

Mitsuhiro Ota

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

2019–present Professor of Language Development, University of Edinburgh, UK
 2007–2019 Reader, University of Edinburgh, UK
 2006–2012 Visiting scholar, RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Japan
 1999–2007 Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, UK
 1996–1998 Instructor, Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University, USA

EDUCATION

1999 Ph.D. Linguistics, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA
 1993 M.A. Applied Linguistics, Columbia University, New York, USA
 1988 B.Law International Legal Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan

FUNDING

2024–2027 Economic and Social Research Council Research Grant (Principal investigator): Language learning, communication and the emergence of phonotactic constraints (ES/X014312/1) (£508,393.00)
 2022–2023 The Royal Society of Edinburgh small grant (Principal investigator): The Edinburgh Child Language Corpus (£4,987.00):
 2016 Moray Endowment Fund (PI). *The effects of phonological input on infant lexical development* (£1,960.00)
 2012–2016 Economic and Social Research Council Research Grant (Principal investigator): The role of baby-talk words in early language development (ES/J023825/1) (£446,231.00)
 2010–2011 British Academy Research Grant (Principal investigator): Memory consolidation in second language acquisition (SG-090280) (£7,500.00)
 2009 British Academy Research Grant (Principal investigator): Measuring lexical effects on children's speech perception (SG-51819) (£7,454.00)
 2008–2009 University of Edinburgh Development Trust Research Fund (Principal investigator): Edinburgh Laboratory for Language Development (£3,500.00)
 2008–2010 Autism Speaks Pre-doctoral fellowship (co-applicant) Phonological Processing in Autism Spectrum Disorders (\$64,000.00)
 2006 Arts & Humanities Research Council Research Leave Scheme: Lexical representation of variable prosodic patterns in infants (AH/E00320/1) (£24,779.00)

- 2001–2002 British Academy Research Grant (Principal investigator): Spelling errors as evidence for indeterminate representations of second language phonemes (SG-33008) (£2,214.18)
- 2001–2002 University of Edinburgh Development Trust Small Project Grant (Principal investigator): The mental representation of second language sounds (£1,192.43)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES (UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH)

- 2022–present Unit of Assessment Coordinator, Research Excellence Framework, Unit 26 (Modern Languages and Linguistics)
- 2022–2025 Research Ethics Convenor, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- 2015–2021 Director of Postgraduate Studies, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- 2014–2015 Deputy Director of Postgraduate Studies, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- 2002–2016 Programme Director, Master's (MSc) in Developmental Linguistics, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- 2014–2015 School representative, Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Committee, College of Humanities and Social Science
- 2009–2012 Director of Quality Assurance and Enhancement, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023–present Member, International Advisory Board, Institute of Psychology, Czech Academy of Science
- 2015–present Member, Peer Review College, Economic and Social Research Council, UK
- 2013–present Associate editor, *Language Acquisition*
- 2012–present Member, Editorial Board, *Edinburgh Monographs in Theoretical Linguistics*, Edinburgh University Press
- 2008–present Co-editor, *Edinburgh Advanced Textbooks in Linguistics*, Edinburgh University Press
- 2008–present Trustee, International Association for the Study of Child Language
- 2008 Organiser, International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Edinburgh
- 2007 Panel member, Economic and Social Research Council Research Seminar Competition
- 2004–2008 Member, Editorial Board, *EUROSLA Yearbook*
- 2003 Organiser, Annual Meeting of the European Second Language Association (EUROSLA), Edinburgh (2003)
- 2001–2004 Member, Board, Japanese Society of Language Sciences
- ad-hoc Journal manuscript reviews for: *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, *Applied Linguistics*, *Applied Psycholinguistics*, *Cognition*, *Developmental Science*, *First Language*, *Journal of Child Language*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition*, *Journal of Japanese Linguistics*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Journal of Phonetics*, *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, *Language*, *Language Acquisition*, *Language*

Learning and Development, Language and Speech, Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism, Phonology, Psychological Science, Second Language Research, Studies in Second Language Acquisition.

ad-hoc Grant proposal reviews for: *Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK), Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO, Netherlands), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, (DFG, Germany), National Science Foundation (NSF, US).*

EXTERNAL DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS

- 2022 Tim Lameris (University of Cambridge, UK)
- 2021 Shira Tal (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
- 2018 Stefanie Ramachers (Radboud University, Netherlands)
- 2014 Sho Tsuji (Radboud University, Netherlands)
- 2014 Calbert Graham (University of Cambridge, UK)
- 2013 Chen Qu (McGill University, Canada)
- 2012 Marta Maria Szreder-Ptasinska (University of York, UK)
- 2006 Suthee Sumdangdej (University of Durham, UK)
- 2006 Katherine Ketner (University of Cambridge, UK)

