

Laura DeThorne, PhD, CCC-SLP
(773)808-7654 / Neurodiversebydesign@gmail.com
Neurodiversebydesign.com



I. Education & Certification

Ph.D., Speech & Hearing Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2002)
M.A., Speech and Hearing Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1996)
B.S., Speech and Hearing Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1994)
Certificate of Clinical Competence, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1997-present)

II. Employment

- Founder & Consultant, Neurodiverse by Design LLC (August 2024-present)
- Assistant to the Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs (Sept 2025 to May 2026, planned 8-month commitment)
- Instructor, School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, Northern Illinois University (August 2024-present)
- Interim Chair, School of Applied Health & Communicative Disorders, Northern Illinois University (July 2024-June 2025, planned 1-year commitment)
- Chair & Professor, Dept of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Western Michigan University (2018-2024)
- Associate Professor, Speech & Hearing Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (May 2011-present)
- Assistant Professor, Speech & Hearing Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (August 2005-May 2011)
- Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Pennsylvania State University (August 2002-May 2005)
- Speech-Language Pathologist & Clinical Supervisor, Bright Futures Program, Northwestern University (1997-1998)
- Speech-Language Pathologist (CFY), Kennedy Krieger Institute, (1996-1997)

III. University Teaching

- A. Northern Illinois University (2025-present)
 - Autism & Social Communication Disorders (COMD 618)
 - Disability & Society (REHB 200)
- B. Western Michigan University (2019-2021)
 - Research Methods in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (SPPA/SLHS 6150)
 - Communication Diversity & Healthcare (SLHS 5870)
 - Communication Diversity & Access (SLHS 2970)

- Diagnostics & Appraisal (SLHS 6530)

C. University of Illinois (2015-2018)

- Language Disorders in Preschool Children (SHS 531/431)
- Introduction to Phonological Disorders (SHS 330)
- Speech-Language Disabilities in the Educational Setting (SHS 390)
- Causal Influences in Communication Disabilities (SHS 593T)
- Development and Disorders in Phonology and Articulation (SHS 430)
- Children, Language, & Communication (SHS 120h/e)
- Project FOCAL Transdisciplinary Seminar (SHS 593Z)
- Introduction to Augmentative & Alternative Communication (SHS 473)
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Life Science: Autism (GCL 199)
- Advanced Seminar: Social Model of Disability (SHS 586)
- Departmental Proseminar (SHS 592)
- Building Healthy Communities (GCL 220)
- Clinical Sociolinguistics (SHS 571)

III. Invited Presentations

DeThorne, L. (2026, July). *Neurodiversity & Implications for Educators*. Universidad de los Andes, Santiago, Chile.

DeThorne, L. (2026, May). *Beyond social skills: Friendship-focused supports for autistic students*. Infinitec. Online continuing education series: Part II.

DeThorne, L. (2026, April). *Neurodiversity 101*. Infinitec. Online continuing education series: Part I.

DeThorne, L. (2026, March). *Neurodiversity & implications for educators: Parts I & II*. Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Online conference.

DeThorne, L. (2025, October). *Neurodiversity in the classroom*. Celsius Chats sponsored by the Morgridge Endowed Chair Office at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2025, September). *Neurodiversity 101*. Macomb/St Clair Speech, Language, Hearing Association Annual Conference, Clinton Township, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2025, June). *Neurodiversity & implications for educators*. D21 4th Annual Summer Conference, Wheeling School District, Wheeling, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2025, June). *Neurodiversity 101*. D21 4th Annual Summer Conference, Wheeling School District, Wheeling, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2025, March). *Ableism: How it shows up in communication sciences & disorders*. CSD Committee on Belonging, Justice, and Social Change, New York University, New York, NY.

DeThorne, L. (2025, March). *Neurodiversity in higher education*. CSD Committee on Belonging, Justice, and Social Change, New York University, New York, NY.

DeThorne, L. (2024, November 12). *Neurodiversity affirming special education support*. Oakland Schools Neurodiversity Series, Oakland Schools, Waterford, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2024, November 6). *Stop your singing fingers: Language lessons from the neurodiversity paradigm*. Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language and Literacy, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2024, October). *Neurodiversity 101: Implications for education*. DeKalb County Regional Office of Education, DeKalb, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2024, September). *My normal isn't your normal: Viewing workplace tensions through a neurodiversity lens*. PayTech Women, Atlanta, GA.

