

Kensy Cooperrider

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (2012 – present)
Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Psychology
Supervisor: Susan Goldin-Meadow

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (2014 – present)
Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Psychology
Supervisor: Dedre Gentner

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH (2011 – 2012)
Visiting Assistant Professor/Instructor, Department of Cognitive Science

EDUCATION

University of California – San Diego, La Jolla, CA (2005 – 2011)
PhD in Cognitive Science
Dissertation: “Reference in action: Links between pointing and language”
Chair: Rafael Núñez

Duke University, Durham, NC (1999 – 2003)
BA in Linguistics, *Summa cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

general: communication and cognition

specific: gesture and language; metaphor and analogy; diversity and universals

PUBLICATIONS

Cooperrider, Kensy (*to appear*). Foreground gesture, background gesture. *Gesture*.

Cooperrider, Kensy, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2017). When gesture becomes analogy. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 9(3), 719-737.

Cooperrider, Kensy, Tyler Marghetis, and Rafael Núñez (2017). Where does the ordered line come from? Evidence from a culture of Papua New Guinea. *Psychological Science*, 28(5), 599-608.

Cooperrider, Kensy, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2017). Gesture, language, and cognition. In B. Dancygier (Ed.) *Cambridge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics* (pp. 118-134). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Cooperrider, Kensy, James Slotta, and Rafael Núñez (2017). Uphill and downhill in a flat world: The conceptual topography of the Yupno house. *Cognitive Science*, 41, 768-799.

- Cooperrider, Kensy**, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2016). Spatial analogies pervade complex relational reasoning: Evidence from spontaneous gestures. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 1, 28. doi:10.1186/s41235-016-0024-5
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2016). The co-organization of demonstratives and pointing gestures. *Discourse Processes*, 53(8), 632-656.
- Walker, Esther, and **Kensy Cooperrider** (2016). The continuity of metaphor: Evidence from temporal gestures. *Cognitive Science*, 40, 481-495.
- Abner, Natasha, **Kensy Cooperrider**, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2015). Gesture for linguists: A handy primer. *Language & Linguistics Compass*, 9(11), 437-449.
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2014). Body-directed gestures: Pointing to the self and beyond. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 71, 1-16.
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, Rafael Núñez, and Eve Sweetser (2014). The conceptualization of time in gesture. In C. Müller, A. Cienki, E. Fricke, S. Ladewig, D. McNeill, and J. Bressemer (Eds.) *Body-Language-Communication (vol. 2)* (pp. 1781-1788). New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Núñez, Rafael, and **Kensy Cooperrider** (2013). The tangle of space and time in human cognition. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 17(5), 220-229.
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, and Rafael Núñez (2012). Nose-pointing: Notes on a facial gesture of Papua New Guinea. *Gesture*, 12(2), 103-129.
- Núñez, Rafael, **Kensy Cooperrider**, D Doan, and Jürg Wassmann (2012). Contours of time: Topographic construals of past, present, and future in an indigenous group of Papua New Guinea. *Cognition*, 124(1), 25-35.
- Núñez, Rafael, **Kensy Cooperrider**, and Jürg Wassmann (2012). Numbers without number lines in an indigenous group of Papua New Guinea. *PLoS One*, 7(4), e35662.
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, and Rafael Núñez (2009). Across time, across the body: Transversal temporal gestures. *Gesture*, 9(2), 181-206.

Manuscripts in progress

- Cooperrider, Kensy**, James Slotta, and Rafael Núñez (*in revision*). The preference for pointing with the hand is not universal.
- Marghetis, Tyler*, Melanie McComsey*, and **Kensy Cooperrider*** (*submitted*). Spatial words anchor non-linguistic spatial cognition. [**authors contributed equally*]
- Fenlon, Jordan, **Kensy Cooperrider**, Jonathan Keane, Diane Brentari, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (*submitted*). Comparing sign language and gesture: Insights from pointing.

Peer-reviewed conference proceedings

- Cooperrider, Kensy**, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2017). Analogical gestures foster understanding of causal systems. In G. Gunzelmann, A. Howes, T. Tenbrink, & E. Davelaar (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 240-245). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2016). Gesture reveals spatial analogies during complex relational reasoning. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.

Trueswell (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 692-697). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Cooperrider, Kensy, Elizabeth Wakefield, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2015). More than meets the eye: Gesture changes thought, even without visual feedback. In D. C. Noelle, R. Dale, A. S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C. Jennings, & P. P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 441-446). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Cooperrider, Kensy, Rafael Núñez, and James Slotta (2014). The protean pointing gesture: Variation in a building block of human communication. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 355-360). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Cooperrider, Kensy, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2014). The role of gesture in analogical problem solving. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2068-2072). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Marghetis, Tyler*, Melanie McComsey*, and **Kensy Cooperrider*** (2014). Spatial reasoning in bilingual Mexico: Delimiting the influence of language. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 940-945). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Book reviews and commentary

Cooperrider, Kensy (2017). Making the rounds [Review of *The Book of Circles*, by Manuel Lima]. *Science*, 356(8341), 914.

