

Kelsey West

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Education

- 2019-2022 Post-doctoral Fellow
New York University, Department of Psychology
Sponsors: Drs. Karen Adolph & Catherine Tamis-LeMonda
- 2012-2019 Ph.D., Developmental Psychology
University of Pittsburgh
Advisor: Dr. Jana Iverson
- 2008-2012 B.S., Psychology
Indiana University
Minor: Human Development and Family Studies
Honors thesis advisor: Dr. Linda Smith

Research Support and Awards

- 2019-2022 NICHD, F32 NRSA for postdoctoral training, *Walking and Talking: Cascade in Infant Development*, (\$175,974 total costs), Kelsey West, PI, Karen Adolph and Catherine Tamis-LeMonda, co-sponsors
- 2018 Tim Post Award for Research Excellence, University of Pittsburgh (\$1,000)
- 2017-2018 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, (\$22,752)
- 2016 Ruth L. Myers Memorial Award in Mentoring Excellence (\$600)
- 2016, 2014 Outstanding Presenter Award, University of Pittsburgh (\$200)
- 2014 *Honorable Mention*, National Science Foundation GRFP
- 2012 Indiana University Excellence in Research Award (\$100)

Publications

*Indicates co-author is an undergraduate mentee

West, K.L. (2018). Infant motor development in autism spectrum disorder: A synthesis and meta-analysis. *Child Development*.

West, K.L., Leezenbaum, N.B., Northrup, J.B., & Iverson, J.M. (2018). The relation between walking and language in infant siblings of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Child Development*.

Roemer, E.J., **West, K.L.**, Northrup, J.B., Iverson, J.M. (2018). Word comprehension mediates the link between gesture and word production: examining language development in infant siblings of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Developmental Science*.

*Heymann, P., Northrup, J.B., **West, K.L.**, Parlade, M.P., Leezenbaum, N.B., Iverson, J.M. (2018). Coordination is key: joint attention and vocalisation in infant siblings of children with autism spectrum disorder. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*.

- Iverson, J.M., Northrup, J.B., Leezenbaum, N.B., Koterba, E.A., Parlade, M.V., **West, K.L.** (2018). Early gesture and vocabulary development in infant siblings of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. 48 (1), 55-71
- West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2017). Language learning is hands-on: Exploring links between infants' object manipulation and verbal input. *Cognitive Development*. 43(C), 190-200.
- Wozniak, R. H., Leezenbaum, N. B., Northrup, J. B., **West, K. L.**, & Iverson, J. M. (2017). The development of autism spectrum disorders: variability and causal complexity. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 8(1-2).

Manuscripts in Preparation

- West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (in preparation) Communication changes when infants learn to walk.
- West, K.L.**, Roemer, E.J., Northrup, J.B., Iverson, J.M. (in preparation) Profiles of gesture development in infants at risk for autism spectrum disorder.
- *Jarvis, E.J., **West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (in preparation) Object exploration during the transition to sitting in infants at heightened risk for autism spectrum disorder.

Symposia

- West, K.L.** (2015). Many moving parts: the role of motor ability in cognitive development. Chaired symposium at the 2015 Biennial Society for Research in Child Development Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Conference Talks

- West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2019). Parent responses to infant vocalization across the transition from crawling to walking in typical and atypical development. Talk to be presented at the 2019 Biennial Society for Research in Child Development meeting in Baltimore, MD.
- West, K.L.**, Leezenbaum, N.B., Northrup, J.B., Iverson, J.M. (2018). Learning to talk while learning to walk: Measuring language during the transition to walking in infants at risk for ASD. Presented at the 2018 Biennial International Congress on Infant Studies in Philadelphia, PA.
- West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2017) Characteristics of infant object manipulation relate to caregiver labeling. Presented at the 2017 Biennial Society for Research in Child Development Meeting. Austin TX.
- West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2015) Exploring links between infant object manipulation and caregiver labeling. Presented at the 2015 Biennial Society for Research in Child Development Meeting. Philadelphia PA.
- Iverson, J.M., Leezenbaum, N.B., Northrup, J.B., **West, K.L.** (2014). The dynamic give and take of early communicative development: verbal and nonverbal communication in parent-child interaction. Invited talk presented by JMI at the Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, NE.

