

ERIN SMOLAK, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Last revised 1/2021

Boys Town National Research Hospital

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Center for Childhood Deafness,
Language and Learning

erin.smolak@boystown.org
531.355.5034

RESEARCH INTEREST

The interrelations between vocabulary structure, semantic processing, and domain general learning mechanisms; relation between early language and downstream linguistic and cognitive development; identifying early screening and intervention techniques for children with language delay or disorder

EDUCATION

Ph.D. San Diego State University 2014 – 2019
& **University of California San Diego**
Joint Doctoral Program, Language and Communicative Disorders

B.A. Ohio University 2010 – 2014
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, graduated *cum laude*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2019 – Present
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Word Learning Lab
Director: Dr. Karla McGregor
Focus: word learning, memory, and language in typical development and developmental language disorder (DLD).

Graduate Research Assistant 2014 – 2019
San Diego State University, Infant and Child Development Lab
Director: Dr. Margaret Friend
Focus: language acquisition; individual trajectories in word learning in toddlers; identification of children at risk for language delay.

Undergraduate Research Assistant 2012 – 2014
Ohio University, Psychosocial Processes and Health Laboratory
Director: Dr. Peggy Zoccola
Focus: the role of rumination and perseverative cognition in adults' cortisol response to stress.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

UCSD, PSYC 176: Creativity

Attended all class meetings, held 3 office hours per week, and assisted Dr. Craig McKenzie in setting up materials for class and grading students' work

Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant

SDSU, SLHS 513: Foundations of Speech-Language Development

Assisted Dr. Alyson Abel-Mills in coordinating materials, teaching lectures, and grading students' work, in addition to holding office hours

Fall 2015,
Fall 2016

PUBLICATIONS

*undergraduate student **graduate student

Lancaster, H.S., Pomper, R., Emerson, S.N., **Smolak, E.**, Milne, A.E., Gordon, K.R., & McGregor, K.K. (in preparation). Nonverbal IQ measures aren't measuring what you think: Why children with DLD tend to score lower on NVIQ tests.

Smolak, E., Helm, J.L., **Patrucco-Nanchen, T., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (in review, *Cognitive Development*). Convergence and divergence in prediction from vocabulary and speed of processing.

McGregor, K.K., **Smolak, E.**, **Smith, M., Oleson, J., Eden, N., & Arbisi-Kelm, T. (accepted, *Cognitive Science*). What children with developmental language disorder teach us about cross-situational word learning.

McGregor, K.K., Pomper, R., Eden, N., Arbisi-Kelm, T., Ohlmann, N., *Gajre, S., & **Smolak, E.** (2021). Language ability, not theory of mind or temperament, predicts success in remote communication contexts. *Language Development Research*. doi: 10.34758/rzsq-zd16

Smolak, E., Hendrickson, K., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (2021). Visual and haptic responses as measures of word comprehension and speed of processing in toddlers: Relative predictive utility. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 203, 105032. doi: 10.1016/j.jecp.2020.105032

Smolak, E., McGregor, K.K., Arbisi-Kelm, T., & Eden, N. (2020). Sustained attention in developmental language disorder and its relation to working memory and language. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 63, 4096-4108. doi: 10.1044/2020_JSLHR-20-00265

Smolak, E., **DeAnda, S., *Enriquez, B., Poulin-Dubois, D., & Friend, M. (2020). Code-Switching in young bilingual toddlers: A longitudinal, cross-language investigation. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 23, 500-518. doi: 10.1017/S1366728919000257

Friend, M., **Smolak, E.**, **Patrucco-Nanchen, T., & Zesiger, P. (2019). Language status at age 3: Group and individual prediction from vocabulary comprehension in the second year. *Developmental Psychology*, 55, 9-22. doi: 10.1037/dev0000617

Friend, M., **Smolak, E.**, **Liu, Y., Poulin-Dubois, D., & Zesiger, P. (2018). A cross-language study of decontextualized vocabulary comprehension in toddlerhood and kindergarten readiness. *Developmental Psychology*, 54, 1317-1333. doi: 10.1037/dev0000514

