

Dr Robin Thompson PhD

Senior Birmingham Fellow

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About

Robin Thompson is a cognitive psychologist interested in the underlying nature of human language (both signed and spoken) and, in particular, how language is related to other aspects of cognition.

Qualifications

BA, Linguistics, California State University of Northridge
MA Linguistics, University of California, San Diego
PhD Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego

Biography

Robin Thompson worked as a sign language interpreter and teacher before receiving her MA in Linguistics and then her PhD in Cognitive Science and Linguistics at University of California, San Diego.

She has worked at The Salk Institute (Laboratory for Cognitive Neuroscience) and at San Diego State University (Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience) with Professor Karen Emmorey and at the Deafness Cognition and Language Research Centre at UCL.

Postgraduate supervision

Please email if you are interested in pursuing research (at any level) in multimodal communication, sign language research, linguistics, psycholinguistics or language and cognition.

Research

Scopus ID: 26533479100

Our understanding of language is changing from a view of language as a system separated from other aspects of cognition, to one in which language is understood to be highly integrated with (and dependent on) other cognitive systems. Robin's research deals with the interaction and dependency of language on different aspects of human cognition, with a particular focus on the relationship between language (both in terms of acquisition and processing) and modality.

Publications

Thompson, R.L., Emmorey, K., Kluender, R & Langdon, C. (in press). The eyes don't point: Understanding language universals through person marking in American Signed Language. *Lingua*.

Frank, S., Fernandez-Monslave I., **Thompson, R.L.**, Vigliocco, G. (2013). Reading-time data for evaluating broad-coverage models of English sentence processing. *Behavior Research Methods*.

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Thompson, R.L., Vinson, D.P, Vigliocco, G. (2010). The link between form and meaning in British Sign Language: Effects of Iconicity for Phonological Decisions. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning Memory and Cognition*. 36(4):1017-1027.

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Emmorey, K., Borinstein, H.B., **Thompson, R.L.**, Gollan, T.H. (2009). Bimodal bilingualism. In, *Hearing, Mother Father Deaf*. M. Bishop & S. Hicks (Eds). Washington DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Emmorey, K., **Thompson, R.L.**, Colvin, R. (2008). Eye gaze during comprehension of American Sign Language by native and beginning signers. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 14: 237-243.

Emmorey, K., Borinstein, H.B., **Thompson, R.L.**, & Gollan, T.H. (2008). Bimodal bilingualism. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 11 (1), 43–61.

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