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

Current PhDs (as lead or co-supervisor)

Johanna Basnak
Lara Kelly-Iturriaga

Completed PhDs (as lead or co-supervisor)

- 2022 Hawra Al Ali “The developmental trajectory of grammatical gender: Evidence from Arabic”
- 2019 George Starling “Vowel production in infant-directed speech: an assessment of hyperarticulation and distributional learning”
- 2019 Emma Healey “The reference problem and how children use gesture and grammatical number to solve it”
- 2013 Rachel Macdonald “Counteracting age-related effects in L2 acquisition: Training to distinguish between French vowels”
- 2011 Chie Adachi “A sociolinguistic investigation of compliments and compliment responses among young Japanese”
- 2010 Emi Sakamoto “Investigation of factors behind foreign accent in the L2 acquisition of Japanese pitch accent by adult English speakers”
- 2008 Catherine Dickie “Exploring the nature of the phonological deficit in dyslexia: Are phonological representations impaired?”
- 2008 Anna Leonard Cook “An investigation into the role of implicit knowledge in second language acquisition”
- 2007 Christine Haunz “Factors in online loanword adaptation”.

- 2007 Susana Cortes Pomacondor “Representations and transfer processes in L2 speech production: Evidence from Catalan learners of English”
- 2006 Shu-chen Ou “Factors and mechanisms in L2 word stress acquisition: Evidence from Chinese-English interlanguage”
- 2004 Yoko Matsumoto-Sturt “Second language visual recognition of kanji”

Completed PhDs (as assistant supervisor)

- 2008 Anna Strycharz
- 2008 Lukas Wiget
- 2006 Efrosyni Argyri
- 2006 Yoshi Shiga

Completed PhDs (as external supervisor)

- 2015 Alexandra M. Petrou, Heriot-Watt University

Completed Research Master’s

- 2017 Victoria Lindström
- 2009 Emma Healey
- 2003 Francesca Filiaci

Completed Taught Master’s

53 dissertations supervised

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1999–present Lecturer, Reader, and Professor, Department of Linguistics (subsequently Linguistics & English Language), University of Edinburgh.

Pre-Honours (lower undergraduate) courses taught: *Linguistics I* (Components: Brain and language, First language acquisition and Second language acquisition), *Linguistics 2* (Component: Phonology), *Linguistics and English Language 1* (Component: First Language Acquisition) and *Linguistics and English Language 2D* (Component: First Language Acquisition)

Honours (upper undergraduate) courses taught: *Honours Foundation: Language and Cognition*, *First Language Acquisition*, *Second Language Acquisition*, *Intermediate Phonology*, *Advanced Phonology*, *Optimality Theory*, *Guided Research: Learning Sounds and Words*.

Postgraduate courses taught: *First Language Acquisition*, *Second Language Acquisition*, *Second Language Phonology*, *Advanced Topics in First Language Acquisition*, *Advanced Topics in Second Language Acquisition*, *Developmental Phonology*, *Maturational Constraints on Language Acquisition*, *Research Methods in Developmental Linguistics*, *Guided Research: Learning Sounds and Words*.

2008, 2019 Invited lecturer, Letní škola lingvistiky [Summer School of Linguistics], Czech Academy of Science, Czech Republic.

Courses taught: *Early Speech Development*, *The Relationship between Early Phonological and Lexical Development*.

1996–1998 Instructor, Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University, USA.

Courses taught: *Introduction to Linguistics, Introduction to Bilingualism*

PUBLICATIONS

Books authored

Ota, M. (2003). *The development of prosodic structure in early words: Continuity, divergence and change*. John Benjamins.

Books edited

Foster-Cohen, S., Sharwood-Smith, M. Sorace, A., & Ota, M. (Eds.) (2003). *EUROSLA Yearbook*. John Benjamins.

Journal articles

Ota, M. (2026). Child consonant harmony revisited: The role of lexical memory constraints and segment repetition. *Language and Speech*, 69, 155-182.

