

Kira Breeden

1827 E Washington Ave, Apt 247, Madison, WI 53704

T: (505) 231-5068 E: kbreeden@wisc.edu Personal Website: <https://kmbreeden21.github.io/>

Github: https://github.com/kmbreeden21/Coding_Portfolio.git

Education

- 2023 - current Ph.D. Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Supervisor: Gary Lupyan
- 2019 - 2021 M.S. Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Northwestern University
Capstone Project: “Sentiment Analysis of Dutch Tweets to Identify Depressive and Negative Feelings During the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic”
Mentor: Dr. Alianna J. Maren
- 2014 - 2018 B.S. Computational Cognitive Science, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Honor’s Thesis: “What Factors Are Most Effective in Predicting Noun Learning in English-Learning Children?”
Mentors: Twila Tardif, PhD; Susan Gelman, PhD

Non-Degree Programs

- Summer 2016 Summer French Intermediate Studies Exchange Program, Université Grenoble Alpes

Research Experience

- Current University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lupyan Lab (Dr. Gary Lupyan)
Role: PhD Student
- 2017 - 2018 University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
Language and Culture Development Lab (Dr. Twila Tardif)
Role: Lab Manager, Research Assistant
- 2017 University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
Pathways to Literacy Lab (Dr. Fred Morrison)
Role: Undergraduate Research Assistant

Professional Experience

(Selected)

- 2024 - Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2023 - Graduate Student, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2023 - 2024 Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2021 - 2023 Data Scientist, TTEC Digital
- Summer 2021 Data Scientist, Auction Forecast, Santa Fe, NM
- 2018 - 2019 English Language Assistant, TAPIF, Clermont-Ferrand, France

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Grants, Honors, and Awards

- September 2025 UW-Madison Psychology Department Menzies Research Fund Award
- January 2024 UW-Madison Psychology Department Service to the Department Award
- May 2016 University of Michigan Undergraduate Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Introduction to Computer Science Project Symposium: 1st Place

Publications

Journal Publications

Breeden, K., & Lupyan, G. (In Prep) “Category repetition priming, rhyme identification, and category verification are predicted by inner speech.”

Conference Proceedings

Breeden, K., & Lupyan, G. (2025). Who notices object repeats? Individual differences in inner experience influence repetition priming. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 47. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9gf9k64k>

Presentations and Posters

Invited Talks

- 31 October 2025 **Breeden, K.** “Reasoning in Humans and LLMs: Language as Compression and Pattern-Matching, But Not Logic” – Upgrade Science Insights Lunch Talk Series
- 18 September 2025 **Breeden, K.** “Power Analyses! What are they? Why are they tricky? How can we use them?” – Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Lab, UW-Madison
- 9 October 2024 **Breeden, K.**, & Lupyan, G. “Inner Speech as a Predictor of Individual Differences in Cognition” – Cognitive Origins Lab, UW-Madison

Presentations

- 18 February 2026 **Breeden, K.** “Searching for Meaning in ‘Meaningless’ Texts” – UW-Madison Perception, Cognition, and Cognitive Neuroscience Proseminar
- 3 April 2024 **Breeden, K.** “Inner Speech and Phonological Activation During Silent Reading” – UW-Madison Perception, Cognition, and Cognitive Neuroscience Proseminar

Posters

- July 2026 Altenhof, A.*, **Breeden, K.***, & Lupyan, G. “Finding the Conceptual Glue: Ad-hoc Categorization in People and LLMs” – CogSci 2026
- July 2026 **Breeden, K.***, & Lupyan, G. “Recovering Meaning from ‘Meaningless’ Texts: Semantic Ambiguity Reduction as Recovery of Distributional Structure” – CogSci 2026
- August 2025 **Breeden, K.***, & Lupyan, G. “Who notices object repeats? Individual differences in inner experience influence repetition priming” – CogSci 2025
- Spring 2025 **Breeden, K.***, & Lupyan, G. “Who notices object repeats? Individual differences in inner experience influence repetition priming” – UW Madison Psychology Research Fair

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Teaching Experience

Guest Lectures

- 13 April 2026 **Breeden, K.** “Missing Data: Why we care and how we handle it.” – Guest Lecture for Design and Analysis of Psychological Experiments II, UW-Madison, Primary Instructor: Dr. Markus Brauer
- 24 November 2025 **Breeden, K.** “Power Analyses! What are they? Why are they tricky? How can we estimate power in LMER?” – Guest Lecture for Statistics for Linguists, UW-Madison, Primary Instructor: Dr. Eric Raimy
- 12 November 2024 **Breeden, K.** “Language, Cognition, and Inner Speech” – Guest Lecture for Animal Cognition, UW-Madison, Primary Instructor: Dr. Stephen Ferrigno

Teaching Assistantships

- Spring 2026 “Design and Analysis of Psychological Experiments II”, Primary Instructor: Dr. Marcus Brauer
- Spring 2025 “Basic Statistics for Psychology”, Primary Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Addington
- Fall 2024 “Animal Cognition”, Primary Instructor: Dr. Stephen Ferrigno

Research Assistant Thesis Mentorships

- In Progress “Effects of Inner Speech on Phonological Activation”, Amelia Tang
- In Progress “Effects of Inner Speech on Inductive Inference”, Xiaoran Sun

Service and Outreach

Starting

September 2026 Psychology Department Colloquium Committee

Starting

September 2026 – May

2027 Psychology Department Graduate Student Representative

October 2025

– June 2026 International Child Phonology Conference Organizing Committee

Mentoring

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Xiaoran Sun (2025 - present), University of Wisconsin - Madison, LupyLab

Amelia Tang (2025 - present), University of Wisconsin - Madison, LupyLab

Kate Paape (2024 - 2025), University of Wisconsin - Madison, LupyLab