

Curriculum Vitae

Research summary

I received a PhD in Cognitive, Perceptual & Brain Sciences from University College London in 2013. My doctoral research investigated how sign language experience influences perception and categorization of handshapes in British Sign Language. My current research investigates the effects of sign language knowledge and deafness on perception and cognition, and the role of modality in language processing. My research combines behavioral psycholinguistic and ERP methods to examine the temporal dynamics of spoken and sign language processing and hemispheric dominance in hearing and deaf individuals.

Current position

July 2015: Research Scientist, Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience, San Diego State University, San Diego, California, USA

Academic employment history

- 2013-15 Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience, San Diego State University, California, USA
- 2011-13 Lecturer in English Language & Communication, Kingston University, Surrey, UK
- 2010-11 Research Assistant, Deafness Cognition & Language Research Centre, University College London, UK
- 2010-11 Teaching Assistant, Research Methods in Psychology, Introduction to Psychological Experiments; Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
- 2009-10 Teaching Assistant, Sign Language Linguistics; Psychology and Language Science, University College London, UK
- 2009 Visiting Lecturer in Sign Language and Linguistics; University of Roehampton, UK
- 2009 Visiting Lecturer, English for Speakers of Other Languages; West London College, UK

Academic degrees

- 2013 PhD in Cognitive, Perceptual & Brain Sciences, Psychology and Language Sciences, Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre, University College London, UK
- 2007 Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics (distinction), Birkbeck College; London, UK
- 2005 Bachelor's Degree (1st Class Honors) in English Language & Linguistics; Kingston University; Surrey, UK

Grants and awards

- 2016 Best Early Career Researcher Award. Awarded by the Sign Language Linguistics Society (SLLS) at the 12th Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR), Melbourne, Jan 4-7, 2016.
- 2010 Best Student Paper Award, 2nd place. Awarded by the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS) at the Gesture – Evolution, Brain & Linguistic Structures conference, European University of Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, Jul 25-30, 2010.
- 2010 UCL Graduate School conference grant (£235)
- 2010 Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Conference Travel Grant (£170)
- 2008 UCL Graduate School major research skills training fund (£450)
- 2007 Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Doctoral Studentship Award (£14,050), Award no. 2006/136414, Supervisor Dr. K. Cormier
- 2005 English Language Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Kingston University

Other professional experience

- 2010 Language Expert, linguistic consultancy, Silver River Productions, London, UK
- 2009 Assistant Editor, *Deaf Worlds: Academic Journal of Deaf Studies*, Forest Books, UK
- 2007 Subtitling Production Assistant, Red Bee Media (formerly BBC Broadcast), London, UK

Certifications

- 2014 American Sign Language Level Two, Interpret San Diego, San Diego, USA
- 2008 Signature British Sign Language Level Two, London, UK
- 2001 Cambridge Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), London, UK

Publications

- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. and Emmorey, K. (under revision) Referential strategies in American Sign Language and English: The role of modality in establishing reference for difficult-to-name shapes.
- Emmorey, K., Midgley, K., Cohen, K., Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. & Holcomb, P. (under revision) The N170 ERP component differs in laterality, distribution, and association with continuous reading measures for deaf and hearing readers.
- Meade, G., Midgley, K. Sehyr Sevcikova, Z., Holcomb, P., & Emmorey, K. (under revision) Implicit co-activation of American Sign Language in deaf readers: An ERP study. *Brain and Language*.
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z., Petrich, J., & Emmorey, K. (2016) Fingerspelled and printed words are recoded into a speech-based code for short-term memory. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 22 (1), 72-87. doi.org/10.1093/deafed/enw068
- Keane, J., Sevcikova Sehyr, Z., Emmorey, K., and Brentari, D. (2017) A Theory-Driven Model of Handshape Similarity. *Phonology*, 34: Thematic issue: Computational phonology.

Zed Sevcikova Sehyr, PhD

Laboratory for Language & Cognitive Neuroscience
6495 Alvarado Road, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92120
zsevcikova@mail.sdsu.edu

- Caselli, N., Sevcikova Sehyr, Z., Cohen-Goldberg, A., & Emmorey, K. (2016). ASL-LEX: A lexical database of American Sign Language. *Behavior Research Methods*.
link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13428-016-0742-0 Visit: ASL-LEX.org
- Cormier, K., Smith, S., & Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. (2015). Rethinking Constructed Action, *Sign Language & Linguistics*, 18:2, pp. 167-204. DOI: [10.1075/sll.18.2.01cor](https://doi.org/10.1075/sll.18.2.01cor)
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. & Cormier, K. (2015) Perceptual categorization of handling handshapes in British Sign Language. *Language and Cognition*, available on CJO2015.
doi:10.1017/langcog.2015.4.
- Cormier, K., S. Smith & Sevcikova, Z. (2013) Predicate structures, gesture and simultaneity in the representation of action in British Sign Language: Evidence from deaf children and adults. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 18 (3), pp. 370-390.
- Sevcikova, Z. (2013) Categorical versus gradient properties of handling handshapes in British Sign Language (BSL). *Doctoral dissertation*, University College London.
- Cormier, K., Quinto-Pozos, D., Sevcikova, Z., & Schembri, A. (2012). Lexicalisation and de-lexicalisation processes in sign languages: Comparing depicting constructions and viewpoint gestures. *Language and Communication*, 32 (4), pp. 329–348

