

Robert F. Williams

Professor of Education

Chair, Mielke Family Department of Education

Faculty Member, Cognitive Science & Linguistics Programs



CONTACT

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EDUCATION

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| 2017 | Management Development Program Harvard Institutes of Higher Education, Cambridge, MA |
| 2004 | Doctor of Philosophy in Cognitive Science (<i>Spencer Dissertation Fellowship</i>) University of California, San Diego |
| 2000 | Master of Science in Cognitive Science University of California, San Diego |
| 1992 | Master of Arts in Secondary Education University of Colorado at Denver |
| 1985 | Bachelor of Arts (German major) (<i>with highest distinction</i>) Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (<i>with highest distinction</i>) Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana |

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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| 2018-present | Professor of Education (Lawrence University, Wisconsin) |
| January 2016 | Visiting Professor (University of Nottingham Ningbo, China) Department of Applied Linguistics, School of English |
| April-July 2011 | Visiting Professor (RWTH Aachen University, Germany) Natural Media & Engineering, Human Technology Centre |
| 2010-2018 | Associate Professor of Education (Lawrence University, Wisconsin) |
| 2004-2010 | Assistant Professor of Education (Lawrence University, Wisconsin) |
| 1998-2004 | Teaching Associate for Cognitive Science & Linguistics (UC San Diego) |
| 1996-1997 | Visiting Lecturer in the Language Center (University of Passau, Germany) |

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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| Since 2019 | Project Director for Restructuring Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Processes at Lawrence University (Mellon Grant) |
| 2015-2019 | Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Affairs |
| 2016 | Acting Dean of Academic Success (March to October) |
| 2013-2015 | Senior Experience Director (Mellon Grant) |
| 2010-2013 | Chair of the Assessment Task Force |

COURSES

Teacher Education & Education Studies

EDST 180: *Psychology of Learning*
EDUC 310: *Cognitive Diversity in Education*
EDUC 430: *Educating All Learners*
EDUC 431: *Educating All Learners in Music*
EDST 450: *Topic: Educating for Creativity*
EDUC 650: *Student Teaching*
EDUC 660: *Advanced Methods in Teaching*

Cognitive Science & Linguistics

COSC 300: *The Making of Scientific Facts*
COSC 345: *Distributed Cognition*
LING 470: *Cognitive Linguistics*
LING 545: *Gesture Studies*

First-Year Studies

FRST 100 & 101: *First-Year Studies I & II*

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

- Williams, R. F., & Harrison, S. (in prep.). Distributed cognition and gesture in impromptu teaching.
- Williams, R. F. (2022). Coordinating and sharing gesture spaces in collaborative reasoning. *Gesture*, 21(1): 115-149.
- Williams, R. F. (2019). The source-path-goal image schema in gestures for thinking and teaching. *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*, 17(2): 411-437.
- Harrison, S., & Williams, R. F. (2017). Monitoring the swimzone whilst finding south: Sustained orientation in multiactivity among beach lifeguards. *Text & Talk*, 37(6): 683-711.
- Williams, R. F., & Harrison, S. (2014). Distributed cognition and gesture: Propagating a functional system through impromptu teaching. In J. L. Polman, E. A. Kyza, D. K. O'Neill, I. Tabak, W. R. Penuel, A. S. Jurow, K. O'Connor, T. Lee, & L. D'Amico (Eds.), *Learning and Becoming in Practice: The International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS), Volume 3* (pp. 1655-1656). Boulder, CO: International Society of the Learning Sciences.
- Williams, R. F. (2013). Distributed cognition and gesture. In C. Müller, A. Cienki, E. Fricke, S. Ladewig, D. McNeill, & S. Tessendorf (Eds.), *Body – Language – Communication: An International Handbook on Multimodality in Human Interaction, Vol. 1* (pp. 240-258). Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Potsch, E., & Williams, R. F. (2012). Image schemas and conceptual metaphor in action comics. In F. Bramlett (Ed.), *Linguistics and the Study of Comics* (pp. 13-36). New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (Co-author: Elisabeth Potsch '08)
- Williams, R. F. (2012). Image schemas in clock-reading: Latent errors and emerging expertise. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 21(2): 216-246. Special issue on modalities of body engagement in mathematical activity and learning, R. Hall & R. Nemirovsky (Eds.).
- Williams, R. F. (2008). Distributed cognition. In E. M. Anderman (Ed.), *Psychology of Classroom Learning: An Encyclopedia*. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA.
- Williams, R. F. (2008). Gesture as a conceptual mapping tool. In A. Cienki & C. Müller (Eds.), *Metaphor and Gesture [Gesture Studies 3]* (pp. 55-92). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Williams, R. F. (2008). Guided conceptualization: Mental spaces in instructional discourse. In T. Oakley & A. Hougaard (Eds.), *Mental Spaces in Discourse and Interaction* (pp. 209-234). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Williams, R. F. (2006). Using cognitive ethnography to study instruction. In S. A. Barab, K. E. Hay, & D. T. Hickey (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 7th International Conference of the Learning Sciences, Volume 2* (pp. 838-844). Bloomington, IN: Int'l Soc. of the Learning Sciences.
- Coulson, S., & Williams, R. F. (2005). Hemispheric asymmetries and joke comprehension. *Neuropsychologia*, 43, 128-141.
- Williams, R. F. (1993). Gay and lesbian teenagers: A reading ladder for students, media specialists, and parents. *The ALAN Review*, 20(3).
- Williams, R. F. (1992, spring). Joey gets literate: A short story about the effects of schooling on a child's developing literacy. *The Edge* literary magazine, University of Colorado at Denver.