Woody, A., **Smolak, E. L., **Rabideau, E. M., **Figueroa, W. S., & Zoccola, P. M. (2015). Trait rumination moderates the effect of mentation type on heart rate responses to stressor recall. *Stress*, 18, 554-560. doi: 10.3109/10253890.2015.1055726

PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations

- Smolak, E.** (March 2019). *Continuity in Vocabulary Development: Predictions from Decontextualized Vocabulary and Lexical Access*. Invited talk presented at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Smolak, E.,** Hendrickson, K., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (March 2019). *Continuity in Vocabulary Development: Predictions from Decontextualized Vocabulary and Lexical Access*. Presentation given at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
- Friend, M., **Smolak, E.,** Zesiger, P., Poulin-Dubois, D., Højen, A., Jensen, P., Bleses, D., Dale, P., & Barlow, J. (March 2019). *The Computerized Comprehension Task: Cross-language evaluation of psychometric properties and prediction to developmental outcomes*. Presentation given at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
- Smolak, E.,** *Villanueva, A., **Liu, Y., *Campos, A., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (June 2018). *Executive Function in Young Spanish-English Bilingual Children: Are They Really Special?* Flash talk presented at the International Congress on Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
- Smolak, E.,** *Enriquez, B., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (July 2017). *Code-Switching in Young Bilingual Toddlers and Their Parents*. Presentation given at the International Association for the Study of Child Language, Lyon, France.
- Smolak, E.** (April 2017). *Out of the Mouths of Babes: Child Language and the Economy*. Presentation given at the UCSD grad SLAM competition, San Diego, CA.
- Smolak, E.,** & Friend, M. (March 2017). *Convergence and Divergence in the Predictions of Looking vs. Haptic Measures*. Presentation given at the SDSU Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA.
- Smolak, E.** (September 2016). *Convergence and Divergence in Prediction from Looking vs. Haptic Measures*. Presentation given at the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders Doctoral Student Colloquium, San Diego, CA.
- Smolak, E.** (September 2015). *Age, Vocabulary Size, and Individual Trajectory Influence Early Predictions of Language Outcomes*. Presentation given at the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders Doctoral Student Colloquium, San Diego, CA.
- Smolak, E.,** & Friend, M. (March 2015). *Age and Individual Trajectory Influence Early Predictions of Language Outcomes*. Presentation given at the SDSU Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA.

Poster Presentations

- McGregor, K.K., Pomber, R., Eden, N., Arbisi-Kelm, T., Ohlmann, N., *Gajre, S., & **Smolak, E.** (June 2021). *Children's Success in Remote Communication Contexts Varies with Language Ability*. Poster presented virtually at the Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders.
- Smolak, E.,** McGregor, K.K., Arbisi-Kelm, T. & Eden, N. (November 2020). *Developmental Language Disorder: The Role of Sustained Attention and Working Memory in Language Ability*. Poster accepted at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA (convention cancelled due to COVID-19).

Smolak, E., Helm, J., **Patrucco-Nanchen, T., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (July 2020). *Convergence and Divergence in Prediction from Vocabulary and Speed of Lexical Access*. Poster presented virtually at the International Congress of Infant Studies.

Smolak, E., McGregor, K.K., Arbisi-Kelm, T. & Eden, N. (May 2020). *Sustained Attention in Developmental Language Disorder and its Relation to Working Memory and Language*. Poster accepted to the Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI (event cancelled due to COVID-19).

*Villanueva, A., **Smolak, E.,** & Friend, M. (March 2018). *Executive Function and Translation Equivalents in Young Spanish-English Bilingual Children*. Poster presented at the SDSU Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA.

Smolak, E., *Villanueva, A., **Liu, Y., *Campos, A., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (October 2017). *Executive Function and Translation Equivalents in Young Spanish-English Bilingual Children*. Poster presented at the Bilingualism Matters research conference, Riverside, CA.

Smolak, E., **Patrucco-Nanchen, T., Zesiger, P., Poulin-Dubois, D., & Friend, M. (April 2017). *Language Screening Using Early Decontextualized Vocabulary*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

*Villanueva, A., **Smolak, E.,** & Friend, M. (March 2017). *The Relationship of Code-Switching and Translation Equivalents, and How Does It Relate to Executive Functioning in Young Children?* Poster presented at the SDSU Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA.

