

Curriculum Vitae: Ashley Blake

PhD Researcher at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.
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Research area

I am a PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham. My research explores cognition and language in children and adults with a particular focus on developmental language disorder. This is part of a large research project led by Professor Ewa Dąbrowska and funded by the Alexander von Humboldt foundation.

Skills

- Research experience: current part-time role as Research Associate at the University of Birmingham in conjunction with the linguistics laboratory at Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen, Nuremburg.
- Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
- Statistical knowledge, using R.
- Experience with experimental methodologies such as eye movement tracking and designing online behavioural experiments on platforms such as Gorilla Experiment builder.
- Teaching experience at undergraduate level.

Teaching and Academic Appointments

Sept 2022 – current	Teaching Associate: Data skills for Creative Industries Bootcamp, University of Birmingham, U.K.
June, July 2022	Distance learning co-ordinator: supported and promoted engagement of MA students at the University of Birmingham, U.K.
Feb – June 2022	Postgraduate Teaching Associate: Seminar Tutor and marking for Language for Literature, University of Birmingham, U.K.
Jan – Feb 2022	English Tutor, Brilliant Club Charity, U.K. (online)
November-Dec 2021	Postgraduate Demonstrator: Describing Language and Teaching Grammar and Vocabulary, University of Birmingham.
October 2021	Lecturer for proseminar module: Specific Learning Difficulties in Second Language Learning and teaching (6 weeks), Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen, Nuremburg, Germany
May 2021	Marking: Fundamentals of Grammar and Discourse, University of Birmingham, U.K.

Qualifications

June 2022	Associate Fellow of Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), University of Birmingham, U.K.
May 2021	Teaching English for Academic Purposes, SOAS University of London
2017-2019	MSc Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, U.K. (<i>Distinction</i>)
2013-2017	BA (Hons) Professional Studies: Childhood & Youth (<i>first-class honours</i>), and Arts Foundation Degree in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (<i>merit</i>), Bishop Grosseteste University, U.K.

Awards and Funding

2022	Gorilla Experiment Builder: Bishop Prize 2022. 1 year Researcher and Game Builder licence. (£1000)
2022	University of Birmingham: College of Arts & Law Graduate School PG Research Support to attend the IMPRS conference (£415)
2022	British Psychological Society Conference Award: to attend the Festschrift for Dorothy V.M. Bishop. (£200)
2021	British Psychological Society: Cognitive Psychology section. Rapid Research Grant (£400)
2020	Gorilla Experiment Builder: Gorilla Grants 2020, Ruby Award Winner. 100 tokens for use on Gorilla and half-price laboratory subscription. [link]
2021	Universitas 21: member of the ‘Getting Data Online’ working group. Grant for use to develop an online experiment. (£192)
2019-2024	PhD scholarship at the University of Birmingham (Alexander von Humboldt Professorship Grant awarded to Professor Ewa Dąbrowska).

Publications

Blake A, & Dąbrowska, E. (in press). Investigating the relationship between the speed of automatization and linguistic abilities: data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Linguistics Vanguard*.

Dąbrowska, E., Blake, A. (2022) Speed of automatization predicts performance on “decorative” grammar in second language learning. In T. Piske and A. Steinlein (eds.), *Cognition and Second Language Acquisition*. Gunter Narr Verlag, Tübingen. pp. 285-308

Blake, A. & Dąbrowska, E. (2021). Postgraduate Rapid Grant Award Reports: Cognitive predictors of individual differences in children’s language acquisition. *The Cognitive Psychology Bulletin*, 6. ISSN: 2397-2653

Public Engagement and impact

May 2022	Talk regarding my research to the University of Tennessee visiting psychology students, University of Birmingham, U.K. (in-person)
June 2021	Presentation regarding my research to the Psychology department at the University of Birmingham, U.K. (online)
March 2021	Presentation regarding my research as part of the early career research group formed during the COVID-19 pandemic [link] (online)
Jan 2021	Presentation of paper regarding neuroimaging and open science: ReproducibiliTea Group, University of Birmingham, U.K.

