
MELANIE SODERSTROM, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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Citizenship: dual Canada/USA

EDUCATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

University of Manitoba, Department of Psychology

Assistant Professor, July 2008 – present

Brown University, Department of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences

Postdoctoral Research Associate, September 2005 – June 2008

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, September 2002 – August 2005 (NRSA fellowship)

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Psychology

Ph. D. 2002

“The acquisition of inflection morphology in early perceptual knowledge of syntax”

Advisors: Peter W. Jusczyk (deceased August 2001)

Barbara Landau (2001-2002)

Committee: Gregory Ball

Margaret Bruck

Deborah Kemler Nelson

Barbara Landau

Michael McCloskey

M.A. 2000

“Effects of prosodic well-formedness on infants’ recognition of embedded syntactic units and non-units”

Advisor: Peter W. Jusczyk

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

B.S. 1998

Major: Biology

Minor: Cognitive Science

Undergraduate research experience in the laboratories of:

Ann Graybiel

Steven Pinker

Kenneth Wexler

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- NSERC Discovery grant 2010-2015
- University of Manitoba: University Research Grants Program 2009-2010
- National Research Service Award Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (NICHD) 2002-2005
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 1999-2002
- Johns Hopkins University School of Arts and Sciences Owen Fellowship 1998-2002

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Soderstrom, M., Ko, E.-S., & Nevzorova, U. (submitted). It's a question? Infants attend differently to yes/no questions and declaratives *Infant Behavior and Development*
- Ko, E.-S., Soderstrom, M., & Morgan, J.L. (2009). Infants' perceptual sensitivity to extrinsic vowel duration in American English. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letter*, 126(5), EL134-EL139.
- Soderstrom, M., Blossom, M., Foygel, I., & Morgan, J.L. (2008). Acoustical cues and grammatical units in speech to two preverbal infants. *Journal of Child Language*, 35, 869-902.
- Soderstrom, M. (2008). Early perception-late comprehension? The case of verbal -s (A response to de Villers & Johnson, 2007). *Journal of Child Language*, 35, 671-676.
- Soderstrom, M. & Morgan, J.L. (2007). Twenty-two-month-olds discriminate fluent from disfluent adult-directed speech. *Developmental Science*, 10, 641-653.
- Soderstrom, M., White, K.S., Conwell, E. & Morgan, J.L. (2007). Receptive grammatical knowledge of familiar content words and inflection in 16-month-olds. *Infancy*, 12, 1-29.
- Soderstrom, M. (2007). Beyond babytalk: Re-evaluating the nature and content of speech input to preverbal infants. *Developmental Review*, 27, 501-532.
- Soderstrom, M., Kemler Nelson, D. G., & Jusczyk, P. W. (2005). Six-month-olds recognize clauses embedded in different passages of fluent speech. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 28, 87-94.
- Soderstrom, M., Seidl, A., Kemler Nelson, D. G., & Jusczyk, P. W. (2003). The prosodic bootstrapping of phrases: Evidence from prelinguistic infants. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 49, 249-267.

INVITED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Soderstrom, M. (2009). Changement de fonction des elements prosodiques au cours du développement : du tout vers la partie et de la partie vers le tout [Changing roles for prosodic information across development: From wholes to parts and back again]. *Enfance*, 2009(3), 273-281.
- Soderstrom, M., Conwell, E., Feldman, N., & Morgan, J.L. (2009). Statistical learning in language acquisition: Beyond demonstrations, towards a theory. *Developmental Science*, 12(3), 409-411.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND PROCEEDINGS

- Soderstrom, M., & Morgan, J.L. (2008) Twenty-two month olds detect verb-noun exchanges in fluent speech: Evidence for category preferences for familiar content words. In *Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, pp. 462-468. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- Soderstrom, M., Mathis, D. & Smolensky, P. (2006). Abstract genomic encoding of universal grammar in Optimality Theory. In *The harmonic mind: From neural computation to Optimality-Theoretic*

grammar, Vol. 2, Linguistic and philosophical implications, Paul Smolensky and Géraldine Legendre, pp. 403-471. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Soderstrom, M. & Morgan, J.L. (2006). Toddlers are sensitive to prosodic correlates of disfluency in spontaneous speech. In *Proceedings of Speech Prosody '06*. Dresden, Germany, May 2-5.

Soderstrom, M. & Morgan, J.L. (2005). Disfluency in speech input to infants? The interaction of mother and child to create error-free speech input for language acquisition. In *Proceedings of DiSS'05*. Aix-en-Provence, France, September 10-12.

Soderstrom, M., Wexler, K. & Jusczyk, P.W. (2002). English-learning toddlers' sensitivity to agreement morphology in receptive grammar. In B. Skarabela, S. Fish, & A. H.-J. Do (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 26th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Vol. 2* (pp. 643-652). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Soderstrom, M., Mathis, D., & Smolensky, P. (2001). Toward computational empirical testing of linguistic innateness: Abstract genomic encoding of an optimality-theoretic grammar. *Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Cognitive Science, Beijing, China* (pp. 14-25). Beijing: University of Science and Technology of China Press.

