

# **The Bedtime Story Effect: The Role of Sleep and Semantic Training in Vocabulary Learning**

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Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 12.00-13.30  
Turing Seminar Room, Coupland One, University of Manchester

**ALL WELCOME**

## **Abstract**

Acquisition of novel spoken forms is rapid and seamless. Yet research with adults suggests integration of novel and existing knowledge (measured by engagement in lexical competition) requires a consolidation period associated with sleep (e.g., Dumay & Gaskell, 2007). These findings are well explained by neural models of learning in which sleep provides an opportunity for hippocampal information to be fed into long-term neocortical memory. The talk will provide an overview of a programme of research which investigated whether this time course dissociation also characterises word learning in children between the ages of 5 and 12 years (Henderson, Weighall, Brown & Gaskell, 2012, 2013) and also considers the influence of semantic information on the time course of lexical integration (Henderson, Weighall & Gaskell, 2013; Weighall, Henderson, Gaskell, in prep). Our results, suggest that children, like adults, require a period of offline (sleep-associated) consolidation in order to establish new words in the lexicon - and that these findings hold true across a range of different learning paradigms. Furthermore, a richer established body of vocabulary knowledge may support consolidation and integration of new vocabulary.

## **Directions**

Coupland One building is on Coupland Street, off Oxford Road, building 43 on the [Campus Map](#).

## **Further information**

For further information about this seminar, please contact [michaeline.k.glover@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:michaeline.k.glover@manchester.ac.uk) or about LuCiD, please contact [helen.allwood@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:helen.allwood@manchester.ac.uk)