- Jan 2021 Talk on Developmental Language Disorder to teachers and support staff
Cliffedale Primary School, Lincolnshire, U.K. (online)
- Nov 2020 Presentation regarding my research to the psychology department at the
University of York (online)
- Nov 2020 Presentation as part of the oominds research group ‘half-baked study day’,
Univeristy of Birmingham, U.K. (online)

Volunteering

- Feb 2022 Volunteer marker for linguistic papers, Linguistics Olympiad, U.K.
- 2021-2022 Placement supervisor for an undergraduate psychology student from
Newcastle University, U.K.
- 2021-2022 Committee member responsible for the running of the English Language and
Linguistics Postgraduate community (‘PG Tips’) at the University of
Birmingham, U.K.

Professional Membership

- 2021-present Committee Member of the British Psychological Society (BPS) Cognitive
Section and Editor of the BPS Cognitive Psychology bulletin
- Graduate member of the BPS
 - Postgraduate member of the Experimental Psychology Society

Conference Presentations

- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. 4-6 (January 2023). Does the speed of automatization predict differences in linguistic ability in children with Developmental Language Disorder? *Poster presented at the Experimental Psychology Society, London, United Kingdom (online with talk-through video [\[link\]](#))*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (19-21 September 2022). How does the speed of automatization predict children’s language acquisition. *Talk presented at the 2nd International DLD Research Conference, Australia. (online).*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (7-9 September 2022). How do cognitive abilities predict children’s language acquisition? *Talk presented The British Psychological Society Cognitive Section Annual Conference, Brighton, U.K. (in-person)*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. Cognitive Predictors of Individual Differences in Children's Language Acquisition. 27-29 June 2022). *Flash talk and poster presented at Celebrating Dorothy: A Festschrift for Dorothy M Bishop, London, U.K. (in-person)*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (22-25 June 2022) Cognitive Predictors of Individual Differences in Children's Language Acquisition. *Poster presented at the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Annual Seminar, Edinburgh, U.K (in-person)*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (1-3 June 2022) Cognitive Predictors of Individual Differences in Children's Language Acquisition. *Poster presented at IMPRS Conference, Nijmegen, Netherlands (in-person).*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (29 April 2022). Cognitive predictors of individual differences in children’s language acquisition. *Talk presented at the*

Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference, University of Birmingham, U.K. (online)

- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (20-22 September 2021). Does the speed of automatization predict differences in children’s language acquisition. *Talk presented at the 1st International DLD Research Conference, 20-22 September 2021. (online)*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (29-30 June 2021) Does the speed of automatization predict differences in children’s linguistic ability? *Talk about online data collection at the BeOnline meeting 2021, U.K. [\[link\]](#)*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (23 April 2021) *Talk: Buffet of Research: Cognitive Predictors of Individual Differences in Children’s Language Acquisition and Round Table Panel Discussion: Progressing research during COVID-19. Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference, University of Birmingham, U.K. (online)*
- Dąbrowska, E., & Blake, A. (27-29 July 2020). Speed of automatization predicts performance on 'decorative' grammar in second language learning. *Talk presented at the UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Birmingham, U.K. (online)*
- Blake, A., Dąbrowska, E., & Riches, N. (3-5 June 2020) Cognitive Predictors of Individual Differences in Children's Language Acquisition. *Poster presented at IMPRS Conference, Nijmegen, Netherlands (online).*

Relevant Employment

2011–2019 Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire, U.K.
2016-2019: Assistant SENDCo (part-time): Federation of Harlaxton C of E School and Denton C of E School
2014-2016: Learning and Family Support Mentor: Metheringham Primary School.
2011-2014: Administration Assistant, Teaching Assistant and Learning Mentor: Federation of Harlaxton C of E School/Denton C of E School

Previous employment information available upon request, if required.

References

Available on request.