Soderstrom, M., Jusczyk, P.W., & Kemler Nelson, D. (2000). Evidence for the use of phrasal packaging in English-learning 9-month-olds. *Proceedings of the 24th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Vol. 2*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Soderstrom, M., Jusczyk, P.W., & Wexler, K. (2000). 19-month olds' sensitivity to negation/tense dependencies. In L.R. Gleitman & A.K. Joshi (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, (p. 1056). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Ganger, J., Wexler, K., & Soderstrom, M. (1998). The genetic basis for the development of tense: A preliminary report on a twin study. A. Greenhill, M. Hughes, H. Littlefield, & H. Walsh (eds.). *Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Vol. 1* (pp. 224-234). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Soderstrom, M., Ko, E.S., & Nevzorova, U. (2010, June). *Infants' response to declarative and question intonation under low-pass filtered conditions*. Annual Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Winnipeg, MB.

Soderstrom, M., Ko, E.S., & Nevzorova, U. (2010, March) *Infants Discriminate Yes/No Questions from Declaratives?* 17th Biennial Conference on Infant Studies, Baltimore, MD.

Soderstrom, M., Bhaskaran, J.S., & Cheung, K. (2010, March) *Comparing the Language Environments of Daycare and Home: A Preliminary Report*. 17th Biennial Conference on Infant Studies, Baltimore, MD.

Soderstrom, M. & Bach, R. (2009, November). *Turn-taking in infancy: Are mother-infant interactions really 'conversational'?* 34th Annual BU Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.

- Ko, E.-S., Soderstrom, M., & Morgan, J.L. (2009, November). *Development of infants' perceptual sensitivity to the vowel length effect*. 34th Annual BU Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.
- Ko, E.-S., Soderstrom, M., & Morgan, J.L. (2009, June). *Sensitivity to extrinsic vowel duration develops between 8 and 14 months*. Child Phonology Conference, Austin, Texas.
- Soderstrom, M., Sauter, D., & Morgan, J.L. (2008, May). *Understanding relief and achievement: Infants' discrimination and crossmodal perception of two positive affective expressions*. 16th Biennial Conference on Infant Studies, Vancouver.
- Soderstrom, M. (2008, May). *How infants acquire grammatical categories: The role of distributional, prosodic and phonotactic information in the acquisition of noun and verb categories (symposium chair)*. 16th Biennial Conference on Infant Studies, Vancouver.
- Morgan, J.L., & Soderstrom, M. (2007, November). *Twenty-two month olds detect verb-noun exchanges in fluent speech: Evidence for category preferences for familiar content words*. 32nd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston.
- Soderstrom, M. (2006, November). *Twenty-two-month-olds discriminate fluent from disfluent adult-directed speech based on prosodic characteristics*. 31st Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston.
- Soderstrom, M. & Morgan, J. (2006, May). *Toddlers are sensitive to prosodic correlates of disfluency in spontaneous speech*. Third International Conference on Speech Prosody, Dresden.
- Soderstrom, M., White, K. & Conwell, E. (2005, November). *Evidence for grammatical knowledge of content words in 16-month-olds*. 30th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston.
- Soderstrom, M., & Morgan, J.L. (2005, September) *Disfluency in speech input to infants? The interaction of mother and child to create error-free speech input for language acquisition*. DiSS'05, Aix-en-Provence.
- Soderstrom, M., White, K., Conwell, E., & Morgan, J. (2005, July). *Sixteen-month-olds are beginning to form categories of "noun" and "verb"*. IASCL 2005, Berlin.
- Soderstrom, M., Foygel, I., & Morgan J.L. (2004, May). *Variability in the input: Prosodic cues to syntax in different input environments*. 14th Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies, Chicago.
- Soderstrom, M., Seidl, A., Kemler Nelson, D.G., & Morgan, J. (2003, April). *Exploring Infants' Sensitivity to the Prosodic Contours of Phrases*. BOOT-LA workshop, University of Indiana.
- Soderstrom, M. (2002, April). *Prosodic packaging of syntactic units in infants' speech processing*. Memorial Symposium for Dr. Peter W. Jusczyk, 13th Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies, Toronto.
- Soderstrom, M., Jusczyk, P. W., & Wexler, K. (2001, November). *English-learning toddlers' sensitivity to agreement morphology in receptive grammar*. 26th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston.

Soderstrom, M., Jusczyk, P. W., & Wexler, K. (2000, August). *19-Month-Olds' sensitivity to negation/tense dependencies*. Cognitive Science Society 22nd Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.

Soderstrom, M., Jusczyk, P. W., & Wexler, K. (2000, March). *19-Month-Olds' understanding of the negation/adverbial difference*. Eastern Psychological Association 71st Annual Meeting, Baltimore.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

CBC's Definitely Not the Opera, May 15, 2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Manitoba Institute of Child Health (2009 – present)
- Society for Research on Child Development (2010 – present)
- Canadian Psychological Association (2009 – present)
- International Association for the Study of Child Language (2005 – present)
- Society for Language Development (2004 – present)
- International Society on Infant Studies (2002 – present)
- American Psychological Association (2000 – present)
- Cognitive Science Society (2000 – present)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Educational Counselor (2010 – present)

University of Manitoba Faculty Association Representative (2010 – present)

University of Manitoba Psychology-Sociology Research Ethics Board (2010 – present)

University of Manitoba Department of Psychology: Curriculum and Instruction Committee
(Fall 2010)

University of Manitoba Department of Psychology: Research and Scholarship Committee
(2008 – 2009)

Johns Hopkins University Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Steering Committee
(1999-2001)

Occasional Reviewing: *Cognition, Journal of Child Language, Journal of Memory and Language, Language Learning and Development, Cognitive Science Society, Boston University Conference on Language Development*