Conference Presentations

- Cormier, K. and Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. (2017) Viewpoint constructions in British Sign Language, co-speech gesture and silent gesture. Paper presented at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, January 5-8, 2017, Austin, TX
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z., Emmorey, K., Midgley, K., & Holcomb, P. (2016) Hemispheric lateralization of early ERP components in deaf and hearing readers with low and high vocabulary size. Poster presented at the 8th Annual Meeting for the Neurobiology of Language, London, England, UK, August 17-20, 2016
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z., Emmorey, K., Midgley, K., & Holcomb, P. (2016) Lateralization of the N170 for word and face processing in deaf signers. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, New York, April 2-5, 2016.
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. and Emmorey, K. (2014) *Representation of print and fingerspelling in short-term memory*. Paper presented at The 12th Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR), Melbourne, Jan 4-7, 2016.
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z., Caselli, N., Cohen-Goldberg, A., & Emmorey, K. (2016). *ASL-LEX: A lexical database of American Sign Language*. Poster presented at The 12th Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR), Melbourne, Jan 4-7, 2016
awarded Early Career Award by the Sign Language Linguistics Society

- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. and Emmorey, K. (2014) *Representation of print and fingerspelling in short-term memory*. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society's 55th Annual Meeting, Long Beach, California, USA, Nov 20-23, 2014.
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. & Emmorey, K. (2014) *The role of co-speech gesture in description of non-nameable shapes*. Paper presented at The 6th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, University of California, San Diego, July 8-11, 2014.
- Sevcikova, Z. (2013) *Are handling constructions in BSL conventional? Evidence from encoding of graspable object sizes in handling constructions*. Paper presented at the Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR11), London, 11th July, 2013
- Sevcikova, Z. (2012) *Structural complexities of handling handshapes in BSL: experimental evidence from deaf signers and hearing gesturers*. 34th DGfS Meeting, Language as a Complex System; Experimental Studies in Sign Language workshop, Frankfurt, 7th Mar, 2012
awarded 2nd place in Best Student Paper Competition by the International Society for Gesture Studies
- Sevcikova, Z. (2010) *Categorical perception & production of handling handshapes in BSL*. Paper presented at 4th UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference, U. of Hertfordshire, Jun 2012
- Sevcikova, Z. (2010) *Categorical vs. Gradient Properties of Handling Signs in BSL*. Poster presented at TISLR conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA, Sep 2010.

Invited Lectures & Plenaries

- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. (2016) *Hemispheric lateralization of early ERP components in deaf and hearing individuals*. Department of Linguistics Seminar Series, UBC, Vancouver, Canada, 18th May, 2016 <http://linguistics.ubc.ca/events/event/zed-sehyrs-research-seminar/>
- Sevcikova Sehyr, Z. (2016) *Is the lateralization of early visual encoding of words and faces affected by sign language expertise and deafness?* VL2 Student Network webinar, 4th Nov 2016.
- Sevcikova, Sehyr, Z. (2012) *Report on DCAL research activities and postgraduate study at UCL*. Department of Deaf Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, Charles University Prague, 13th Apr 2012. <http://ujkn.ff.cuni.cz/?q=en/node/652>
- Sevcikova, Z. (2010) *Categorical perception and production of handling handshapes in BSL: evidence from BSL signing and hearing gesture*. Plenary lecture presented at "Gesture – Evolution, Brain and Linguistic Structures" international conference, ISGS, European University of Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, Jul 2010
- Sevcikova, Z. (2011) *Handshapes in BSL and gesture*. Language and Cognition Speaker Series, University of Birmingham, UK, 19th May, 2011.
- Sevcikova, Z. (2009) *Introduction to Sign Language Acquisition*, Kingston University, Kingston-upon-Thames, UK, 8th Dec 2009.
- Sevcikova, Z. (2009) *Introduction to Deaf Community, Sign Language and Communication*. Kingston University, Kingston-upon-Thames, UK, 25th Nov 2009.
- Sevcikova, Z. (2009) *Subtitling: theory and practice*. Professional Skills for Linguists module. Kingston University, Kingston-upon-Thames, UK, 23rd Mar 2009

Zed Sevcikova Sehyr, PhD

Laboratory for Language & Cognitive Neuroscience
6495 Alvarado Road, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92120
zsevcikova@mail.sdsu.edu

Research supervision

- 2013 – Undergraduate student laboratory supervision, LLCN, SDSU
2013 BA Dissertation in English Language and Communication entitled “Non-verbal communication and gesture in intercultural relationships”
2012 MA Dissertations in Education, entitled “Using role play to teach speaking in English Foreign Language (EFL) class”
2008 MA Dissertation in Applied Linguistics entitled “Evading difficult questions in news interviews”

Conference organization

- 2011 Current Issues in Sign Linguistics, Deafness & Cognition (CISLDC11) PG; Organizing Committee, Scientific Committee.

Professional societies membership

AAAS Member
ISGS: International Society for Gesture Studies Member
LAGB: Linguistic Association of Great Britain Member
LSA Linguistic Society of America Member
Psychonomic Society Member
SLLS: Sign Language Linguistics Society Member

Languages

English (proficient)
Czech (proficient)
American Sign Language (proficient)
British Sign Language (intermediate)
German (intermediate)
Turkish (elementary)