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Erik Thiessen, is the Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professor of Psychology at Carnegie Mellon University. His research explores learning in infancy and childhood; in particular, how infants learn to take advantage of the auditory structure of language. This work can be divided into two broad aims. The first line of research asks how infants learn which auditory events provide cues to linguistic structure. Early in the first year of life, for example, infants recognize the rhythmic structure of their native language, and use rhythm to help them discover words in fluent speech. Similarly, in the first years of their life, infants learn which sounds are meaningfully different in their language, and which distinctions are unimportant. What information do infants use to begin taking advantage of these types of auditory regularities?