*. Workshop presented to graduate students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Iowa.
- Lorenz, M.G.** (March 2019). *Don't stop believing: You can teach what you don't know*. Workshop presented to graduate students at the University of Iowa through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS

Grants

- Academic Initiatives Fund 2023
- Student-Faculty Academic Partnership Grant 2023
- Faculty Research Award 2023
- Student-Faculty Academic Partnership Grant 2022
- New Faculty Research Award 2021
- Student-Faculty Academic Partnership Grant 2021
- New Faculty Research Award 2020
- New Faculty Research Award 2019
- Academic Initiatives Fund 2019
- Graduate College Summer Fellowship 2017
- Travel Grant, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, University of Iowa 2014-2019

Awards

- Last Lecturer 2022, 2024
- SRCD Student Travel Award 2019
- Graduate Student Senate Travel Funds Award 2017
- ICIS Student Travel Award 2016
- SRCD Student Travel Award 2015

Honors

- Psi Chi Honor Society (Student and Faculty Member)
- *Magna Cum Laude*, University of California, Los Angeles 2011
- Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society 2011

SERVICE

Departmental Service

- Internal advising assessment committee, Psychology department 2021-
- Search committee member for tenure-track position in Psychology 2021
- Fall Visit Day presenter, Psychology department 2019-
- Textbook selection committee for Intro to Psychology 2019
- Graduate Student Advisory Committee, representative & chair 2014-2017

University/College Service

- Writing at Augustana Working Group 2024
- Faculty Research Committee 2023-
- Jaeke Award Committee 2022-2024
- Institutional Review Board, Augustana College 2021-
- Honor Council, Augustana College 2021-2023
- Graduate Student Representative, DeLTA Center, University of Iowa 2017-2018
- Judge, Fall Undergraduate Research Festival, University of Iowa 2014
- Graduate Student Senator – Psychology representative, University of Iowa 2013-2014

Professional Service

- Ad hoc reviewer – *Infant Behavior and Development*, *PLOS ONE*, *Child Development*, *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, *Bilingualism*
- Expert and Generalist Reviewer for OpenStax *Lifespan Development* Textbook 2024

- Review Editor for Cognitive Development (section of *Frontiers in Dev. Psychology*) 2023-
- Panelist for Teaching Careers Panel, University of Iowa Center for Teaching 2022
- Cognitive Development Society Abstract Reviewer 2022-
- Society for Research in Child Development Abstract Reviewer 2020-
- Reviewer for SAGE Publishing Company's learning platform Vantage 2019
- Textbook Reviewer for *Lifespan Development, Lives in Context 2nd Edition* 2019
- OER Reviewer for Open Textbook Library (Introduction to Psychology) 2019
- Grant reviewer, DeLTA Center, University of Iowa 2016-2018

Service to Community

- Iowa Children's Museum Board Member 2024-
- Iowa Children's Museum Education and Exhibit Committee
 - Committee chair 2023-
 - Committee member 2021-2023
- Volunteer at Longfellow Elementary School, Rock Island, IL 2019-2020

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Psychology One Conference attendee 2024
- Developmental Science at Non-R1 Institutions: Collaborative Strategies for Success 2024
- Participant in Teaching Observation Group, Augustana College 2023
- SRCD Development Science Teaching Institute 2023
- Career Readiness Champions Network 2022-2023
- Participant in Inclusive Teaching book group 2022
- Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Workshop attendee 2022
- Participant in Pre-Tenure Working Group 2021-2022
- Participant in Creating Self-Regulated Learners book group 2021
- SRCD Developmental Science Teaching Institute 2021
- Supporting Students who Disclose Traumatic Experiences workshop 2020
- Center for Faculty Enrichment New Faculty Mentorship Circle 2019-2020
- Mentee in Society for Teaching of Psychology mentorship program 2019-2020
- SRCD Developmental Science Teaching Institute 2019
- Graduate Teaching Fellow at the University of Iowa's Center for Teaching 2018-2019
- Teaching-as-Research Fellowship, Center for the Integration of Research Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL), University of Iowa 2018
- CIRTL Associate Level Certificate 2017
- Teaching Classes taken through the CIRTL Network 2017-2018
 - Engaging Students in the Teaching of Statistics; The College Classroom: Teaching Inclusively
- Engaging Across Cultures Certificate Workshops:
 - Introduction to Engaging Across Cultures 2018
 - Culture in Academia 2018
- Building University of Iowa Leadership for Diversity (BUILD) Certificate Workshops:
 - Understanding and Intervening Effectively in Micro-aggressions 2018
 - Beyond the Numbers: Foundations for Diversity & Inclusion 2018
 - Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder 2018
 - Shifting the Monoracial Campus Conversation 2018
 - ACT for Social Justice 2017
 - Understanding the Culture behind Sexual Assault 2017

- Teaching Workshops/Classes taken at the University of Iowa:
 - How Learning Works 2018
 - Tools for Online Learning 2018
 - Re-energizing Your Classroom Using Active Learning 2018
 - Practicum: College Teaching for Tas 2018
 - Topics Teaching and Professional Development 2018
 - Building an Inclusive and Universal Classroom 2017
 - Facilitating Engaging Discussions 2017
 - Increasing Student Motivation 2017

OTHER

Professional Membership

- Cognitive Development Society
- International Congress for Infant Studies
- Midwestern Psychological Association
- Psi Chi, The International Honors Society in Psychology
- Society for Research in Child Development
- Society for Teaching of Psychology

Mentorship

- Undergraduate Student Research Assistants, Augustana College
 - *Current* – Iratze Aceves, Blessing Gbaraba, Sierra Jelinek, Rachel Jocson, Mia Okasha, Courtney Thames, & Sam Vasich*
 - *Former* – Ocean Akau, Lilley Anderson, Kayla Dillon, Nathanael Doyle, Samantha Ferruzza, Jeffrey Flinchem, Natalie Freitag, Madeline Gustafson, Summer Hall, Mary Clare Koebel, Brett Niederer, Kelsey Notestein, Rebecca Smuck, Averie Taylor, Kara West, Grace Witecha
 - *Denotes supervision of Honors' Thesis in Psychology
- Undergraduate Student Research Assistants, University of Iowa (2012 – 2019)
 - Jordan Mattis*, Claire Spaete, Emily Wilcox, Morgan Schlacter, Kirsten Schreiber, Haleigh Berryman, Brianna Neyen, Courtney Olmschied, Calvin Bryant, Ashley Buksa, McKenna Bothwell, Katie Strickland, Nora Tucker, Veronica Whitnell, Hannah Overstake, Makayla Carlton
 - *Denotes supervision of Honors' Thesis in Psychology
- Undergraduate Student Research Assistants, UCLA (2011 – 2012)
 - Elizabeth Abate, Angela Lopez