DeThorne, L. (2024, April). *My normal isn't your normal: Leaning into difficult conversations through a neurodiversity lens*. Payroc Lunch & Learn series, online.

DeThorne, L. (2024, April). *Providing neurodiversity affirming support for autistic students within an educational context*. START Conference, East Lansing, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2024, April). *Providing neurodiversity affirming support for autistic students within an educational context*. START Conference, East Lansing, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2024, April). *Lived experience as means to ignite Change: My own parental & professional journey*. Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Muskegon, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2023, October). *The influence of the neurodiversity paradigm on my parental & professional journey*. Comparative Autism Research Effectiveness (CARE) Conference sponsored by PCORI funding, online.

DeThorne, L. (2023, Sept). *Providing neurodiversity affirming support for autistic students in special education*. Oakland Schools, Waterford, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2022, September) *Reframing social supports for school-age students*. Oakland Schools, online continuing education.

DeThorne, L. (2022, July). *Providing neurodiversity-affirming supports for autistic students within the confines of special education*. ASHA Schools Connect, Online Conference.

DeThorne, L. (2022, April). *Autism, neurodiversity, and the workplace*. Payroc lunch & learn, online.

DeThorne, L. & Sears Smith, K. (2022, March). *Autism & neurodiversity: Reimagining the strengths of the human spectrum*. Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, East Lansing, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2022, November). *Supporting neurodivergent youth in the Boy Scouts*. Boy Scouts of America, Kalamazoo, MI.

DeThorne, L. (2021, November). *A neurodiversity perspective on autism: Implications for clinical and research practice*. Congreso de Fonoaudiólogos Investigadores, Universidad de los Andes, Santiago, Chile.

DeThorne, L. (2021, November). *¿Qué es la neurodiversidad y por qué debería importarme?* Pre-Congreso de Fonoaudiólogos Investigadores, Universidad de los Andes, Santiago, Chile.

DeThorne, L. (2020, September). *Reframing social supports for school-age students on the autism spectrum*, ASHA Practical Solutions for Elementary Assessment, Treatment, & Collaboration, Online Conference.

DeThorne, L. (2020, March). *Neurodiversity 101*. Invited keynote speaker, The Arc Community Advocates, Inclusion Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.

DeThorne, L. & Sears Smith, K. (2019, November). *Autism and Neurodiversity: Reimagining the strengths of the human spectrum*. Invited speaker for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL.

DeThorne, L. (2019, October). *Autism, Apraxia, and Social Interaction: Can't v. won't*. Invited speaker for the Will Grundy Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Joliet, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2019, January). *Autism, Apraxia, and Supporting Social Interaction*. Invited speaker for the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Rosemont, IL.

DeThorne, L. & Sears Smith, K. (2019, January). *Autism and the Neurodiversity Movement*. Invited speaker for the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Rosemont, IL.

DeThorne, L. & VanRyswyk, K.J. (2019, November). *Neurodiversity 101: Building a more colorful world*. Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo, MI.

DeThorne, L.S. (2017, September). *Can't or won't: The role of motor impairment in the communication profiles of individuals on the autism spectrum*. Invited research seminar for the

Divisions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

DeThorne, L.S. (2015, March). *Communicative competence in children who use AAC: Will I know it when I see it?* Invited seminar for the Center for Disability Studies, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

DeThorne, L.S. (2015, February). *Communicative competence in children who use AAC: Will I know it when I see it?* Invited seminar for the Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois, Chicago.

DeThorne, L.S. (2014, September). *Supporting Communicative Competence: Autism & AAC.* Invited seminar for the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney, Australia.

DeThorne, L.S. (2014, September). *Supporting communicative competence.* Invited research seminar for the Divisions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden supported by an award from the Illinois-Sweden Program and Research Exchange (INSPIRE).

DeThorne, L.S. (2014, April). *More than words: Multimodality and communicative success.* Invited Speaker, Sigma Chi Annual Banquet, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL.

