



Message from the Director and Co-Applicants

Dear Friends,

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a great 2020. We are delighted to be able to share with you an update on recent activities within the Words in the World network and upcoming initiatives and events.

We are very pleased to report that the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) completed its mid-term review of our progress to date over the summer. The feedback we received was very positive and commented explicitly on the intensity and diversity of research collaborations across our network. Congratulations and thank you!

It really looks like 2020 is going to be a year of great developments in the Partnership. We are tremendously excited about the planned activities over the next months and, particularly, about the program for the International Conference on the Mental Lexicon that will be held in Niagara on the Lake from October 6-9, 2020. The venue (Queen's Landing Hotel) is extraordinary and the conference will include a special pre-conference Community and Partner

Engagement Event on October 6 as well as a post-conference workshop on October 10 designed to provide students with training in the use of the newest methodological and analytic tools.

We look forward to seeing you there and to being in touch throughout the year!

Gary Libben, Lori Buchanan, Gonia Jarema, Juhani Järviö, Eva Kehayia, Victor Kuperman, and Sid Segalowitz

Upcoming Events and Initiatives

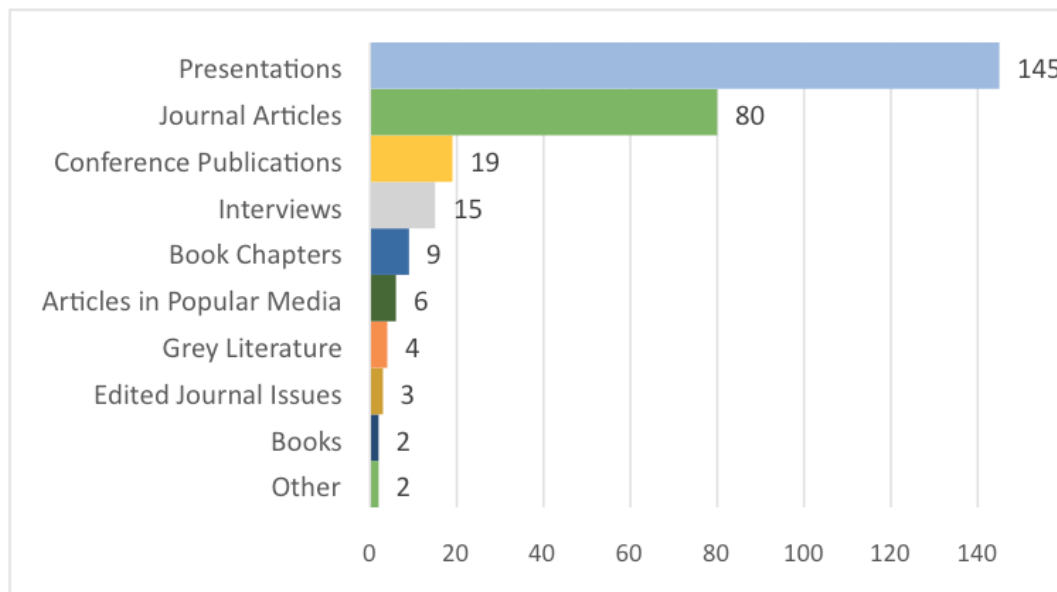
- Open Office Hours (virtual) highlighting PsychoPy 3 and Mechanical Turk coming Winter 2020
- Open Lab Meetings (virtual and in-person)
- Brock/SHARCNet EEG/ERP Workshop May 11-15, 2020
- STEP May 25 – May 30, 2020
- ML2020 Oct 6-9, 2020 with pre- and post-conference events on October 6th and 10th
- Error-based learning workshop in Montréal in 2021

Committee Updates

Now that we have moved past the Midterm point of the Words in the World Partnership Grant, we would like to take the opportunity to provide brief updates from our three sub-committees: the Research Integration Committee, the Innovation and Knowledge Mobilization Committee and the Training Evaluation Committee.

Research Integration Committee Update

In the first half of the grant, we have added 23 new Collaborators and 12 new Partner Organizations to the project. Research produced within our network has expanded research boundaries through multi-method high-density experiments with real-world applications.