Soderstrom M., Rocha-Hidalgo J., Muñoz L. E., Bochynska A., Werker J. F., Skarabela B., Seidl A., Ryjova Y., Rennels J. L., Potter C. E., Paulus M., Ota M., Olesen N. M., Nave K. M., Mayor J., Martin A., Machon L. C., Lew-Williams C., Ko E. S., Kim H., Kartushina N., Kammermeier M., Jessop A., Hay J. F., Havron N., Hannon E. E., Kiley Hamlin J., Gonzalez-Gomez N., Gampe A., Fritzsche T., Frank M. C., Durrant S., Davies C., Cashon C., Byers-Heinlein K., Boyce V., Black A. K., Bergmann C., Anderson L., Alshakhori M. K., Al-Hoorie A. H., Tsui A. S. (2025). Testing the relationship between preferences for infant-directed speech and vocabulary development: A multi-lab study. *Journal of Child Language*, 52, 984-1009.

Wolters, L., Ota, M., & Arnon, I. (2025). Skewed distributions facilitate infants' word segmentation. *Cognition*, 263, 106221.

Kempe, V., Ota, M., & Schaeffler, S. (2024). Does child-directed speech facilitate language development in all domains? A study space analysis of the existing evidence. *Developmental Review*, 72, 101121.

Basnak, J., & Ota, M. (2024). Learnability advantage of segmental repetitions in word learning. *Language and Speech*, 67, 1093-1120.

Vihman, M., Ota, M., Keren-Portnoy, T., Choo, R. Q., & Lou, S. (2023). A challenge to Whole-word Phonology? A study of Japanese and Mandarin. *Language Learning and Development*, 19, 480-500.

Vihman, M., Ota, M., Keren-Portnoy, T., Lou, S., & Choo, R. Q. (2023). Child phonological responses to variegation in adult words: A cross-linguistic study. *Journal of Child Language*, 50, 1459-1486.

Arunachalam, S., Deen, K. U., Huang, Y. T., Lidz, J., Miller, K., Ota, M., & Szendroi, K. (2022). Some concrete steps for journal editorial boards: A commentary on Kidd and Garcia (2022). *First Language*, 42, 736–739.

Skarabela, B., Ota, M., O'Connor, R., & Arnon, I. (2021). 'Clap your hands' or 'take your hands'? One-year-olds distinguish between frequent and infrequent multiword phrases. *Cognition*, 211, 104612.

Ota, M., San José, A., & Smith, K. (2021). The emergence of word-internal repetition through iterated learning: Explaining the mismatch between learning biases and language design. *Cognition*, 210, 104585.

The ManyBabies Consortium (2020). Quantifying sources of variability in infancy research Using the infant-directed-speech preference. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 3, 24–52.

Ota, M., Davies-Jenkins, N., & Skarabela, B. (2018). Why *choo-choo* is better than *train*: The role of register-specific words in early vocabulary growth. *Cognitive Science*, 42, 1974-1999.