DeThorne, L. (2010, April). Give me feedback: *Alternatives for facilitating early speech-language development.* Invited research presentation at the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Pittsburgh, PA.

IV. Mentored Student Research (Select from >30 total)

Shadha Alkalbani (2023-2024), Honors student, Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Western Michigan University. *Neurodivergent Experiences in CSD Professional Programs as Reflected on Reddit.* Lee Honors College Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Research Mentor (in conjunction with Kelli Pierce)

Anna Davidson (2022-2023), Honors student, Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Western Michigan University. *College Students Perspectives of their Autism.* Lee Honors College Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Chair.

Sabrina Schaffer (2020-2021), Honors student, Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Western Michigan University. *Development of a questionnaire focusing on varying perspectives about autism.* Lee Honors College Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Chair.

Henry Giovanni Angulo Jiménez, MA. (2019-2020). Department of Speech & Hearing Science, University of Illinois. *"I was like 'Oh my God, los dos'": Code-switching in conversations with a bilingual adult on the autism spectrum.* Dissertation Chair.

Verónica Vidal, MS. (2017-2018). Department of Speech & Hearing Science, University of Illinois. *Getting in sync: Exploring and supporting peer interaction in an autistic child with inconsistent access to speech*. Dissertation Chair.

Mariana Aparicio Betancourt MA. (2017). Neuroscience Program, University of Illinois. *Environmental influences on communication development: Implications for children with neurodevelopmental communication impairments*. Dissertation Chair.

Megan-Brette Hamilton, MA. (2015-2016). Department of Speech & Hearing Science, University of Illinois. *Teachers' perceptions of school-age children's communication*. Dissertation Chair.

Stephanie Russell & Hillary Valentino (2011-2013), James Scholar, Department of Speech and Hearing Science, University of Illinois. *Classroom Communicative practices involving one preschool-aged child with complex communication needs*. James Scholar Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis, Research Mentor (in conjunction with Julie Hengst).

Jamie Mahurin Smith, MA. (2009-2010). Department of Speech and Hearing Science, University of Illinois. *The impact of prematurity on discourse-level language skills at school age*. Dissertation Chair.

Ellen Bogue (2009-2011), James Scholar, Department of Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Illinois. *A psychometric analysis of childhood vocabulary tests*. Honors thesis Chair.

Lisa Mellman (2008-2010), James Scholar, Department of Speech and Hearing Science at The University of Illinois. *Augmentative and alternative communication use in schools*. Honors thesis Chair.

V. Publications (Select from over 70 total publications)

1. O'Donoghue, M., Murphy, A, Vidal, V., Martinez, C., Ferris, F., & **DeThorne, L.S.** (2025). Using the double empathy problem to reframe supports for peer interaction. In: Damian Milton (Ed.), *Double Empathy Reader* (pp. 263-278). Pavilion Publishing and Media Ltd.
2. **DeThorne, L.** (2025, September/October). Signposts toward the future of neurodiversity in CSD. *The ASHA Leader*, 50-51
3. Angulo-Jiménez, H. & **DeThorne, L.** (2024). Discourse-Related Code-Switching in Conversations with a Bilingual Autistic Adult. *Journal of Interactional Research in Communication Disorders*, 15(2).
4. **DeThorne, L.** & Coburn, K. (2024). Autism through an Intersectional Neurodiversity Lens. *Topics in Language Disorders*, 44(1), 2-4.
5. **DeThorne, L.**, Pierce, K., Rang, M., Schafer, S. & VanRyswyk, K. (2024). "I have a different perspective as I am working through this:" Speech language pathologist reflections on autism. *Topics in Language Disorders*, 44(1), 25-43.
6. **DeThorne, L.**, & Gerlach, H. (2023). Resisting ableism in school-based speech-language