Cooperrider, Kensy (2011). [Pragmatics and nonverbal communication, by Tim Wharton: An exchange]. *Gesture*, 11(3), 383-394.

Cooperrider, Kensy (2011). [Review of *Pragmatics and nonverbal communication*, by Tim Wharton]. *Gesture*, 11(1), 81-88.

Cooperrider, Kensy (2009). [Review of *Roots of Human Sociality: Culture, cognition, and interaction*, edited by N. J. Enfield and S. C. Levinson]. *Gesture*, 9(3), 373-380.

Cooperrider, Kensy (2009). [Review of *Mind in Life: Biology, Phenomenology, and the Sciences of the Mind*, by Evan Thompson]. *Philosophical Psychology*, 22(2), 242-246.

General audience writing

Cooperrider, Kensy, and Rafael Núñez (2016, November). How we make sense of time. *Scientific American–Mind*, 27(6), 38-43.

Cooperrider, Kensy (2016, October). Framing the world in terms of “left” and “right” is stranger than you think. *Nautilus Magazine* (Blog).

Cooperrider, Kensy (2016, March). Why natural selection became Darwin’s fittest metaphor for evolution. *Nautilus Magazine* (Blog).

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

2013, Committee for Research and Exploration Grant, National Geographic Society
Project: “Topographies of time in the Yupno valley”

Research team: Rafael Núñez (Principal Investigator), Kensy Cooperrider (Co-investigator), James Slotta (Co-investigator)

2012, Franklin Grant, American Philosophical Society

Project: “Spatial reasoning and bilingualism in Juchitán, Mexico”

2010 & 2011, UCSD, Dean of Social Sciences Travel Award

2009, UCSD, Diane Lin Scholarship, Friends of the International Center (for field research in Papua New Guinea)

2008 – 2009, UCSD, Center for Research in Language (CRL), Predoctoral Training Fellowship in "Language, Communication, and the Brain"

2008, UCSD, Glushko Award for Graduate Excellence, Dept. of Cognitive Science

2008 & 2011, UCSD, Award for Superior Teaching, Dept. of Cognitive Science

2005 – 2011, UCSD, Predoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities

2003, Duke, Graduation with Highest Distinction (for honors thesis)

2002, Duke, Phi Beta Kappa

TEACHING

Instructor

Case Western Reserve University (2011 – 2012)

Spring 2012. **Cognitive Diversity** (16 enrolled)

Description: special topics course developed for upper-level Cognitive Science majors

Evaluations: overall rating of instructor= 4.4/5, overall rating of course= 4.4/5

Spring 2012. **Cognitive Linguistic Theory II** (3 enrolled)

Description: discussion course for students in Cognitive Linguistics masters program

Fall 2011. **Human Cognition in Evolution & Development** (34 enrolled)

Description: core course for Cognitive Science majors

Evaluations: overall rating of instructor= 4.4/5, overall rating of course= 4.2/5

Fall 2011. **Cognitive Linguistics Workshop** (3 enrolled)

Description: methods workshop for students in Cognitive Linguistics masters program

UCSD (2009 – 2011)

Summer 2011. **Gesture and Cognition** (27 enrolled)

Description: regularly offered course for upper-level Cognitive Science majors

Evaluations: 100% recommended instructor; 92% recommended course

Winter 2010. **Gesture and Cognition** (35 enrolled)

Description: regularly offered course for upper-level Cognitive Science majors

Evaluations: 100% recommended instructor; 100% recommended course

Summer 2009. **Human interaction** (12 enrolled)

Description: special topics course developed for upper-level Cognitive Science majors

Evaluations: 100% recommended instructor; 100% recommended course

Teaching Assistant

UCSD, **Language**. *Four quarters.*

UCSD, **Design and Analysis of Experiments**. *Three quarters.*

UCSD, **Cognitive Ethnography**. *Two quarters.*

UCSD, **Language Comprehension**. *One quarter.*

PRESENTATIONSConference presentations and posters

Cooperrider, Kensy, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2017, July). “Analogical gestures: What are they and why do they matter?” 4th Analogy Conference, Paris, France. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2017, July). “Analogical gestures foster understanding of causal systems.” 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, London, United Kingdom. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Jordan Fenlon, Jon Keane, Diane Brentari, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2017, June). “Pointing in gesture and sign: Sources of commonality and difference.” D-Comm Conference on ‘Language as a form of action,’ Rome, Italy. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2016, August). “Gesture reveals spatial analogies during complex relational reasoning.” 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA. [*poster*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Dedre Gentner, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2016, July). “Visible models of invisible relations: Gesture reveals spatial analogies during reasoning about causal systems.” International Society of Gesture Studies conference, Paris, France. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Melanie McComsey, and Tyler Marghetis (2015, September). “Spatial frames of reference in gesture: Evidence from bilingual Mexico.” VI International Conference on Spatial Cognition, Rome, Italy. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Elizabeth Wakefield, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2015, July). “More than meets the eye: Gesture changes thought, even without visual feedback.” 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Pasadena, CA. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Melanie McComsey, and Tyler Marghetis (2014, November). “Gesture and spatial frames of reference in bilingual Mexico.” Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language 12, Santa Barbara, CA. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, James Slotta, and Rafael Núñez (2014, November). “Topographic construals of indoor space in the Yupno valley of Papua New Guinea.” Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language 12, Santa Barbara, CA. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, Rafael Núñez, and James Slotta (2014, July). “The protean pointing gesture: Variation in a building block of human communication.” 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City, Quebec. [*presentation*]

