

FRANCES GROSVENOR COOLEY, PhD

Department of Liberal Studies
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Rochester Institute of Technology · 52 Lomb Memorial Drive · Rochester, NY 14623
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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Psychology JANUARY 2024– PRESENT
Department of Liberal Studies, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology

Postdoctoral Researcher JANUARY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023
Department of Psychology, University of South Florida

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Eye-tracking and reading, psycholinguistics, unimodal and bimodal bilingualism, acquisition of signed and spoken languages, signed and spoken developmental language disorders, reading development, reading disorders, developmental psychology.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN AUSTIN, TX
Ph.D., Linguistics DECEMBER 2021
Advisor David Quinto-Pozos

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN AUSTIN, TX
M.A., Linguistics MAY 2018
Advisor David Quinto-Pozos

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER ROCHESTER, NY
B.A., Brain and Cognitive Science, American Sign Language JUNE 2013

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dissertation Fellow, National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer, 2020
Investigating the role of visual language on reading strategies in native deaf signers.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (RIT) ROCHESTER, NY
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (NTID)
Assistant Professor, Psychology JANUARY 2024 – PRESENT
Primary Investigator, Reading And Deafness (RAD) Lab

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

TAMPA, FL

Postdoctoral Researcher, Psychology

JANUARY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023

Project: The role of perceptual and word identification spans in reading efficiency:
Evidence from deaf and hearing adults

Postdoctoral subproject: The role of length, frequency, and predictability: Evidence from
deaf and hearing adults

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

AUSTIN, TX

Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researcher

APRIL 2019 – DECEMBER 2023

Vocabulary development of visual language and reading in native signers (Co-I: David
Quinto-Pozos).

Doctoral Researcher

SEPTEMBER 2018 – DECEMBER 2021

Spelling and sounds: Phonological and orthographic processing during single-word
reading (Co-I: David Quinto-Pozos)

Investigating the role of phonological awareness of deaf children during reading (Co-I:
David Quinto-Pozos)

Examining cases of atypical signed language acquisition (ASA) (Co-I: David Quinto-
Pozos)

EXTERNAL FUNDING

R21 Exploratory Research Grant, National Institute of Health (NIH), NIDCD

PI: Frances Cooley

Co-I: David Quinto-Pozos (UT Austin)

*Deafness, sign language, and the emergence of reading efficiency: An eye-tracking study
of native signing deaf adolescents*

Impact Score: 30 Percentile: 13th

Funding: September 26th, 2025 – August 31st, 2028; \$498,968

National Scientific Foundation, Alexandria, VA.

PIs: Elizabeth Schotter, Karen Emmorey

Supplemental Funding for Postdoctoral Researchers to Mitigate COVID19 Impacts on
Research Career Development

Funding for March 2022 – March 2024, \$200,000

National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, Washington D.C.

PI: Frances Cooley

Funding for September 2020 – August 2021: \$27,500

INTERNAL FUNDING

AdvanceRIT Partnership Grant

Co-PI: Lilia Rissman

Faculty For Food Security

Funding: January, 2026 – December, 2026: \$2,480

Awarded: November, 2025

Grant Writers Boot Camp Seed Funding, RIT, Sponsored Research Services

PI: Frances Cooley

Deafness, sign language, and the inverted word effect.

Funding: May, 2025 – April, 2026: \$5,000

Awarded: February, 2025

Sponsored Portfolio Development Initiative (SPDI), RIT/NTID, Rochester NY

PI: Frances Cooley

Co-PIs: Karen Emmorey (SDSU), Rain Bosworth (RIT/NTID)

Early language experience and reading behaviors of deaf adults: An eye-tracking study

Funding: May, 2024 – April, 2026: \$14,950

PUBLICATIONS

Emmorey, K., Akers, E. M., Saunders, E., Bannazadeh, M., Droubi, E., **Cooley, F. G.**, & Schotter, E. R. (2025). Assessing the Effects of Sign Language Experience Versus Deafness on the Leftward Reading Span. *Cognitive Science*, 49(12), e70162. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.70162>

Sinclair, G, **Cooley, F. G.**, Stringer, C., Saunders, E., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E. (in press). The impact of an enhanced perceptual span on landing position: Evidence from hearing and deaf readers. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*.

Cooley, F. G., Emmorey, K., Saunders, E., & Schotter, E. R. (2025). Presenting the Signers' Eye-movements in English Reading (SEER) Corpus: An eye-tracking dataset of reading behaviors by deaf early signers and hearing non-signers. *Behavior Research Methods*, 58(1), 26. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-025-02881-2>

Cooley, F. G., Saunders, E., Sinclair, G., Stringer, C., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E.R., (2025). Identifying text-based factors that contribute to the superior reading efficiency of skilled deaf readers: An eye-tracking study of length, frequency, and predictability. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Language, Memory, and Cognition*. DOI: 10.1037/xlm0001415

Schotter, E.R., Stringer, C., **Cooley, F.G.**, Saunders, E., Sinclair, G., & Emmorey, K. (2024). The perceptual and word identification spans in reading: Evidence from deaf and hearing adults. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 153 (10), 2359 – 2377.