- pathology: An invitation to change. *Language, Speech, & Hearing Services in Schools*, 1-7.
7. Vidal, V.G., Wachholtz, D.P., Mattie, L.J., & **DeThorne, L.S.** (2023). It takes a community: How environmental systems construct (In)Competence in Autistic peer interactions. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 37, 257-267.
 8. **DeThorne, L.S.**, Hengst, J.A., Hamilton, M.-B., & Pierce, K.J. (2023). Communication Disorders. In: Howard S. Friedman (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Mental Health* (3rd ed., vol. 1), Waltham, MA: Academic Press, 448-456.
 9. Vidal, V., & **DeThorne, L.** (2021). Effectiveness of a supports-based approach to peer interactions of an autistic student in the classroom: A mixed-methods study. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 6, 327-343.
 10. Mahurin-Smith, J., **DeThorne, L.**, & Petrill, S. (2021). Children born prematurely may demonstrate catch-up growth in pre-adolescence. *Language, Speech, & Hearing Services in Schools*, 52(2), 1-11.
 11. Hamilton, M-B., & **DeThorne, L.** (2021). Volume and verve: Understanding correction/behavioral warnings in teacher-child classroom interactions involving an African American kindergarten student. *Language, Speech, & Hearing Services in Schools*, 52 (1), 64-83.
 12. **DeThorne, L.** (2020). Revealing the double empathy problem. *ASHA Leader*, 25(3), 58-65.
 13. **DeThorne, L.S.** & Searsmith, K. (2020). Autism and neurodiversity: Addressing concerns and offering implications for the school-based speech-language pathologist. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 1-7.
 14. Vidal, V., McCallister, A. & **DeThorne, L.** (2020). Communication profile of a minimally verbal school-age autistic child: A case study. *Language, Speech, & Hearing Services in Schools*, 1-16.
 15. Angulo, H., Chan, M., & **DeThorne, L.** (2019). Life is a stage: Autistic perspectives on neurotypicality. *Autism in Adulthood*, 1(4), 276-285.
 16. Angulo-Jiménez, H. & **DeThorne, L.** (2019). Narratives about autism: An analysis of YouTube videos by individuals who self-identify as autistic. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 28, 569-590.
 17. **DeThorne, L.S.** & Ceman, S. (2018). Genetic testing and autism: Tutorial for communication sciences & Disorders. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 74, 61-73.
 18. Vidal, V., Ernat, C., & **DeThorne L.** (2018). I think he wants you to play the guitar: Use of behavioral interpretation as a strategy for facilitating peer interaction across autistic and non-autistic peers. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 3, 68-83.
 19. Vidal, V., Robertson, S., & **DeThorne, L.** (2018). Illustrating a supports-based approach toward friendship with autistic students. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 27, 592-601.
 20. Hamilton, M-B., Angulo, H., Taylo, C., & **DeThorne, L.S.** (2018). Clinical implications for working with nonmainstream dialect speakers: A focus on two Filipino kindergartners. *Language, Speech, & Hearing Services in Schools*, 49, 497-508.
 21. Mahurin-Smith, **DeThorne, L.**, & Petrill, S.A. (2017). Longitudinal associations across prematurity, attention, and language in school-age children. *Journal of Speech, Language, & Hearing Research*, 60, 3601-3608.
 22. Aparicio Betancourt, M., **DeThorne, L.**, Karahalios, K., & Kim, J. (2017). Skin Conductance as

an In Situ Marker for Emotional Arousal in Children with Neurodevelopmental Communication Impairments: Methodological Considerations and Clinical Implications. *ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS)*, 9(3), 8:2-8:9.

23. **DeThorne, L.S.**, Hengst, J.A., Valentino, J.A., & Russell, S.A. (2015). More than words: Examining communicative competence through a preschool-aged child with autism." *Inclusion*. 3(3), 176-196.
24. **DeThorne, L.S.**, Hengst, J., Fisher, K., & King, A. (2014). Keep your eye on the prize: Implementing AAC within the broader context of communicative competence. *Young Exceptional Children*, 14, 39-50.
25. Kraft, Shelly Jo, & **DeThorne, L.S.** (2014). The brand new world of epigenetics: Embracing complexity in the study of speech and language disorders. *Current Developmental Disorders Reports*, 1(3), 207-214.
26. Bogue, E., **DeThorne, L.**, & Schaefer, B. (2014). A psychometric analysis of childhood vocabulary tests. *Contemporary Issues in Communication Science and Disorders*, 41, 55-69.
27. King, A.M., Hengst, J.A., **DeThorne, L.S.** (2013). Severe speech sound disorders: An integrated multimodal intervention. *Language Speech and Hearing Services in Schools*, 44, 195-210.