- Ota, M., Yamane, N. & Mazuka, R. (2018). The effects of lexical pitch accent on infant word recognition in Japanese. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8, 2354.
- Ota, M., & Skarabela, B. (2018). Reduplication facilitates early word segmentation. *Journal of Child Language*, 45, 204-218.
- Stewart, M. E., Petrou, A. M., & Ota, M. (2018). Categorical speech perception in adults with autism spectrum conditions. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48, 72-82.
- Skarabela, B., & Ota, M. (2017). Two-year-olds but not younger children comprehend 'it' in ambiguous contexts: Evidence from preferential looking. *Journal of Child Language*, 44, 255-268.
- Ota, M., & Skarabela, B. (2016). Reduplicated words are easier to learn. *Language Learning and Development*, 12, 380-397.
- Ota, M., Stewart, M. E., Petrou, A., & Dickie, C. (2015). Lexical effects on children's speech processing: Individual differences reflected in the Autism-Spectrum Quotient (AQ). *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 58, 422-433.
- Nakai, S., Lindsay, S., & Ota, M. (2015). A prerequisite to L1 homophone effects in L2 spoken-word recognition. *Second Language Research*, 31, 29-52.
- Ota, M., & Green, S. J. (2013). Input frequency and lexical variability in phonological development: A survival analysis of word-initial cluster production. *Journal of Child Language*, 40, 539-566
- Dickie, C., Ota, M., & Clark, A. (2013). Revisiting the phonological deficit in dyslexia: Are implicit non-orthographic representations impaired? *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 34, 649-672.
- Stewart, M. E., McAdam, C., Ota, M., Peppé, S., & Cleland, J. (2013). Emotional recognition in Autism Spectrum Conditions from voices and faces. *Autism*, 17, 6-14.
- Ota, M., Hartsuiker, R. J., & Haywood, S. L. (2010). Is a FAN always FUN? Phonological and orthographic effects in bilingual visual word recognition. *Language and Speech*, 53, 383-403.
- Ota, M., Hartsuiker, R. J., & Haywood, S. L. (2009). The KEY to the ROCK: Near-homophony in nonnative visual word recognition. *Cognition*, 111, 263-269.
- Stewart, M. E. & Ota, M. (2008). Lexical effects on speech perception in individuals with "autistic" traits. *Cognition*, 109, 157-162.
- Ota, M. (2006). Children's production of word accents in Swedish revisited. *Phonetica*, 63, 230-246.
- Ota, M. (2006). Input frequency and word truncation in child Japanese: Structural and lexical effects. *Language and Speech*, 49, 261-295.
- Ota, M. (2004). The learnability of a stratified lexicon. *Journal of Japanese Linguistics*, 20, 19-40.
- Ota, M. (2003). The development of lexical pitch accent systems: An autosegmental analysis. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics*, 48, 357-383.
- Ota, M. (2003). Phonological theory and phonological acquisition. *Journal of the Phonetic Society of Japan*, 7, 35-46.
- Fukazawa, H., Kitahara, M., & Ota, M. (2002). Constraint-based modeling of split phonological systems. *Studies in Phonology*, 5, 115-120.
- Ota, M. (2002). Early prosodic phonology as constraint interaction. *Phonological Studies*, 5, 79-86.
- Ota, M. (2001). Phonological theory and the development of prosodic structure: Evidence from child Japanese. *Annual Review of Language Acquisition*, 1, 65-118.
- Ota, M. (2001). Gengo kakutoku to saitekiseiriron [Language acquisition and Optimality Theory]. *Gengo* 30, 38-44.
- Riney, T., Takada, M., & Ota, M. (2000). Segmentals and global foreign accent: The Japanese flap in EFL. *TESOL Quarterly*, 34, 711-737.

Ota, M. (2000). A review of two books introducing Optimality Theory: Archangeli and Langendoen (1997) 'Optimality Theory: An Overview', and Kager (1999) 'Optimality Theory'. *Second Language Research* 16, 281-292.

Fukazawa, H., Kitahara, M., & Ota, M. (1999). Multiple faithfulness in the structure and acquisition of lexical strata: Evidence from Japanese. *Studies in Phonology* 2, 77-84.

Chapters in edited volumes

Ota, M., & Ueda, I. (2026). Japanese speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. (pp. 852-857). Oxford University Press.

Fikkert, P., Ota, M., & Liu, L. (2020). The acquisition of word prosody. In C. Gussenhoven & A. Chen (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of language prosody* (pp. 541-555). Oxford University Press.

Stewart, M. E., Grube, M., & Ota, M. (2020). Autistic traits and auditory discrimination skills. In F. Volkmar (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of autism spectrum disorders* (pp. 555-559). 2nd Ed. New York: Springer.

Ota, M. (2016). The development of prosody: Stress, tone and intonation. In J. Lidz, W. Snyder & J. Pater (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of developmental linguistics* (pp. 68-86). Oxford University Press.

Ou, S., & Ota, M. (2015). Is second-language stress acquisition guided by metrical principles? Evidence from Mandarin-speaking learners of English. In Y. E. Hsiao and L.-H. Wee (Eds.), *Capturing phonological shades within and across languages* (pp. 389-413). Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Ota, M. (2015). L1 phonology: Phonological development. In H. Kubozono (Ed.), *The Handbook of Japanese phonetics and phonology* (pp. 389-413). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Ota, M. (2013). Lexical frequency effects on phonological development. The case of word production in child Japanese. In M. Vihman and T. Keren-Portnoy (Eds.), *Child Phonology: Whole word approaches, cross-linguistic evidence* (pp. 415-438). Cambridge University Press.

Ota, M. (2010). Kango on'ni no syuutoku kanoosee ni tuite [The learnability of Sino-Japanese phonology]. In H. Oshima, A. Nakajima, & R. Blin (Eds.), *Kango no gengogaku*. Kurosio.

Ota, M. & Ueda, I. (2006). Speech acquisition of Japanese. In S. McLeod (Ed.), *The international guide to speech acquisition* (pp. 457-471). Delmar Thompson.

Ota, M. (2006). Phonological acquisition. In M. Nakayama, R. Mazuka and Y. Shirai (eds.), *The handbook of Japanese psycholinguistics* (pp. 41-47). Cambridge University Press.