Stringer, C., **Cooley, F. G.**, Saunders, E., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E.R. (2024). An enhanced leftward word identification for deaf readers. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 77 (10), 2098 – 2110.

Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D. (2023). Examining speech-based phonological recoding during reading for adolescent deaf signers. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 152 (7), 1995-2007.

Quinto-Pozos, D. & **Cooley, F. G.** (2020). A developmental disorder of signed language production in a native deaf signer of ASL. *Languages: Atypical Speech, Language, and Communication Development*, 5 (40).

Shield, A., **Cooley, F. G.**, & Meier, R.P. (2017). Sign language echolalia in deaf children with Autism spectrum disorder, *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 60, 1622-1634.

UNDER REVIEW

Schotter, E.R., Milligan, S., **Cooley, F.G.**, & Emmorey, K. (revisions under review). Assessing individual differences in the perceptual and word identification spans during reading in deaf and hearing adult readers. *Psychonomics Bulletin and Review*.

IN PREP

Cooley, F.G. & Quinto-Pozos, D. (in prep). First- and second-language vocabulary knowledge predict different aspects of eye-movements during reading in deaf children who are developing ASL-English bilinguals.

Cooley, F.G., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E.R., (in prep). Reading proficiency modulates text characteristic effects differently for deaf early signers than hearing non-signers: Evidence from eye-tracking.

Kline, A. & **Cooley, F. G.** (in prep). Biological correlates of reading and dyslexia in bilingual deaf children.

Cooley, F. G., Schotter, E. R., & Emmorey (in prep). Deafness, early sign language experience, and the impact of text characteristics on reading strategies: Evidence from early deaf and hearing signers.

Cooley, F. G. and Hirshorn, E. (in prep). A unique case of text processing expertise: A study of the inverted word effect in deaf early signers of American Sign Language.

Cooley, F. G. (in prep). From sounds to signs: A review of eye-tracking-while-reading studies with deaf child signers.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Cooley, F.G. (under review). *Deafness, early sign language exposure, and the emergence of enhanced reading efficiency: Evidence from eye-tracking*. Advances in the Understanding of Modality in Sign, Gesture, and Speech (Eds. Cormier, K., Quinto-Pozos, D., & Shield, A.)

PRESENTATIONS

Cooley, F. G., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E. R. (2025). *Deafness or visual language experience: What drives deaf early signers' efficient reading?* Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Denver, CO. 21 November, 2025.

- Emmorey, K., Akers, E., Saunders, E., Bannazadeh, M., Droubi, E., **Cooley, F. G.**, & Schotter, E. R. (2025). *Assessing the effects of sign language experience vs. deafness on the leftward reading span*. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Denver, CO. 21 November, 2025.
- Schotter, E. R., Saunders, E., **Cooley, F. G.**, Sinclair, G., & Emmorey, K. (2024). *Where and when saccade decisions do not dissociate with perceptual and word identification spans: Evidence from the eye movements of deaf and hearing readers*. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York, NY. November, 2024.
- Cooley, F. G.**, Emmorey, K., Saunders, E., Sinclair, G., Stringer, C., & Schotter, E. R. (2024). *A corpus study of length, frequency, and surprisal effects in deaf and hearing readers*. European Conference on Eye-Movements, Maynooth, Ireland. August 25 – 29, 2024.
- Emmorey, K., Stringer, C., Saunders, E., Sinclair, G., **Cooley, F. G.**, Schotter, E. R. (2024). *The unique eye movement profile of deaf readers reveals the plasticity of the reading system*. European Conference on Eye-Movements, Maynooth, Ireland. August 25 – 29, 2024.
- Schotter, E. R., Stringer, C., Saunders, E., **Cooley, F. G.**, Sinclair, G., & Emmorey, K. (2024). *Perceptual and word identification spans do not differentially impact when and where saccade decisions*. European Conference on Eye-Movements, Maynooth, Ireland. August 25 – 29, 2024.
- Cooley, F. G.**, Saunders, E., Stringer, C., Sinclair, G., Schotter, E. R., & Emmorey, K. (2023). *Rethinking deafness, reading, and bilingualism: Evidence from eye-tracking*. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society, San Francisco, CA. November 18th, 2023.
- Cooley, F. G.** & Schotter, E. R. (2023b). *Reading efficiency and the unique experience of deaf signers: Evidence from eye-tracking*. Florida Psycholinguistics Meeting, Gainesville, FL. October 21st, 2023.
- Cooley, F. G.** & Schotter, E. (2023a). *What do eye-movements of skilled deaf readers reveal about bilingual readers?* Human Sentence Processing HSP2023. Pittsburgh, PA. March 10th, 2023.
- Cooley, F. G.** & Schotter, E. (2022). *Skilled, efficient reading in deaf child signers: A small-scale eye-tracking study*. European Conference on Eye-Movements, Leicester, UK. August 21 – 25, 2022.
- Sehyr, Z., **Cooley, F. G.**, & Quinto-Pozos, D. (2021). *Reading and visual recognition skills in deaf and hard-of-hearing signers*. Symposium panel presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, online meeting. July 14 – 17, 2021.
- Quinto-Pozos, D. & **Cooley, F. G.** (2021). *Vocabulary knowledge and reading for ASL-English bilinguals*. Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, online meeting, July 15, 2021.

