

CURRICULUM VITAE

AMBER THIESSEN, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Houston
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Houston, TX 77004

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, Lincoln, NE
Major: Speech-Language Pathology
Emphasis Areas: Augmentative and Alternative Communication &
Neurological Disorders
May 2013

Dissertation Title: Visual Attention Patterns for Contextually Rich Images:
Neurotypical Adults in Two Age Groups and Adults with Aphasia

M.S. **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**, Lincoln, NE
Major: Speech-Language Pathology
May 2007

B.A. **University of North Dakota**, Grand Forks, ND
Bachelor of Arts
Major: Communication Sciences and Disorders
Minor: Psychology
May 2005

CERTIFICATION

June 2008 Certificate of Clinical Competence
American Speech-Language and Hearing Association

September 2010 IRB Certificate of Completion

MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSURE

2007 American Speech Language Association (ASHA)

2011 International Society of Augmentative and Alternative
Communication (ISAAC)

2010	ASHA Division 12-Augmentative and Alternative Communication
2010	ASHA Division 2-Neurophysiology and Neurogenic Speech and Language Disorders
2007-2012	Nebraska Speech-Language Pathology License
2013	Texas Speech-Language Pathology License
2013	Texas Speech-Language and Hearing Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2013-Present	Assistant Professor Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders University of Houston Houston, TX
January 2013-August 2013	Visiting Assistant Professor Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders University of Houston Houston, TX
August 2010-January 2013	Barkley Scholar Graduate Research Trainee Augmentative and Alternative Communication Lab University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, NE Director: Dr. David Beukelman
June 2007-August 2010	Quality Living, Inc. Speech-Language Pathologist Omaha, NE
April 2007-June 2007	Lincoln Public Schools Temporary Speech-Language Pathologist Lincoln, NE

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

2014	Supporting student learning through hands-on access to augmentative and alternative communication technology Teaching Innovation Program, University of Houston (Funded, \$23,475)
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2013	The selection of visual scenes: A comparison of visual attention across three types of scenes, New Faculty Research Grant, University of Houston (Funded \$5,950)
2010-Present	Barkley Scholarship University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2005-2007	Graduate Nonresident Fellowship University of Nebraska-Lincoln

PUBLICATIONS

Thiessen, A., Beukelman, D., & Hux, K., & Longenecker, M. (in preparation). A preliminary investigation of the effect of age on visual attention for camera-engaged and task-engaged visual scenes.

Thiessen, A., Brown, J., Beukelman, D., Hux, K., & Boersen, A. (in preparation). Image preferences of adults with traumatic brain injury: A comparison of two message types.

Thiessen, A., Beukelman, D., & Brown, J. (in preparation). Examination of visual attention patterns of adults with severe traumatic brain injury.

Thiessen, A., Beukelman, D., & Hux, K., & Longenecker, M. (Submitted)
A comparison of the visual attention patterns of people with aphasia and adults without neurological conditions for camera-engaged and task-engaged visual scenes.

Brown, J., **Thiessen, A.**, Beukelman, D., & Hux, K. (In press). Noun representation in grid displays: Visual attention patterns of people with traumatic brain injury. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.

Thiessen, A., Beukelman, D., Ullman, C., & Longenecker, M. (2014). Measurement of the Visual Attention Patterns of People with Aphasia: A Preliminary Investigation of Two Types of Human Engagement in Photographic Images. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.

Thiessen, A., & Beukelman, D. (2013). Training communication partners of adults who rely on AAC: Co-construction of meaning. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 22(1), 16-20.

Dietz, A., **Thiessen, A.**, Griffith, J., Peterson, A., Sawyer, E., & McKelvey, M. (2013).

The renegotiation of social roles in chronic aphasia: Finding a voice through AAC. *Aphasiology*, 27(3), 309-325.

Beukelman, D., Schrunk, A., **Thiessen, A.**, Fager, S., & Ullman, C. (2012). Vocabulary associated with medical procedures. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 22, 79-123.

