

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**LAURA M. LAKUSTA**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Montclair State University  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Psychology  
Assistant Professor  
1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043  
(973) 655-7951  
lakustal@mail.montclair.edu

## **EDUCATION**

2005	Johns Hopkins University	Ph.D.	Cognitive Developmental Psychology/Cognitive Science
2001	Johns Hopkins University	M.A.	Cognitive Developmental Psychology
2000	Lehigh University	B.A.	Major: Psychology Minor: Biology

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2005-2008

**Laura M. Lakusta**

***TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS A GRADUATE / UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT***

- 9/00-2/04 Johns Hopkins University, Department of Psychology, Assistant Teacher, Part Time. Assisted teaching: *Language Development, Written Language, Introduction to Human Learning and Memory, Issues in Mental Health Care and Counseling, Sleep, Arousal, and Altered States of Consciousness, Physiological Psychology, Motivation, Abnormal Psychology*
- 9/98-5/99 Lehigh University, Department of Psychology, Teacher's Assistant, Part Time. Assisted teaching: *Child Development, Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis*

***INDEPENDENT STUDY/THESIS PROJECTS DIRECTED***

- 1/08-present Rachel Reardon, "The Role of Causality in Event Representations", Harvard University Undergraduate Honor's Thesis Proposal
- 6/07-8/07 Amanda Utevsky, "Foundations of Spatial Language: Do Infants Categorize "To" and "From"?", Poster presented at Harvard University's Laboratory for Developmental Studies Poster Symposium
- 6/07-8/07 Samuel Messing, "Endpoint Bias in Non-Linguistic Representations of Motion Events", Poster presented at Harvard University's Laboratory for Developmental Studies Poster Symposium
- 6/06-8/06 Lisa Hong, "Non-Linguistic Representations of Motion Events", Poster presented at Harvard University's Laboratory for Developmental Studies Poster Symposium
- 6/03-12/04 John Paul Stephens, "Source Vulnerability in Non-Linguistic Event Representations", Morgan State University Poster Presentation

***MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENT RECORD***

- 9/08 - Assistant Professor  
present

***MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTIONAL RECORD***

1/09

**ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

Landau, B. and Lakusta, L. (in press). Spatial representations across species: geometry, language, and maps. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*. **Invited/Peer reviewed.**

Wagner, L. and Lakusta, L. (in press). Using language to navigate the infant mind. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. **Peer reviewed.**

McRoberts, G.W. McDonough, C., Lakusta, L. (in press). The role of verbal repetition in the development of infant speech preferences from 4- to 14-months of age. *Infancy*. **Peer reviewed.**

Lakusta, L., Wagner, L., O'Hearn, K., & Landau, B. (2007). Conceptual foundations of spatial language: Evidence for a goal bias in infants. *Language Learning and Development*, 3(3), 179-197. **Peer reviewed.**

*Space in  
languages: linguistic systems and cognitive categories. Part of the Typological  
Studies in Language series*  
**Invited.**

Lakusta, L., & Landau, B. (2005). Starting at the end: The importance of goals in spatial language. *Cognition*, 96, 1-33. **Peer reviewed.**

Gomez, R. L., & Lakusta, L. (2004). A first step in form-based category abstraction by 12-month- old infants. *Developmental Science*, 7(5), 567-580. **Peer reviewed.**

Landau, B., Hoffman, J. E., Reiss, J. E., Dilks, D. D., Lakusta, L., & Chunyo, G. (2004). Specialization and breakdown in spatial cognition: Lessons from Williams syndrome. In C. Morris, H. Lenhoff, & P. Wang (Eds.), *Williams-Beuren Syndrome: Research and Clinical Perspectives*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. **Invited.**

Thomas, M., Grant, J., Barham, Z., Gsoedl, M., Laing, E., Lakusta, L., Tyler, L. K., Grice, S., Paterson, S., & Karmiloff-Smith, A. (2001). Past tense formation in Williams syndrome. *Special Issue: Language and Cognitive Processes in Developmental Disorders*, 16(2), 143-176. **Peer reviewed.**

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Muentener, P. & Lakusta, L. (2009). The language of causal events: Exploring the link between representations of intentional action and causal events. Paper to be presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, April, Denver.

O'Hearn, K., Jollie, L., Schroer, E., Lakusta, L., Luna, B. (2008). Impaired processing of the meaningful parts of a visual scene in autism. Poster presented at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, May, Pittsburgh.

Lakusta, L. (2008). Infants' categorization of sources and goals in motion events. Paper presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, March, Vancouver, Canada.

**Laura M. Lakusta**

---

Muentener, P., Lakusta, L., Harper, K., & Carey, S. (2008). Representations of causality on young children's causal language. Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, March, Vancouver, Canada.

Lakusta, L., Reardon, R., Oakes, L., & Carey, S. (2007). A goal bias in pre-linguistic thought and language: How strong is the homology? Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development, November, Boston.

Lakusta, L., Dessalegn, B., & Landau, B. (2007). A role for language in reorientation: Evidence from Williams syndrome. Paper presented at the Cognitive Development Society, October, Santa Fe.

Lakusta, L., & Landau, B. (2007). Goal bias in language and in non-linguistic motion event representations. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, April, Boston.

Lakusta, L., Dessalegn, B., & Landau, B. (2006). Failure to represent geometry in people with Williams syndrome? Paper presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, November, Houston.