Invited Talks

Fall, 2018 Colloquium, Department of Psychology, University of California—Merced

Conference Posters

- *Jarvis, E.J., **West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2019). Object exploration during the transition to sitting: A study of infants at heightened risk for autism spectrum disorder. Poster to be presented at the 2019 Biennial Society for Research in Child Development meeting in Baltimore, MD.
- *Toval, C., **West, K.L.**, Northrup, J.B., Roemer, E.J., Iverson, J.M. (2018). The development of response to social directives in infants later diagnosed with ASD. Presented at the 2018 Biennial International Conference of Infant Studies in Philadelphia, PA.
- *Toval, C., **West, K.L.**, Northrup, J.B., Roemer, E.J., Iverson, J.M. (2018). Response to social directives in infants later diagnosed with ASD. Poster to be presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Indianapolis, IN.
- Roemer, E.J., Northrup, J. B., **West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2017). Examining the relationship between gesture and language development in infant siblings of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Presented at the 2017 Biennial Society for Research in Child Development meeting in Austin, TX.
- West, K.L.**, Iverson, J.M. (2016). Exploring links between infants' initiation and actions during toy play. Presented at the 20th Biennial International Congress on Infant Studies in New Orleans, LA.
- West, K.L.**, Leezenbaum, N.B., Northrup, J.B., Iverson, J.M. (2016). Examining the relation between walking and receptive language in the infant siblings of children with ASD. Poster presented at the 16th annual International Meeting for Autism Research in Baltimore, MA.
- West, K.L.**, Leezenbaum, N.B., Northrup, J.B., Iverson, J.M. (2014). The relation between rhythmic movement and babble onset in infants at heightened risk for ASD. Poster presented at the 14th annual International Meeting for Autism Research in Atlanta, GA.
- West, K.L.**, Benitez, V.L., & Smith, L.B. (2011). Learning to learn: examining one-trial learning in infants. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- West, K.L.**, Benitez, V.L., & Smith, L.B. (2010). Attention and Learning in Infants. Poster presented at 13th annual Women in Science Research Conference, Bloomington, IN.

Research Features in Popular Media

2017 *Walking doesn't deliver language gains for children with autism.* [Spectrum News](#) [\[link\]](#)

Mentoring Experience

Honors thesis supervisor

- Jarvis, E.R. (2018) Object Exploration During the Transition to Sitting: A Study of Infants at Heightened Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Finkelstein, E.R. (2015) Play as a predictor of diagnostic outcome in infants at risk for ASD.
- Flynn, E.R. (2015) The effect of walking status on maternal responses to communication in infants at high vs. low risk for ASD.

Directed research supervisor for 11 undergraduate students at University of Pittsburgh (2013-2019)

- Chen, Q.C. (2018-2019)
- Steward, S.E. (2018-2019)
- Crawley, Y.C. (2018)
- Lin, C.J. (2018-2019)
- Toval, C. (2017-2018)
- Cichoki, E.M. (2017-2018)

- Lee, J.Z. (2015-2017)
- Halfhill, R.J., (2015)
- Lockyer, P.B. (2014)
- Finkelstein, E.R. (2014-2015)
- Heymann, P. (2013)

Professional Services

- 2015-2018 Committee to redesign the honors thesis program at University of Pittsburgh
- Helped design and implement a seminar for honors thesis students.
 - Instructed seminar from Fall 2016 - Spring 2018.
 - Empirically evaluated course objectives.
- 2016-2018 Student representative at developmental faculty meetings
- 2018-present Peer Reviewer for: *Child Development, Developmental Psychology, Infancy, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Autism Research*

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2018 **Instructor**, Senior Honors Seminar
- Fall 2016-Fall 2017 **Co-Instructor**, Senior Honors Seminar
- July, 2017 **Guest Lecture** for Abnormal Psychology, *Autism spectrum disorders*
- Fall 2016, Spring 2017 **Instructor**, Recitations for Introduction to Psychology
- Fall 2015 **Instructor**, Research Methods in Psychology
- Fall 2012, Spring 2013 **TA**, Introduction to Psychology