Cooperrider, Kensy, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2014, July). “The role of gesture in analogical problem solving.” 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City, Quebec. [*poster*]

- Cooperrider, Kensy**, and Susan Goldin-Meadow (2014, July). “A double-edged role for gesture in analogical reasoning?” 6th International Society for Gesture Studies Conference, La Jolla, CA. [*presentation*]
- Cooperrider, Kensy** and Rafael Núñez (2012, May). “Nose-pointing: A facial gesture of the Yupno Valley, Papua New Guinea.” *Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language* 11, Vancouver, Canada. [*presentation*]
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2010, November). “Indicating selves, embodying others.” American Anthropological Association 109th annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana. [*presentation*]
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, and Barbara Dancygier (2010, September). “Alternativity and stance in co-speech headshakes.” *Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language/ Embodied and Situated Language Processing*, La Jolla, CA. [*presentation*]
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, and Rafael Núñez (2010, September). “Mapping macro-space in a micro-world: A study of everyday construal in Papua New Guinea.” *Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language/ Embodied and Situated Language Processing*, La Jolla, CA. [*poster*]
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2010, July). “Pointing to the self: Metonymy and iconicity in body-directed gestures.” 4th International Society for Gesture Studies Conference, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany. [*presentation*]
- Núñez, Rafael*, **Kensy Cooperrider***, and Jürg Wassmann (2010, July). “Tomorrow, uphill: Geocentric temporal gestures in the remote mountains of Papua New Guinea.” 4th International Society for Gesture Studies Conference, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany. [*presentation*] **co-presenters*
- Cooperrider, Kensy**, and Rafael Núñez (2008, October). “The varieties of composite reference.” *Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language* 9, Cleveland, OH. [*presentation*]

Invited presentations and workshop participation

- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2017, May). “Research on time concepts: Where we are and where we could go.” Workshop on “Time concepts and their expression: creativity, cognition, and communication,” University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain.
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2016, December). “Ecologies of spatial language.” Workshop on ‘Universals and Variation in Spatial Referencing Across Languages,’ UC-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2016, August). “What the hands reveal about temporal thinking.” CogSci 2016 Workshop, ‘Interactive Spatiotemporal Inference,’ Philadelphia, PA.
- Núñez, Rafael*, and **Kensy Cooperrider*** (2013, November). “The ups and downs of space and time in the Yupno valley.” Reed College, Portland, OR. **co-presenters*
- Cooperrider, Kensy** (2013, January). “Pointing and the when puzzle.” Gesture Pragmatics Workshop, UC-Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

SERVICE

Selected ad hoc journal reviewing

Cognition
 Cognitive Linguistics
 Cognitive Psychology
 Cognitive Science

Frontiers in Psychology
 Gesture
 Journal of Pragmatics
 Language and Cognition
 Language, Cognition and Neuroscience
 Lingua
 Philosophical Psychology
 Psychonomic Bulletin & Review
 Psychological Review
 Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology
 Spatial Cognition & Computation
 Topics in Cognitive Science
 Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science

Other ad hoc reviewing

Cognitive Science Society conference
 Evolang conference
 International Society for Gesture Studies conference
 John Benjamins books
 National Science Foundation

Other service

Editorial Board, *Gesture* (beginning 2018)
 Treasurer, International Society for Gesture Studies (summer 2016 – present)
 Assistant organizer, Joint meeting of Conceptual Structure, Discourse and Language &
 Embodied and Situated Language Processing workshop (summer 2010)
 Co-organizer, Gesture Group San Diego (fall 2008 – spring 2010)

FIELDWORK

Papua New Guinea – Yupno Valley, Madang Province (summer 2013, three weeks)
 conducted in collaboration with Rafael Núñez (UCSD, Cognitive Science) and James Slotta
 (UCSD, Anthropology)
 Mexico – Juchitán, Oaxaca (summer 2012, two weeks)
 conducted in collaboration with Melanie McComsey (UCSD, Anthropology) and Tyler Marghetis
 (UCSD, Cognitive Science)
 Papua New Guinea – Gua village, Madang Province (summer 2009, two weeks)
 conducted in collaboration with Rafael Núñez (UCSD, Cognitive Science) and Jürg Wassmann
 (Heidelberg, Ethnology)

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Spatial concepts and the Yupno house
National Geographic (web), ‘These people have a mind-bending way to navigate’ (2016)
 Pointing in Yupno
National Geographic (web), ‘The point of pointing’ (2014)

Time concepts in Yupno

Science magazine, 'Where time goes up and down' (2012)

Number concepts in Yupno

New Scientist magazine, 'Brain may not be hard-wired to link numbers and space' (2012)