Quinn, E., Beukelman, D., & **Thiessen, A.** (2011). Remote instruction of potential AAC support personnel. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 20, 97-101.

Thiessen, A., Horn, C., Beukelman, D., & Wallace, S. E. (2011). Learning motivation of adults involved in AAC intervention. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 20, 69-74.

PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Thiessen, A. & Brown, J. (2014, November). The visual system after brain injury: Using eye-tracking technology for applied clinical research. American Speech Language and Hearing Association Convention, Orlando, FL.

Thiessen, A. (2014, February). *Selecting Optimal Visual Scenes for People with Aphasia*. Texas Speech Language and Hearing Association Convention, Houston, TX.

Maher, L., **Thiessen, A.** Schmadeke, S., & Justice, R. (2014, February). *A Comprehensive Wellness Approach to Managing Chronic Aphasia*. Texas Speech Language and Hearing Association Convention, Houston, TX.

Thiessen, A. & Beukelman, D. (2012, November). *Visual Attention Patterns of Adults with Aphasia*. American Speech Language and Hearing Association Online Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Beukelman, D. & **Thiessen, A.** (2012, April). *Training communication partners of adults who rely on AAC*. American Speech Language and Hearing Association Online Conference.

Horn, C., **Thiessen, A.**, & Beukelman, D. (2011, January). *Adult learning and AAC*. American Speech Language and Hearing Association Annual Conference on Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Orlando, FL.

PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH POSTERS

Brown, J. **Thiessen, A.**, Beukelman, D., & Hux, K. (2014, November). *Message Representation in AAC Grid Displays: Visual Fixation Patterns of People with Traumatic Brain Injury*. American Speech Language and Hearing Association

Annual Convention, Orlando, FL.

Thiessen, A., Beukelman, D., & Boersen. (2013, November). *Image Preferences of People with Traumatic Brain Injury: A Comparison of Two Message Types*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Thiessen, A., Beukelman, D., Longenecker, M., & Ullman, C. (2013, November). *The Effect of Engagement on the Visual Attention Patterns of Adults with Aphasia*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Thiessen, A. & Beukelman, D. (2012, June). *Visual Fixation Patterns of Adults with Aphasia*. International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Thiessen, A. & Beukelman, D. R. (2011, November). *Learning styles of potential AAC facilitators*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.

Dietz, A., Sawyer, E., Peterson, A., McKelvey, M., and **Thiessen, A.** (2009, May) *Moderate-severe, chronic aphasia: An exploration of the changes in social roles*. Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Keystone, CO.

OTHER RESEARCH POSTERS

Thiessen, A. & Beukelman, D. (2012, November). *Visual Fixation Patterns of Adults with Aphasia*. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Research Fair, Lincoln, NE.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2014	COMD 7381 Augmentative and Alternative Communication, University of Houston
Fall 2013, 2014	COMD 6328 Acquired Cognitive Disorders, University of Houston
Summer 2013	COMD 7281 Communication Partner Training Clinical Boot Camp, University of Houston
Fall 2012	SLPA 397A, Observation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Fall 2010 & 2011	SLPA 886, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Fall 2010	Co-Instructor, SLPA 886, Augmentative and Alternative

Communication, University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
Topics addressed: alternative access, providing services to
preschool children, traumatic brain injury, communication
technology

June 2007-August 2010 In-service instructor
Quality Living, Inc.
Topics: augmentative and alternative communication,
alternative access, aphasia intervention techniques,
dysphagia, memory, behavioral challenges, severe
communication impairments

June 2007-August 2010 Dysphagia orientation instructor
Staff Development Committee
Quality Living, Inc., Omaha, NE

ACTIVITIES

March-April 2014 Member of the 2014 ASHA Program Committee for AAC

July 2013 Ad Hoc Review Augmentative and Alternative
Communication Special Issue on Eye Tracking

March-April 2012 Member of the 2012 ASHA Program Committee for AAC

June 2007-August 2010 Member of the Summit Leadership Committee
Quality Living, Inc., Omaha, NE