INVITED TALKS

Cooley, F. G. (2025). So I majored in ASL. Where can I go from here? *Careers In the Deaf Community (ASL 280)*, University of Rochester, November 6th, 2025.

Cooley, F. G. (2024). Rethinking deafness, reading, and bilingualism: Evidence from eye-tracking. *The Science of Neural, Interpersonal Communication (SoNIC) Lab*, University of Rochester, Rochester NY. March 8th, 2024.

Cooley, F. G. & Saunders, E. (2023). What do eye-movements reveal about deaf readers? *PEN Program*, Gallaudet University. September 20th, 2023.

Cooley, F. G. (2023). What do eye-movements reveal about deaf readers? *Psycholinguistics Lab*, University of Birmingham. 12th May 2023.

Cooley, F. G. (2022). Deaf and hearing children read differently: Evidence from two small-scale psycholinguistic studies. *SPaCE Center*, RIT/NTID. 22nd March 2022.

POSTERS

Cooley, F. G., Saunders, E., Sinclair, G., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E. R., (2024). *Length, frequency, and surprisal effects and reading efficiency: Evidence from a corpus analysis of deaf and hearing readers' eye-movements*. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York, NY. November, 2024.

Sinclair, G., **Cooley, F. G.,** Saunders, E., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E. (2024). *The effect of a larger reading span on landing position in deaf readers: An eye-tracking study*. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York, NY. November, 2024.

Stringer, C., **Cooley, F. G.,** Saunders, E., Sinclair, G., Emmorey, K., & Schotter, E.R. (2023). *Deaf Readers Use Leftward Information to Read More Efficiently: Evidence from Eye Tracking*. Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA. November 18th, 2023.

Saunders, E., Stringer, C., Sinclair, G., **Cooley, F. G.,** Schotter, E. R., & Emmorey, K. (2023). *Predictors of Word and Sign Superiority Effects for Deaf Readers*. Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA. November 17th, 2023.

Sinclair, G., **Cooley, F., G.** & Schotter, E. R. (2023) "The impact of deaf readers' visual enhancements on the precision of landing position during reading". *Florida Psycholinguistics Meeting*, Gainesville, FL. October 21st, 2023.

Cooley, F. G. & Schotter, E. R. "Deafness, bilingualism, and the Big Three: How do length, frequency, and predictability support efficient reading in deaf native signers?" *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP) 2023*, San Sebastian, Spain. August 31st, 2023.

- Cooley, F. G. & Schotter, E. R.** “Length, Frequency, and Predictability: Examining the Impact of the Big 3 on Skilled Deaf Readers”. *Meeting of the Psychonomic Society 2022*, Boston, Mass., November 18th, 2022.
- Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D.** “Investigating the Role of Phonological Awareness on Reading in Deaf Native Signers” *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research*, Hamburg, Germany, September 27th, 2019.
- Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D.** “Investigating Language Knowledge and Reading Skill in Native Deaf Signers” *Workshop on Reading, Language, and Deafness*, San Sebastian, Spain, October 18th, 2018.
- Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D.** “Investigating the Role of Phonological Awareness on Phonological Recoding in Early Deaf Readers” *Workshop on Reading, Language, and Deafness*, San Sebastian, Spain, October 17th, 2018.
- Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D.** “Atypical Language Production for a Deaf Adolescent Native Signer” *Linguistics Society of America*. Austin, TX., January 5-9th, 2017.
- Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D.** “Atypical Language Production of a Deaf Adolescent Signer: Motor Disorder or Language Disorder?” *SRCD Pre-Conference Graduate Student Workshop on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Research*. April 28th, 2017.
- Cooley, F. G. & Quinto-Pozos, D.** “Native-Signing Children with Autism Produce Signed Echoes” *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*. Madison, WI., June 17th, 2016.
- Cooley, F.G. & Shield, A.** “Three Possible Modality Differences Between Signed and Spoken Language Echolalia” *Theoretical Issues Sign Language Research*. Melbourne, Australia, January 6th, 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ROCHESTER, NY