One of the major projects that WoW has made possible is the creation of the Multilingual Eye Movement Corpus (MECO), which involves collection of passage reading data in 15 countries, covering a very diverse typology of writing and linguistic systems. Other examples include:

- Using mobile eye-tracking with pre-school children during picture book reading
- Using secondary data to examine language use across the Canadian population
- Developing a new toolkit for analyzing writing patterns across languages and the lifespan
- Developing new online research using PsychoPy 3

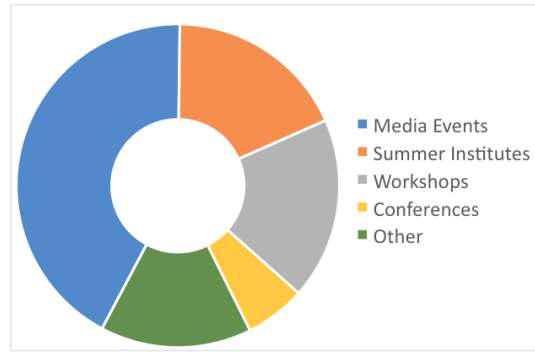
The primary goal of the latter half of the grant will be the production of breakthrough psycholinguistic research and applications that enhance language use over the lifespan, first and second language learning, and the acquisition of literacy.

Innovation and Knowledge Mobilization Update

At midterm, there have been 33 Knowledge Mobilization events. Our Innovation and KM goals include the creation of new methods and resources, as well as the creation of workshops, presentations, public talks, and discussion groups. Some of our partnered initiatives include:

- Aphasia Friendly Business Campaign

- Creation of new large-scale corpus tools
- Longitudinal assessment of reading in first- and second-language speaking college students
- Development of aphasia communication aids and assessment and accessibility toolkits
- Improving accessibility of information in the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts and the Casts Museum at the University of Thessaloniki in Greece



Looking forward, we are planning new and continued KM activities across all sites and the creation of new initiatives that will have an impact on both our network and external stakeholders. One such example is at the University of Alberta site where research on the processing of signs while driving will be of value to policy makers.

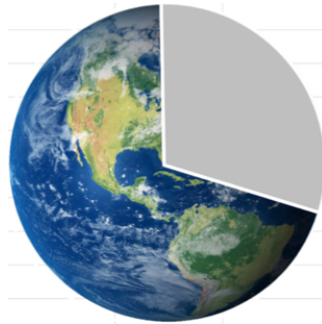
Training Evaluation Committee Update

Training is at the core of our activities and this emphasis has resulted in a highly effective training network that includes:

- Enhanced training (e.g., Spring Training in Experimental Psycholinguistics and EEG/ERP Workshop) and Lunch & Learn events and new certificate courses and topics.
- Five new training certificate programs:
 - Introduction to R (in which eight certificates have been awarded)
 - Introduction to linear mixed-effects regression
 - Visual World Paradigm creation (starting in 2019)
 - Aphasia Train the Trainer
 - Aphasia Friendly Business Campaign Certificate (offered to community members, e.g., retail employees, EMT workers).
- Cross-network streaming and recorded instruction (e.g., streamed training events and videos).
- Program evaluation toolkits with pre- and post-training components.
- Seven new training events including a streamed Student Training Day organized entirely by the Words in the World Student Focus Group, launched as a pre-conference event at the Mental Lexicon Conference,

2018.

Training continues to be at the core of our grant focus – of the WoW research publications produced by the Co-Applicants, 70% have been co-authored by trainees. More than 135 trainees have been directly supported by WoW partnerships and over 1,500 trainees have benefited from WoW activities. Moving forward, we will continue to increase our focus on excellence and innovation in training for the benefit of our junior colleagues.



70% of WoW research publications produced by the Co-Applicants have been co-authored by Trainees.

If you would like to learn more about any of our recent activities or about our upcoming initiatives and events, please contact us at info@wordsintheworld.ca or visit us at www.wordsintheworld.ca.



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