

A. Personal Statement

My primary research goal is to understand sensory and perceptual experience in settlement representations and how place knowledge guides action. The study of semantic memory has covered domains ranging from natural kinds to artifacts, and from the abstract to the concrete, using a variety of experimental approaches. However, we have a limited understanding of cross-cultural settlement representations from a cognitive science perspective, and how these representations guide our actions. What role do these representations play in decision-making? How do different sensory inputs inform transmodal perception of different settlement contexts and the resulting knowledge representations that organize and classify them? And how do language and cultural experience influence the sensory features people use to represent and differentiate places? I investigate these questions using cross-linguistic behavioural and computational tools, and my working hypothesis is that place representations have a universal role in scaffolding episodic and semantic memory. I am highly motivated to understand universal and context-dependent effects of place on wellbeing, and to disseminate these insights on a global scale.

B. Education

The University of Western Ontario	Ph.D. Psychology	2028 (expected)
The University of Western Ontario	M.Sc. Psychology	2024
Brescia University College	B.A. Psychology (Hons)	2022

C. Honours and Awards

Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology (CCDP)	Sept 2024
Teacher's Assistant Award	
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)	2022 – 2023
\$15,000	
Global Undergraduate Research Awards	Aug 2022
Highly Commended in Psychology	
Dean's Honor List	2020, 2021, 2022
The University of Western Ontario	
Brescia Entry Scholarship	
Brescia University College	

D. Contributions to Science

1. **McKenzie, C. M.**, Minda, J. P. (2026). Extracting Prototypes from Lexical Feature Norms for Settlement Concepts. *Memory and Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-026-01915-0>
2. Jared, D., Tzianias, L. H., **McKenzie, C. M.**, Alexandropoulou, S., Minda, J. P. (2026). Changes in L1 Greek Lexical Conceptual Representations as a Consequence of Exposure to English as an L2. Under review at *Mental Lexicon*.
3. **McKenzie, C. M.**, Meade, M. E., Mur, M., Köhler, S., Minda, J. P. (2026). Evidence of Preserved Function in Semantic Dementia. *PsyArXiv*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/94cjh_v1
4. Ruiz Pardo, A. C., **McKenzie, C. M.**, & Khemani, N (2023). Bridging the WEIRD Gap in Category Learning: Exploring an Online-Based Solution. *PsyArXiv*. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/hcedv>
5. 8 Conference Posters

E. Research Groups

The Toronto and Area Memory Group	2024 – present
Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science	2023 – present
Psychonomics Society	2022 – present