Ota, M. (2005). Minimality constraints and the prosodic structure of child Japanese. In N. Tsujimura (ed.), *Japanese linguistics: Critical concepts*. London: Routledge. Reprinted from David Silva (ed.), *Japanese/Korean Linguistics* 8 (p. 331-344). Stanford, CA: CSLI.

Jourdenais, R., Ota, M., Stauffer, S., Boyson, B., & Doughty, C. (1995). Does textual enhancement promote noticing? A protocol analysis. In R. Schmidt (ed.), *Attention and awareness in foreign language learning and teaching* (pp. 183-216). University of Hawaii Press.

Proceedings

Goto, N., Ota, M., & Ishihara, S. (2026). L1 Swedish transfer of stress and F0 peak alignment in L2 Japanese prosody. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2026*, 294-298.

Holtz, A., Smith, K., & Ota, M. (2025). The impact of similar place avoidance on novel word learning in adults. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 47.

Liu, J., & Ota, M. (2023). The effect of learning context on Mandarin listeners' perception of English vowels. In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volím (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 2572-2575. Guarant Intenational.

Skarabela, B., Ota, M., Fazekas, J., & Wihlborg, L. (2015). Do baby-talk words reflect biomechanical constraints on speech production? In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volím (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 2572-2575. Guarant Intenational. In The Scottish

- Consortium of ICPHD (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. University of Glasgow.
- Ota, M., & Stewart, M. E. (2007). Autism and lexical context effects on speech perception. *Proceedings of the 16th International Congress of Phonetic Science* (pp. 2021-2024). University of Saarland.
- Ota, M. (2003). Lexical vs. phrasal pitch contours in early production. In B. Beachley, A. Brown & F. Conlin (eds.), *Proceedings of the 27th Boston University Conference on Language Development*. (pp. 591-602). Cascadilla Press.
- Ota, M., Ladd, D. R., & Tsuchiya, M. (2003). Effects of foot structure on mora duration in Japanese? In the *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 459-462). Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
- Ota, M. (1998). Phonological constraints and word truncation in early language acquisition. In A. Greenhill, M. Hughes, & H. Littlefield (eds.), *Proceedings of the Boston University Conference on Language Development 22* (pp. 598-609). Cascadilla Press.
- Ota, M. (1998). The emergence of the unmarked in early prosodic structure. In P. N. Tamanji & K. Kusumoto (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistic Society 28* (pp. 321-340). GLSA.
- Fukazawa, H., Kitahara, M., & Ota, M. (1998). Lexical stratification and ranking invariance in constraint-based grammars. In M. C. Gruber, D. Higgins, K. S. Olson and T. Wysocki (eds.), *Papers from the 34th meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. Volume 2: The panels*, 47-62. CLS.