Conference Papers with Students (as co-author or advisor)

- Having a Beef with “Beefcake”: Combining Metaphor and Blending in MAN-AS-FOOD Analyses. (In prep.) First author: Nicole Crashell '19.
- Bending over backwards: Embodiment motivates language. *11th Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, & Language*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 17-20 May 2012. First author: Melissa Zheng '13.
- Cognitive models and the partisan divide: A study of the debate over health care reform. Poster for the *10th Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, & Language*, University of California, San Diego, 16-19 September 2010. First author: Madeline Herdeman '10.
- Building a better oarsman: Conceptual integration and motor learning in rowing instruction. Poster for the *10th Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, & Language*, University of California, San Diego, 16-19 September 2010. First author: Nicholas Carson Miller '10.
- Using conceptual integration to develop physical skills: Motor-concept linking and intermediary mapping. *11th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference*, University of California, Berkeley, 28 July-3 August 2009. First authors: Nicholas Carson Miller '10 and Emily C. Gaudinski '08.
- Motion and force in a static art form: Image schemas and conceptual metaphor in American superhero comics. *11th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference*, University of California, Berkeley, 28 July-3 August 2009. First author: Elisabeth Potsch '08.

Invited Lectures (selected list)

- Re-envisioning learning through inclusive communities of practice. ACM Faculty Career Enhancement Conference on *Collaboration to Address 21st-Century Challenges in Liberal Education through Inclusive Communities of Practice*. Chicago, IL, 21 Sep 2018.
- Knocking it out of the park with edTPA: Strategies for success. *Wisconsin State Music Educators Conference*, Madison, 28-31 Oct 2015 & 27-30 Oct 2016. Co-presenters: Matthew Arau & Brigetta Miller, Lawrence Conservatory of Music.
- Linking mind and world through gesture. Visiting lecture at the Centre for Research in Applied Linguistics in China, University of Nottingham Ningbo, China, 12 Jan 2016.
- The 21st-century student: The 100-level course*. Facilitator for workshop on using the science of learning to redesign introductory courses. Knox College, Galesburg, IL, 7-8 Dec 2015.
- Education in a changing world / Situated cognition and the culture of learning / Educating for creativity. Three workshops for teachers at the *Mielke Summer Institute for the Liberal Arts*, Björklunden vid Sjön, 21-26 Jun 2015.
- Distributed cognition and conceptual integration. For the graduate course *Semiotics and Embodied Cognition in the Digital Age*, Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology, Bonn, Germany, 29 Jun 2011.
- Functions of gestures. For the graduate course *Advanced Gesture Analysis*, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany, 26 Apr 2011.
- Gesture coupling body, mind, and world. Visiting lecture for the *Cognitive Science Colloquium Series*, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 20 Apr 2011.
- Gesture, conceptualization, and distributed cognition. Plenary address for *The Embodied Mind: Motion in Communication and Cognition Research*, Aachen, Germany, 8-9 April 2011.
- Functions of gesture during instruction: Conceptual mapping, anchoring, and blending. Visiting lecture at the Berlin Gesture Center, Berlin, Germany, 29 Sep 2008.
- The brain and learning. For the graduate course *Human Development and Learning*, National Louis University, Appleton, WI, 26 Mar 2007.
- Lessons from a cognitive ethnography of time-telling instruction. Visiting lecture for the *Learning Sciences Colloquium Series*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 30 Sep 2005.