VI. Grants Awarded

Jim Shriner (PI), **DeThorne, L. (Content Expert)**. *Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Students with Disabilities: Research and Development of Web-based Supports for IEP Team Decisions*. U.S Department of Education, Institute of Educational Sciences Project Dates: 07/01/2011 – 06/30/2014. \$1,478,443.

Laura S. DeThorne (PI). Karrie Karahalios & Jim Halle (co-investigators). *Making Words Meet: Using Computerized Feedback to Facilitate Word Combinations in Children with ASD*. Autism Speaks Treatment Research Grant. June 2010-November 2012. \$178,650.

Laura S. DeThorne (PI). Stephen A. Petrill (co-investigator). *Child Spontaneous Language Use: Gene-Environment Effects*. NICHD # 1 R01 HD50307-01A2, Awarded for September 2007-June 2011. \$244,197.

Cynthia J. Johnson (PI), **Laura S. DeThorne**, Ruth V. Watkins, Jim Halle, Michaelene Ostrosky, & David Richman (co-investigators). *Project FOCAL: Focusing on Causality and Assessment to Train Leaders in Children's Communication Disabilities*. U.S. Department of Education. H325D070061, Awarded for August 2007-August 2011. \$783,198.

Stephen A. Petrill (PI), **Laura S. DeThorne**, Kirby Deater-Deckard, Lee A. Thompson, Christopher Schatschneider, David J. Vandenberg, Laurie E. Cutting, & George P. Vogler (co-investigators). *Environmental Influences on Early Reading: A Twin Study*. NICHD #5 R01 HD38076-03, Awarded for April 2006-March 2011. \$3,550,442.

Laura S. DeThorne (PI). *Examining the Influence of Child Language Ability on Adult-Child Interactions within a Twin Study.* American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. Awarded for November 2004-November 2005. \$15,000.

Stephen A. Petrill (PI), **Laura S. DeThorne**, Kirby Deater-Deckard, Lee A. Thompson, Christopher Schatschneider, David J. Vandenberg, & George P. Vogler (co-investigators). *Environmental Influences on Early Reading: A Twin Study.* NICHD # R01 HD38076-03, Awarded for April 2002-March 2006. \$1,757,409.

VII. Select Service

- **Editor Role**, *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, *Journal of Communication Disorders*, *Journal of Speech, Language, & Hearing Research*, and *Perspectives of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Special Interest Groups* (varied from 2008- present)
- **Grant reviewer**, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Wellcome Trust, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, & Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (varied from 2007-2024)
- **Program Director**, Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology programs at Western Michigan University (2018-2024)
- **Board Member**, Arc Community Advocates (2022-2023)
- **International Host**, Coordinated a visit of ~25 faculty and PhD students from the Karolinska Institute to the University of Illinois to cultivate shared research interests (2018)
- **Symposium Co-organizer**, Symposium on Activity-Based Approaches to Communication, together with Dr. Julie Hengst (2012 & 2013)
- **Organizing Parent Collective Member**, The Summit Afterschool Program at Stratton Elementary (2011-2014)

VIII. Awards

NIU College of Health & Human Sciences Leadership Award (2025)
WMU Broncos Excellence in Diversity Award (Awarded to the Dept of SLHS, 2023)
ASHA AARC Faculty Mentor (Santhanam, 2020 & Gerlach, 2021)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Research Mentoring-Pair Travel Award (2017)
UIUC Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2017)
UIUC Applied Health Sciences Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2017)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Pathways Program, Mentor (2017)
UIUC Applied Health Sciences Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching (2013)
UIUC's List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent (multiple semesters 2006-2016)
Academic Sabbatical to focus on social-cultural models of disability (May 2014-Aug 2015)
Distinguished Promotion Award, UIUC Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor (Spring 2011)

Arnold O. Beckman Research Award, UIUC's Campus Research Board (May 2009)
American Speech-Language Hearing Association Advancing Academic-Research Careers
Award (2005)