



**GLOBAL
TALES**
TALKING ABOUT LIVED
EXPERIENCES IN STORIES

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Our Network

Welcome to our new members



In 2025 we welcomed new members from a wide range of countries, including Lithuania, Ukraine, Belgium, Sweden, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Hungary. This means we now have representatives from more than 35 countries, who are all committed to spread our Global TALES message!

Network meetings

We meet every 2 or 3 months - on Zoom - to present findings and paper proposals, launch new ideas, forge collaborations, discuss methods of analysis, and more!

In 2025, we had the following presentations:

1. **Carol Westby**: The importance of personal narrative coherence.
2. **Marleen Westerveld**: Update on the global coherence paper - what have we learnt?
3. **Vasu Srivastava** : Narrating happy and worried experiences: Coherence in personal stories of Hindi-speaking children with and without autism.
4. **Mateja Gabaj**: Contribution of memory mechanisms and socio-emotional functioning to the production of personal narratives in children with and without DLD.
5. **Pamela Filiatrault-Veilleux, Tegan Hryciw, Marleen Westerveld**: Overview of our Network symposium and preliminary results from our exit survey.

New Doctors!



Vasu Srivastava successfully completed her doctoral thesis - *Beyond structural analyses: Examining topics, coherence and oral inferential comprehension when Hindi-speaking children with and without autism tell and understand stories. Congrats Dr. Srivastava!*



Mateja Gabaj successfully defended her doctoral thesis (summa cum laude) - *Production of personal narratives in children with Developmental Language Disorder. Congratulations Dr. Gabaj.*

Global TALES
is on Instagram
and YouTube

FOLLOW
US!



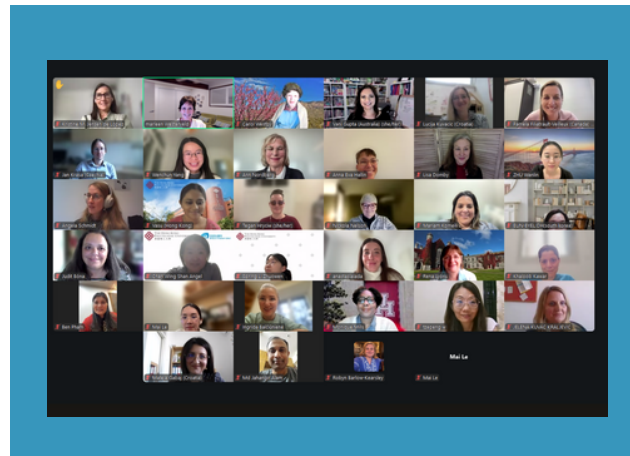
@global_tales_network



YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@GlobalTALES-network>

We invite you to **follow us** and **contribute!** It will be a great way to promote the Network and all the wonderful work we do.
Contact **Marleen** for more info.



★ Highlights ★ ★

in September 2025, we held our very first [Global TALES Network symposium](#).

This event was supported through a Connection grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and included 2 round-table planning days to discuss strategic directions. We decided on establishing an executive committee - EOIs invited soon!

The symposium was a huge success, with:

- 20 oral presentations, including 3 keynotes and panel discussions
- 10 e-posters
- 54 contributors from 12 countries
- 630 registrants, from > 35 countries



Round-table contributors (from L-R): Wanlin Zhu, Nicki Nelson, Carol Westby, Lisa Domby, Marleen Westerveld, Pamela Filiatrault-Veilleux, Monique Mills, Andrea MacLeod, Tegan Hryciw, Angel Chan.

Protocol updates

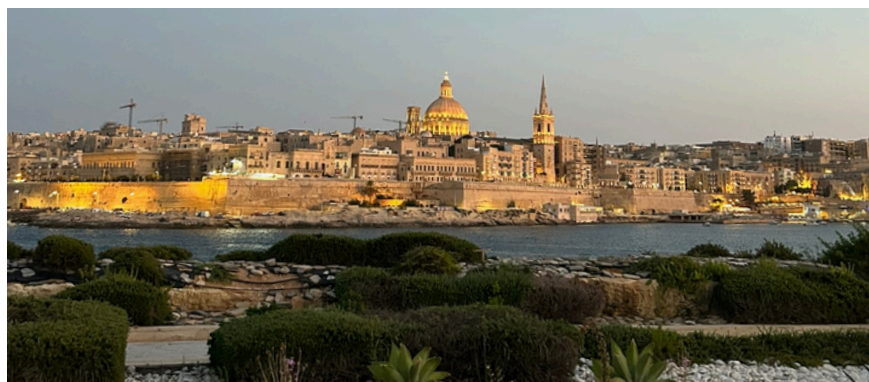
Swedish
Ukrainian
German
Visual supports for young children
Written prompts
And more!

Visit our OSF site



33rd World congress of the IALP. Malta, August 2025

It was great to meet many of our Global TALES Network members in person in August 2025 in Malta at the International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP) World Congress. There were multiple presentations involving Global TALES, including a 60-minute session by members of the Child Language Committee; and oral presentations by Pamela Filiatrault-Veilleux; Lisa Domby, Kristine Jensen de López, and Sara Ferman. For a full list [visit this site](#).



Presentations and Publications

CONGRATULATIONS

In 2025, there were more than 20 conference presentations involving Global TALES.

To date, there are 15 publications of studies that have used the Global TALES protocol, with at least another 5 papers under review! You will find a complete list of pubs and presentations here:

<https://www.marleenwesterveld.com/global-tales-network/>

In 2025, the following papers were published:

- Gabaj, M., Kraljević, J. K., & Westerveld, M. F. (2025). The personal narratives of Croatian-speaking children with developmental language disorder: Investigating the influence of emotional valence at linguistic, propositional, and macrostructure levels. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 56(3), 617-632. doi:10.1044/2025_LSHSS-24-00111
- Gabaj, M., Kraljević, J. K., & Westerveld, M. F. (2025). Contribution of memory mechanisms and socio-emotional functioning to the production of personal narratives in children with and without developmental language disorder. *Journal of Speech, Language & Hearing Research*, 68, 4845-4864. doi:10.1044/2025_JSLHR-25-0004

Update on TalkBank

CHILDES

In 2025, we established our own spot on TalkBank - Google TalkBank Global Tales or go to <https://talkbank.org/childes/access/GlobalTales/>. To date there are samples from Hong Kong, China, Malaysia and Australia, with uploads from Canada pending. We have made great progress using Automated Speech Recognition! Note that access to the recordings and transcripts will be tightly controlled - contact Marleen for further details and/or watch this space!

Celebrating our HDR students



We have a growing number of Higher Degree Research students in the Network. Here are some achievements worth celebrating:

Claire Neufeld (CAN) successfully presented her Master's proposal : Untold stories from children with DLD: Personal narrative skills and Theory of Mind.

Lucija Kuvačić (Croatia) successfully presented her PhD proposal: The use of evaluative devices in personal stories of children with Developmental Language Disorder.

Vani Gupta (Australia) was awarded the James Law Child Language Conference prize

Mai Le (Vietnam) successfully submitted her PhD research direction: Promoting personal narrative skills in 5-year-old children with DLD through daily activities.

Vasu Srivastava was awarded First Runner-up in the 3MT at the faculty level (HK Polytech Uni).

Wrapping up

This wraps up 2025! It has been an absolute pleasure working with all of you - in person or via Zoom. We are looking forward to 2026 and all it has to bring. As always please feel free to email Marleen if you want to connect with others, attend our meetings, find out more about the protocol, and/or if you have suggestions for guest presentations / grant applications / new members! Our next meeting is on 2 February 2026, 10pm AEST.



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