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Cognitive Psychology- PSYC 223	F25
Cognitive Science Colloquium- COGS 801	F24, S25, F25
Quantitative Research Methods- LEAD 351	S25, S26
Psychological Disorders- PSYC 221	F24
Introduction to Psychology- PSYC101	S24

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

AUSTIN, TX

Instructor of Record

Introduction to Linguistics- LIN101	F18, S19, F19
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Teaching Assistant

Introduction to the Human Mind (Nathan Engel-Hawbecker, Philosophy)	F21
Introduction to Linguistics (Nora England, Linguistics)	S20
Introduction to Cognitive Science (Suzanne van der Feest, Linguistics)	S17, S18
Language Change and Language Variation (Danny Law, Linguistics)	F16, F17
Bilingual Language Acquisition (David Quinto-Pozos, Linguistics)	S16
Phonetics (Scott Myers, Linguistics)	F15

STUDENT MENTORSHIP**Doctoral Dissertation and Masters Thesis Committees**

Doctoral Dissertation (committee member)

Student: Christina Kim (Gallaudet University) SPRING 2025- PRESENT

Project: language anxiety, a negative emotional response associated with understanding, producing, and learning language, in d/Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing adults.

Student: Amanda Kline (Gallaudet University) SPRING 2025- FALL 2025

Project: Biological correlates of reading and dyslexia in bilingual deaf children

Defense date: 11/17/2025

Masters/Qualifying Exam Thesis Committees

Student: Savannah Tellander SPRING 2026- PRESENT

Project: A systematic review on conversational turn-taking in signed languages, with a focus on visual-spatial cues, anticipation, and interactional coordination

Defense date: 04/24/2026

Undergraduate Capstone/Honors Thesis

National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology

Student: Bella Sellers FALL 2025

Project: Assessing Mental Health and Addiction in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing College Students

Role: Capstone Project Advisor, COLA

Student: Maria Stull Escobar SPRING 2025

Project: Does nature-based education encourage social and emotional development in deaf children?

Role: Capstone Project Mentor, COLA

Undergraduate Supervising Experience

Student: Mackenzie Gibson FALL 2024– PRESENT

Project: The role of length, frequency, and predictability: Evidence from deaf and hearing adults

Role: Undergraduate Research Assistant

Student: Cameron Hoffman SPRING 2024– PRESENT
Project: The role of length, frequency, and predictability: Evidence from deaf and hearing adults
Role: Undergraduate Research Assistant

Student: Janeva Mosher SPRING 2024– FALL, 2024
Project: The role of length, frequency, and predictability: Evidence from deaf and hearing adults
Role: Deaf Undergraduate Research Assistant

University of South Florida

Student: Casey Stringer SPRING 2022– SPRING 2024
Project: The role of perceptual and word identification spans in reading efficiency: Evidence from deaf and hearing adults

Student: Grace Sinclair SPRING 2022– SPRING 2024
Project: The role of perceptual and word identification spans in reading efficiency: Evidence from deaf and hearing adults

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Analysis programs: PRAAT, Elan, R
 Software: PsychoPy, Pavlovia.org, Experiment Builder, DataViewer
 Coding: Python, tidyverse

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Faculty For Food Security, Founding Member	FALL '25 – PRESENT
NTID Scholarship Awards Committee Member	FALL '25
RIT Cognitive Science Colloquium Organizer	FALL '24 – PRESENT
Tutor, Philosophy and Psychology	SPRING '24 – PRESENT
PhD in Cognitive Science Admissions Committee, RIT	WINTER '24 – SPRING '25
Endometriosis Foundation of Houston	SPRING '23 – SUMMER '24
Founding Member, Anti-Racism Committee (UT Austin)	SUMMER '20 – DEC. '21
Executive Committee for the Associated Students of Linguistics	FALL '18 – FALL '20
Psycholinguistics Faculty Member Search Committee Member	DEC '19 – JAN '20
Co-chair; 17 th Texas Linguistics Society (TLS 17); Austin, TX.	SEPT '17
Co-chair; 25th meeting of the Symposium About Language and Society Austin (SALSA); Austin, TX.,	APR '17

REFERENCES

Elizabeth R. Schotter, Ph.D.

David Quinto-Pozos, Ph.D.

Richard P. Meier, Ph.D.

Karen Emmorey, Ph.D.

Rain Bosworth, Ph.D.

Matthew Dye, Ph.D.