Natalie Dowling
Social Sciences Teaching Fellow

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EDUCATION

2022	**Ph.D. Comparative Human Development** University of Chicago — Chicago, IL Dissertation: *Obviously I Don't Know but Whatever: Emblematic and Pragmatic Uses of Shrug Gestures in Early Childhood and Adolescence* Committee: Susan Goldin-Meadow (Chair), Marissa Casillas, John Lucy, Federico Rossano
2010	**B.A. Linguistics** University of Chicago — Chicago, IL

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in the development of multimodal discourse, higher-order thinking, and pragmatic language skills between early childhood and adolescence and how early success in these skills may be predictors of later educational outcomes and the transition into adulthood. I examine the functions of co-speech gesture as children become collaborative conversationalists.

As part of the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago, I share a commitment to an interdisciplinary research approach to the study of communicative development. Using a longitudinal corpus of spontaneous parent-child interaction, my work combines elements of conversation analysis with formal speech and gesture coding to investigate how the tools of cooperative conversation change over development.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 – Present   **Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow**
University of Chicago, Social Sciences Division

2016 - 2022   **Doctoral Student Researcher**
University of Chicago, Dept. of Comparative Human Development

2017 - 2021   **IES Apprenticeship**
Getting on Track Early for School Success

2018 - 2019   **IES Apprenticeship**
TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health

2010 - 2016   **Staff Research Assistant**
Language Development Project
University of Chicago, Dept. of Psychology

PUBLICATIONS

Dowling, N., Vilà-Giménez, I., Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (*in preparation*). Two dimensions of non-referential gestures differentiate early developmental trajectories. Preprint: https://www.nrdowling.com/s/ND_Dimensions.pdf

Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (*in preparation*). Emblematic origins of pragmatic shrug gestures in early childhood. Preprint: https://www.nrdowling.com/s/ND_EarlyShrugs.pdf

Dowling, N. (2022). *Obviously I Don't Know but Whatever: Emblematic and Pragmatic Uses of Shrug Gestures in Early Childhood and Adolescence.* Doctoral dissertation, University of Chicago. https://doi.org/10.6082/uchicago.4897

Vilà-Giménez, I., **Dowling, N.**, Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021). The predictive value of beat gestures: Early use predicts narrative abilities at 5 years of age. *Journal of Child Language.* https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13583

Frausel, R., Silvey, C., Freeman, C., **Dowling, N.**, Richland, L., Levine, S., Raudenbush, S., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2020). The Origins of Higher-Order Thinking Lie in Children's Spontaneous Talk Across the Pre-School Years. *Cognition.* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104274

PRESENTATIONS

Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022). *I dunno - I guess - I mean whatever: Children form a many-to-many pragmatic mapping of shrug gestures between early and late childhood* [Paper presentation]. Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Chicago, IL.

Dowling, N., Vilà-Giménez, I., Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022). *Non-referential gestures don't always flock together* [Paper presentation]. Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Chicago, IL.

Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022). *I dunno - I guess - I mean whatever: Children form a many-to-many pragmatic mapping of shrug gestures between early and late childhood*. Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society Biannual Meeting, Madison, WI.

Dowling, N., Casillas, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021). *Emblematic and interactive uses of children's shrug gestures*. Poster presented at Lancaster Conference on Infant and Early Child Development, Lancaster, United Kingdom (remote).

Dowling, N., Vilà-Giménez, I., Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021) *Non-referential beat and flip gestures follow distinct developmental trajectories of function.* Poster presented at Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA (remote).

Vilà-Giménez, I., **Dowling, N.**, Demir-Lira, Ö., Prieto, P., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021). *Early children's use of non-referential beat gestures predicts narrative abilities at 5 years of age*. Poster presented at Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA (remote).

Dowling, N. (2021). *"Obviously I don't know but whatever": What children reveal about knowledge, interest, and understanding through gesture*. Invited talk presented at The Chicago Education Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Dowling, N. (2021). *Emblematic and interactive uses of children's shrug gestures*. Invited talk presented at The Language Evolution, Acquisition and Processing Workshop, Chicago, IL.

Dowling, N., Frausel, R., Richland, L., Levine, S., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2019). *Relations between early and later domain-specific higher-order thinking.* Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society Biannual Meeting, Louisville, KY.

Dowling, N. & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2018). *Early Childhood Pronominal Reference: Shifts in Form and Function* [Master's thesis presentation]. Department of Comparative Human Development Student Conference, Chicago, IL.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Upcoming, 2023   Lecturer, Mind-2, -3 Social Sciences Core Sequence*

Upcoming, 2023   It Goes Without Saying: Conversation in Context*

Upcoming, 2023   From Data to Manuscript in R*

2020 – 2022   Undergraduate student research mentor
Psychology Honors Program; Leadership Alliance Program

2020 – 2021   BA Preceptor, Department of Comparative Human Development
BA Honors Seminar; Honors Paper Preparation**

2020   Lecturer, Mind-3 Social Sciences Core Sequence*

2020   Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Human Development

2018 – 2019   SSCD Teaching Intern, *Mind* Social Sciences Core Sequence

2017 – 2019   Graduate student research mentor
Master's student mentees: Mackenzie Norman, MA June 2018; Sally Wolf, MA June 2019

*Instructor of record.
Complete teaching portfolio available upon request.

FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING

2022 – *present*   Social Sciences Teaching Fellowship *($48,000/year)*

2022   Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language Research Grant *($2,500)*

2021 – 2022   University of Chicago Social Sciences Doctoral Fellowship
($31,000/year)

2020 – 2021   Comparative Human Development Undergraduate Preceptor *($18,000)*

2016 – 2021   Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Fellowship *($30,000/year)*

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-2021	**Graduate Student Representative** University of Chicago Graduate Student Council Social Sciences Executive Committee, Community Committee, Health and Wellness Committee
2018-2019	**Welcome Chair** Comparative Human Development Student Association
2018-2019	**Head of Teaching and Outreach** University Ballet of Chicago
2016-2017	**Artistic Director** University Ballet of Chicago
2009	**Student and Educator Program Intern** Chicago Children's Museum — Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL AND PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

2022	Forum on Teaching in the Core Advising, Study Skills, and Residential Life: Student Experience and Your Classroom
2020	Creating Inclusive and Accessible Learning Environments Workshop on Teaching Portfolios Introduction to Canvas and Zoom for Remote Teaching College Course Design and Teaching (CCTE 50000)
2019	Mid-course review, Introduction to Human Development Teaching by Discussion Workshop Seminar on Teaching Portfolios
2018	Fundamentals of Teaching in the Social Sciences: Research Methods and Designs Teaching@UChicago Conference

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Natural Language   English (Native)
American Sign Language (Conversational)

Programming &
Analysis

Datavyu with Ruby scripting, R (Advanced)
HTML, CSS, Stata, Git (Intermediate)
Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM), SQL (Basic)

Software   Adobe Creative Suite, Datavyu, ELAN, Google Workspaces, LaTeX,
Microsoft Office Suite, R Studio