

Our Network

This year our Network grew steadily. We welcomed new collaborators from Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, the US, India, and South Africa. This means we now have representatives from > 30 countries, speaking > 25 languages! Our child language researchers are from a range of disciplines (speech therapy, psychology, linguistics) and are at different stages of their career, from emerging researchers to well-established professors, including an ever-growing group of post-graduate students (Masters, PhD)!

We meet every two months on Zoom to discuss new and existing projects and to listen to work in progress.

Now representing >30 countries!



<https://osf.io/ztqg6/>



This year, we had guest presentations from:

Vasu Srivastava (PhD student): "What do children in India talk about"?

Mateja Gabaj (PhD student): "personal narratives of 10-year-old children with DLD and their peers without language difficulties"

Christel van Vreckem: "Vocabulary in Dutch-speaking students with and without dyslexia"

Vani Gupta (PhD student): A systematic review into the elicitation and analysis of personal narratives in children ages 4-18.

Wanlin Zhu (PhD student): The effects of emotion types and emotion polarity on the coherence of personal narratives in Mandarin-speaking 10-year-olds.

Some Highlights

Promoting our Special Issue in Vienna:

IALP celebrated its 100th birthday in Vienna in June this year. As members of the IALP Child Language Committee, we (Jóhanna, Jelena, and Marleen) took the opportunity to promote our Global TALES special issue (published Dec 2023). For those of you who haven't seen it, here is the link to [our promo video](#).

We also presented some of our Global TALES research: **Session**: Language sampling and analysis of personal narratives of children at risk of discourse-level language difficulties . **Speaker(s)**: Marleen Westerveld, Jelena Kuvač Kraljević, Jóhanna Thelma Einarsdóttir,



International Society for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)

It was such a treat to meet many of our collaborators in person! Unfortunately, finding a time to meet for a photo proved challenging!



There were multiple presentations involving Global TALES, including:

Poster: Danish children's personal narratives on Global Tales: content, evaluation, and theory of Mind; authors Nadia Sand Nørgaard, Kristine Jensen de López & Laura Quintanilla.

Poster: What topics do Hindi-speaking children with & without autism talk about in their personal narratives. Vasundhara Srivastava, Angel Chan and Marleen Westerveld

Poster: Children's use of linguistic evaluative devices when narrating past personal events: Marleen Westerveld, Carol Westby, Mary Claessen, Nickola Wolf Nelson.

Symposium: Analysing personal narratives using the LUNA framework: Clinical implications: Marleen Westerveld, Vani Gupta, Sara Ferman, Mateja Gabaj, Jelena Kuvač Kraljević, Kristine Jensen de López, Hanne Søndergaard Knudsen.



Spreading the word!

Speech Pathology Australia (Perth, May 24)

Comparing the topics of personal narratives in Hindi-speaking children with and without autism, presented by Vasundhara Srivastava, Angel Chan, Marleen Westerveld

Annual conference of SLPs in Israel (ISHLA, Aug 24)

: Sara Ferman, Khaloob Kawar, Jelena Kuvač Kraljević, Ana Matic-Skorik, Mateja Gabaj, Carol Westby and Rachel Kalifa-Efgen presented a seminar: A new international protocol (Global TALES protocol) for evaluating personal narratives produced by children.

ESLA (Bruges, Sept 2024). Lisa Domby presented her work on “Clinical Applications of the Global TALES Protocol”.

Early Childhood Voices (Nov 2024): Marleen Westerveld presented her work on “personal narrative coherence of school-age autistic children in response to the Global TALES protocol. Here is the [LINK](#).

Watch this space!

TalkBank

We had the pleasure of connecting with Brian MacWhinney at our Zoom meetings and meeting him in person in Prague. Plans are underway to have our very own Global TALES section on Talkbank.

I also discovered how to use Batchalign2 – Automatic transcription of audiofiles (in multiple languages), converting them into CHAT files, saving hours of time (and \$\$\$).

ASHA (Seattle, Dec 24). Khaloob Kawar and Reem Khamis-Dakwar presented: Exploring the potential benefits of dynamic assessment in enhancing narrative skills among Palestinian Arabic-speaking children

Publications

CONGRATULATIONS



Gabaj, M., Kuvač Kraljević, J., & Westerveld, M. F. (2024). Linguistic organisation and coherence in personal narratives of 10-year-old children with developmental language disorder. *First Language, Online First*. doi:10.1177/01427237241298163

Student projects/Dissertations

Cristina Larrañaga Caravaca y Irene Ortega López (2024). Final degree project: personal narratives in spanish children. an adaptation of the global tales protocol including self-conscious emotions [Narrativas personales en niños españoles. Una adaptación del protocolo global tales incluyendo emociones autoconscientes]. Facultad de Psicología. Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) – Academic Supervisor: Laura Quintanilla Coibán. (<https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14468/25013>)

Esra Yaşar-Gündüz (2024) completed her Doctoral thesis, investigating personal narratives in 80 monolingual Turkish speaking children (ages 7 to 10 years). Academic Supervisor: Ilknur Mavis.

Robyn Amoretti's Master's Project focuses on the personal narrative skills of neurodiverse 10-year-olds in Johannesburg.

Work in progress

Jung-Mee Kim (South Korea): 2 HDR students are collecting personal narratives from Korean-speaking children.

Pamela Filiatrault-Veilleux received a New Investigator's grant from the University of Alberta: Global TALES project: A global investigation into the personal narrative skills of children and adolescents in Canada – Congratulations!

Global TALES extension prompts: **Laura Quintanilla (Spain)** and Kristine Jensen de López (Denmark) are piloting the use of 6 self-conscious items (see also student projects above). The 12-item protocol will be used with young adult students with a history of academic failure.

Marleen Westerveld and Natalia Gagarina are co-editing a Clinical Forum in Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools (published 2026)! This forum will focus on Global Assessment of Narratives (including personal and fictional narratives).

Investigating coherence of personal narratives across cultures and languages. Aim: to investigate the utility of the NaCCS (narrative coherence coding scheme) in appraising children's personal narrative coherence across a wide range of cultures and languages - a preliminary investigation.

Wrapping up

A big thank you once again to everyone for your enthusiasm and commitment to child language research and practice. I am looking forward to 2025 when some of us will hopefully meet in person in Malta.. **As always please feel free to email me if you want to be on our mailing list to join the Zoom meetings or if you would like to introduce other members to the Network. Any suggestions welcome!** Our next meeting is on 10 February 2025, 10pm AEST.



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