OTHER RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- Ota, M., Davies-Jenkins, N., & Skarabela, N. (2017). *The Edinburgh corpus*. Digital corpus, CHILDES (<https://doi.org/10.7488/08968ca5-97ed-474b-9904-79c942f8b7f1>).
- Ota, M. & Cain, D. (2016). *The Falls Church corpus*. Digital corpus, CHILDES (<https://doi.org/10.21415/T5267D>)
- Ota, M. (2013). *The Ota corpus*. Digital corpus, Phonbank and CHILDES (<https://doi.org/doi:10.21415/T5DH4G>).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2026 Commentary on New Scientist magazine: “Do babies understand each other with their babbling?” <https://www.newscientist.com/lastword/mg26935861-700-do-babies-understand-each-other-with-their-babbling/>
- 2018 Radio interview on BBC 5 Live. On the findings reported in Ota, Davies-Jenkins & Skarabela (2018).
- 2016 Demonstration of infant language experiment at the Teeny Tiny Toddler Fest, Camera Obscura, Edinburgh.
- 2015 Video commentary on baby talk. Internet material as part of the ‘Before their first words’ project. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxUlpBIhzCI>
- 2014 Public lecture in a Fringe event “Play, language and infants’ developing minds”. Summerhall, Edinburgh.
- 2013 Radio interview on BBC 4 ‘Word of Mouth’ by Michael Rosen. On the role of baby-talk words in language development.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 *Language learning, language use and the lexicon-led model of phonotactic typology*. Guest seminar series, Queen Mary University of London.
- 2023 *Unravelling lexical and postlexical contrasts in pitch/word accent systems*. General Linguistics Research Seminar, Lund University.
- 2023 *Children's word production in Japanese and Mandarin: Crosslinguistic implications for early phonological development*. Lund Circle of East Asian Languages, Lund University.
- 2023 *The role of register-specific words in early lexical development*. Language Acquisition, Multilingualism and Teaching (LAMiNATE), Lund University.
- 2023 *Yooji-go no on'inteki tokentyoo to goi battatu/genko sinka no kankee* [The relationship between the phonological characteristics of infant-directed vocabulary, lexical development, and language evolution]. National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL). Tokyo, Japan.
- 2022 *The role of sound repetition in infant-directed vocabulary*. Babylab Colloquium, University of Potsdam.
- 2018 *The role of register-specific words in early lexical development*. The ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development. University of Liverpool.
- 2017 *The role of reduplication in early word development*. University of Delaware, USA.
- 2017 *When learnability and universals disagree: The case of phonological repetition*. Workshop on Synthesising Approaches to Language Learning and Adaptation, Linguistics Association of Great Britain, University of Kent.
- 2016 *Baby-talk words: Why do we have them?* Speech and Language Science Research Day. Queen Margaret University.
- 2013 *Phonology and the lexicon in early language development*. University of Essex. May 2013.
- 2013 *Mental representations of L2 sounds and words*. Linguistic Circle, Bangor University. February 2013.
- 2012 *Sounds, words and frequency in early phonological development*. University of York. November 2012.
- 2012 *Phonology and the lexicon in early language development*. Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. Nijmegen, the Netherlands. October 2012.
- 2012 Panelist, *Symposium on methods for parsing size effects*. The Ohio State University. June 2012.
- 2010 *Regular change and lexical diffusion in phonological development*. Research Centre for English and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge. November 2010.
- 2010 *Regular change and lexical diffusion in early phonological development*. 'PhonBank: Future directions'. Memorial University of Newfoundland. July 2010.
- 2008 *The learnability of Sino-Japanese phonology*. Keynote at Colloque international de linguistique japonaise: Linguistique des *kango*. Université Paris Diderot – Paris 7. March 2008.
- 2006 *The development of component pitch patterns in children's early speech*. RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Saitama, Japan.
- 2005 *Goals of Optimality Theory: From linguistic science to psychology*. Invited symposium at the 7th Conference of the Japanese Society of Language Science. Sophia University, Tokyo. June 2005.
- 2005 *Swedish tone accents in early production revisited*. Department of Speech and Language Sciences, Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh. February 2005.

- 2004 *The Invariance Hypothesis and the acquisition of pitch phonology in Tokyo Japanese and Stockholm Swedish*. Department of English Literature, Language & Linguistics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. December 2004.
- 2004 *The acquisition of tonal structure in Stockholm Swedish and Tokyo Japanese*. Center for Advanced Studies in Theoretical Linguistics (CASTL), University of Tromsø, Norway. October 2004.
- 2004 *Fry me to the moon (in other words)*. Department of Linguistics, University of York. March 2004.
- 2003 *Prosodic isomorphy and the development of pitch phonology*. Department of Psychology, University of Wales, Bangor. March 2003.
- 2002 *Lexical underspecification in non-native English*. Department of Linguistics and English Language, University of Durham. October 2002.
- 2001 *Developmental continuity as constraint reranking*. The Third International Conference on Cognitive Science (ICCS2001). Beijing, China. August 2001.
- 2001 *Constraint-based modeling of split phonological systems* [with Haruka Fukazawa and Mafuyu Kitahara]. Meikai Optimality Theory Workshop. Meikai University, Urayasu, Japan. August, 2001.
- 2001 *Early prosodic phonology as constraint interaction*. Phonology Forum 2001. University of Chiba, Japan. August 2001.
- 2001 *Learning durational contrasts in Japanese as a second language*. The First Durham Workshop in Teaching Japanese as a Second Language. University of Durham. June 2001.
- 2001 *Word minima in prosodic acquisition*. Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University. February 2001.
- 2000 *Prosodic structure in children's word production*. Linguistics Seminar, Department of Linguistics, University of Manchester, December 2000.
- 1999 *Moraic phonology in early child language*. Department of Linguistics, University of Edinburgh, June 1999.
- 1999 *The acquisition of Japanese syllable structure*. Department of East Asian Languages and Literature, University of Oregon, Eugene, March 1999.
- 1999 *Moraicity, edge markedness and the development of subsyllabic structure*. Department of English, California State University, Chico, February 1999.