Smolak, E., **Barlam, D., Zesiger, P., Poulin-Dubois, D., & Friend, M. (May 2016). *It's Comprehension and Production! The Efficacy of Canonical Analysis for Predicting Language Outcomes*. Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, New Orleans, LA.

Smolak, E., Poulin-Dubois, D., Zesiger, P., & Friend, M. (October 2015). *Using Comprehension to Predict Production: Variability in Individual Trajectories*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, Ohio.

Smolak, E., Zesiger, P., Poulin-Dubois, D., & Friend, M. (June 2015). *Predicting Language Outcomes from Early Comprehension: Contributions of Age, Vocabulary Size, and Trajectory*. Poster presented at the Workshop on Infant Language Development, Stockholm, Sweden.

GRANTS

FUNDED

2020 – 2022 “Prediction processes in children with developmental language disorder”; Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA); F32DC019253; NIH-NIDCD; Role: PI

AWARDS AND HONORS

NIH T32, NIDCD 5T32DC000013-39, June 2019 – December 2020

Institutional postdoctoral training grant for training in behavioral and clinic research at Boys Town National Research Hospital. PI: Dr. Douglas Keefe, Dr. Monita Chatterjee. Role: Postdoctoral Fellow

SDSU Graduate Student Travel Fund – Student Success Fee, 2019, \$1,000

Travel award received from SDSU to attend the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD, March 2019.

SDSU University Graduate Fellowship, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

Program of support at San Diego State University designed to provide funding for doctoral students. Thirty fellowships are awarded through a merit-based, competitive process. Role: Research Fellow.

IASCL travel bursary award, 2017, \$1250

Travel bursary award to attend the 14th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Lyon, France, July 2017.

UCSD Grad SLAM competition, 2017, 3rd place award, \$1500

Annual competition in the University of California system. Participants aim to present accessible research to the general public in three minutes or less. Earned the 3rd place prize at UC San Diego out of approximately 50 competitors.

SDSU Center for Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience travel award, 2017, \$500

Travel award received from SDSU CCN to attend the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, Texas, April 2017.

NIH T32, NIDCD 5T32DC007361-09, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016; Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Neurocognitive Approaches to Communication Disorders. Training grant supporting doctoral students at San Diego State University. PI: Dr. Lew Shapiro, Dr. Tracy Love. Role: Doctoral Trainee.

Phi Beta Kappa honor society member, 2014 – present

Ohio University Gateway Excellence Scholarship, 2010 – 2014

Merit-based academic scholarship covering full tuition and fees.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Pathways Program, 2020

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Pathways program is a part of its Academic & Research Mentoring (ARM) Network. The Pathways Program was a three-day virtual workshop designed to mentor early-career scientists in speech, language, and hearing sciences by assisting participants in developing a 5-year research plan, building a publication record, and learning about funding mechanisms appropriate to this career stage.

Graduate Certificate Workshop: Introduction to Evidence-Based Teaching, 2019

San Diego State University: Training workshop in evidence-based best teaching practices. Workshops include topics on: articulating clear learning goals, designing engaging lectures, creating effective formative and summative assessments, providing an inclusive classroom environment, and developing a learner-centered syllabus.

Service

Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) Mock Study Section Reviewer

July 2021, August 2021

BTNRH hosts mock study review panels for research to be submitted to the NIH. A researcher submits drafts of the Specific Aims and Research Strategy sections. Approximately two months prior to the NIH deadline, a review panel holds an open discussion of the drafts in accord with the structure of an NIH review panel except that the applicant is present.

National Associations

2021

Member, Language and Learning in School-Age Individuals Topic Committee for the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Doctoral Student Representative, Fall 2015 – Spring 2019

Student representative for the Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders at San Diego State University & the University of California San Diego. Responsibilities: revise and update a handbook for current and future students in the doctoral program, solicit feedback from students and discuss the program and potential changes with program directors especially as a part of the program review during Spring 2017.

Ad Hoc Reviewer

<i>Developmental Science</i>	2021, -22
<i>Journal of Child Language</i>	2021
<i>Autism & Developmental Language Impairments</i>	2020, -21
<i>Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences</i>	2019, -20
<i>International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders</i>	2021