Lakusta, L., Dessalegn, B., & Landau, B. (2006). Navigation in Williams syndrome: Successes and failures. Paper presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Conference on Williams syndrome, July, Richmond.

Lakusta, L., Yoshida, H., Landau, B., & Smith, L. (2006). Cross-linguistic evidence for a goal/source asymmetry: The case of Japanese. Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, June, Kyoto, Japan.

Lakusta, L., Wessel, A., & Landau, B. (2006). Goal bias in non-linguistic motion event representations: The role of intentionality. Poster presented at the Vision Science Society Annual Meeting, May, Sarasota.

Lakusta, L. (2006). Conceptual foundations of spatial language: Infants' representations of goals and sources in motion events. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, March, Baltimore.

Lakusta, L., Wessel, A., & Landau, B. (2005). Asymmetries in motion event representations. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, November, Toronto, Canada.

Wagner, L., Lakusta, L., O'Hearn, K., & Landau, B. (2005). Sources, manners, and goals: The conceptual foundations of spatial language. Invited paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, April, Atlanta.

Lakusta, L., Wagner, L., O'Hearn, K., & Landau, B. (2004). Conceptual foundations of spatial language: Goals and sources in manner of motion events. Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development, November, Boston.

Lakusta, L., Wagner, L., O'Hearn Donny, K., & Landau, B. (2004). Conceptual foundations of spatial language: The importance of goals in motion events. Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, May, Chicago.

**Laura M. Lakusta**

---

Lakusta, L., Licona, R., & Landau, B. (2004). 'Source vulnerability' in normal and atypical development. Poster presented at the Conference on Human Development, April, Washington, DC.

Lakusta, L., Licona, R., & Landau, B. (2003). Sources, goals, and the representation of events in language. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, April, Tampa.

Gomez, R. L., & Lakusta, L. (2002). Probabilistic language learning. Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development, November, Boston.

Lakusta, L., Licona, R., & Landau, B. (2002). The interaction between spatial representation and spatial language: The language of events. Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development, November, Boston.

McRoberts, G. W., Lakusta, L., McDonough, C., & McKee, A. (2002). Differential bias during infant gaze to speech and music. Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, April, Toronto, Canada.

***INVITED PRESENTATIONS***

Lakusta, L. (2009). The interaction between spatial cognition and language: The case of sources and goals. Invited paper to be presented at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Institute for the Study of Child Development, May, New Brunswick.

Lakusta, L. (2009). Sources and goals: A case for parallel structure between spatial cognition and language. Invited paper to be presented at City University Graduate Center, May, New York.

Lakusta, L. (2009). Infants' representations of goals and sources in motion events. Invited paper presented at University of Maryland, Department of Psychology, March, College Park.

Lakusta, L. (2009). Sources and Goals: Representations in normally developing infants, children, and adults and children who have Williams syndrome. Invited paper presented at New York University, Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, February, New York.

Lakusta, L. (2007). Sources and Goals: A case for parallel structure. Invited paper presented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Event Reading Group, May, Boston.

Lakusta, L. (2007). Starting points and Endpoints: A case for parallel structure? Invited paper presented at Harvard University, Laboratory for Developmental Studies, March, Boston.

Lakusta, L. (2005). The role of intentionality in a goal/source asymmetry. Invited paper presented at Harvard University, Laboratory for Developmental Studies, September, Boston.

## **Laura M. Lakusta**

---

Lakusta, L. (2005). Sources and goals in motion events: How strong is the homology?  
Invited paper presented at University of Chicago, Department of Psychology,  
January, Chicago.

### ***RESEARCH IN PROGRESS***

Lakusta, L., & Carey, S. (under revision). Pre-linguistic encoding of goal paths and  
source paths in motion events.

Lakusta, L., & Landau, B. (under revision). Language and memory for motion events:  
Origins of the asymmetry between source and goal paths.

O'Hearn, K., Jollie, L., Schroer, E., Lakusta, L., Luna, B. (under review). Impaired  
processing of the meaningful parts of a visual scene in autism.

### ***GRANTS***

9/05-8/08 National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, Individual Ruth L.  
Kirschstein National Research Service Award, \$136, 840  
Scored at 1.3 percentile

### ***AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS***

2003-2005 National Science Foundation, Integrative Graduate Education & Research  
Training (IGERT) Fellowship

2003 Johns Hopkins University, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Endowed  
Graduate Student Fellowship

2002 Paula Menyuk Award, Boston University Conference on Language  
Development

### ***RESEARCH EXPERIENCE***

9/05-8/08 Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard University, Department of Psychology,  
Laboratory for Developmental Studies  
Investigated the conceptual foundations of spatial language. Explored infants'  
and children's conceptual representations of motion events.

6/01-7/05 IGERT Graduate Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University, Department of  
Cognitive Science, Language and Cognition Laboratory  
Investigated the interaction between spatial cognition and language. Explored  
linguistic and non-linguistic representations in normally developing infants and  
children, and individuals with Williams syndrome.

**Laura M. Lakusta**

9/00-6/01 Graduate Research Fellow, John

---

**Laura M. Lakusta**

---

Developmental Science

Infancy

Language and Cognitive Processes

National Science Foundation

***Professional Affiliations***

Spatial Learning Network

Society for Research in Child Development

Women in Cognitive Science

Cognitive Development Society

Society for Language Development