



Barbara Landau's Biography

Barbara Landau has been the Dick and Lydia Todd Professor of Cognitive Science at Johns Hopkins University since 2001, was the Vice Provost for Faculty from 2011-2014, and the Director of the Science of Learning Institute from 2013-2018. Landau is interested in human knowledge of language and space, and the relationships between these two foundational systems of knowledge. Her central interests concern the nature of the cognitive "primitives" that are in place during early development, and support our remarkable capacity to recognize objects, move around space in a directed fashion, and talk about our spatial experience. Specific topics of interest include the mappings between language and space, including universals, cross-linguistic variation, and the consequences of these for a range of cognitive tasks. Landau's research draws on a variety of approaches, including traditional experimental and linguistic methods adapted for young typically developing children as well as cases of atypical development. The latter include studies of congenitally blind children, people with Williams syndrome, and studies of language and spatial representation in healthy children and those who have sustained perinatal stroke. Atypical cases of development are used to shed light on typical developmental profiles in the domains of language and space. Landau is an elected member of the [National Academy of Sciences](#), a Fellow of the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#), the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#), the [Cognitive Science Society](#), and several other organizations. She was named a [Guggenheim Fellow in 2009](#).