**Research question: How does childhood SES contribute to adult language processing skills?**

- Childhood socioeconomic status (SES) associates with different experiences, including the amount and type of verbal input children receive (e.g., Hart & Risley, 1995).
- Young children from higher SES backgrounds know more words and show differences in lexical processing as early as 18 months (e.g., Fernald et al., 2012).
- Higher vocabulary is associated with faster anticipatory language processing in both children and adults (Borovsky et al., 2013).
- In addition to timing differences in anticipatory language processing based on vocabulary, differences in lexical activation have been reported in adolescents with specific language impairment (SLI) compared to developing controls (Borovsky et al., 2013).

**Predictions**

Based on previous work, we predicted possible differences in:

1. **Timing** of anticipatory looks to a target: as with expressive vocabulary, higher SES may associate with more rapid anticipation, and / or
2. **Lexical activation** of related words: as in SLI, lower SES in childhood may associate with reduced looks to “distractor” pictures related to the action of a sentence.

**Participants.** 108 native English-speaking college students at UCSD (N=35; ages 18-26, M=21) and FSU (N=73; ages 18-23, M=20)

**Materials.** 16 sentences paired with 4 items in a visual world paradigm.

**Eyetracking.** Eyelink 2000 (UCSD) and Eyelink 1000+ (FSU) at 500 Hz. Here, data is binned in 50 ms intervals.

**Measuring SES** (Barratt, 2006)

A four-factor measure including maternal and paternal education and occupation.

**Differences in timing of anticipatory looks**

Divergence analysis: Higher-SES group was 50 ms faster than Lower-SES group to reliably view the Target (1150 vs. 1200 ms, ps < .05).

Log-gaze analysis: Marginal SES effects in looks to the Target vs. Agent-related distractor between 1150-1200 ms (highlighted in gray).

**Differences in looks to distractors during anticipatory time windows (verb, second article)**

The Higher-SES group viewed Action-related distractors more than the Lower-SES group.

**SES background has a limited effect on timing differences in anticipatory looks to a predictable target, but we see greater differences in patterns of lexical/conceptual knowledge activation.**

- Tentatively: individuals from lower-SES backgrounds may have had exposure to fewer words in fewer contexts and may be less likely to activate multiple possible outcomes at once. This may imply greater difficulty for ambiguous or garden-path sentences as well as for less-likely upcoming content—avenues we hope to explore in future work.