

## Keynote 2

### Understanding reading, understanding writing

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Reading is one of the most well-studied phenomena in the psychological sciences. The literature on reading stretches back over 100 years and hundreds of new articles are published each year. However, this research has focused on a very narrow range of writing systems and a narrow range of words within those writing systems. I present several examples of instances in which reading systems reflect salient information present within writing systems. I argue that a full understanding of reading and reading acquisition requires us to think deeply about what writing is and the type of information that it conveys. I conclude by considering whether there is any evidence that writing systems are ‘optimal’ (or may have become more optimal) for skilled, silent reading.