

# USF NEXUS INITIATIVE 2018 AWARD RECIPIENT

## **Elizabeth Schotter**

*Using Eye Movements and Computational Modeling to Understand the Earliest Stages of Reading*

Skilled deaf readers are more efficient than reading-level matched hearing counterparts; a wider perceptual span allows them to easily allocate attention to peripheral areas of text. We are testing whether deaf readers' enhanced peripheral attention and reading efficiency result from auditory deprivation, experience with a visual language (ASL), or both. We hypothesize that the additive effects of ASL and early deafness will lead deaf signers to perform peripheral tasks better than hearing people and/or non-signers.

## **Partnerships:**

**Amy Lieberman**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
Boston University (Boston, Massachusetts)



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