

# Dr. Christine Cuskley

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## EDUCATION

**PhD (July 2013)**, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh. Dissertation: *Shared cross-modal associations and the emergence of the lexicon*.

**MSc (December 2008)**, Evolution of Language and Cognition, University of Edinburgh. Dissertation: Cross-modality and the origins of language.

**BA (May, 2005)**, Psychology, American University, Washington, D.C.

## EMPLOYMENT

**British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow** (January 2016–Present), University of Edinburgh, Centre for Language Evolution.

**Postdoctoral Researcher** (January 2015–December 2015), Institute for Scientific Interchange (Fondazione ISI), Turin, Italy; January 2015–December 2015

**Postdoctoral Researcher** (January 2013–December 2014), Institute for Complex Systems (ISC–CNR), Università La Sapienza, Rome, Italy.

Parental leave: January 2017 – August 2017; July 2011 – January 2012

## FUNDING

**British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (£260,086)**, *Emergence and dynamics of linguistic rules across complex populations*

## RESEARCH OUTPUT

### PUBLICATIONS

Cuskley, C., Kirby, S. & Loreto, V. (2018). A social approach to rule dynamics using an agent based model. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, doi: 10.1111/tops.12327

Cuskley, C., Castellano, C., Colaïori, F., Loreto, V., Pugliese, M., & Tria, F. (2017). The regularity game: Investigating linguistic rule dynamics in a population of interacting agents. *Cognition*, 159, 25–32.

Cuskley, C., Simner, J. and Kirby, S. (2015). Phonological and orthographic influences in the bouba–kiki effect. *Psychological Research*, 81(1), 119–130.

Cuskley, C., Colaïori, F., Castellano, C., Loreto, V., Pugliese, M., and Tria, F. (2015). The adoption of linguistic rules in native and non-native speakers: Evidence from a Wug task. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 84, 205–223.

Colaïori, F., Castellano, C., Cuskley, C., Loreto, V., Pugliese, M. and Tria, F. (2015). General three-state model with biased population replacement: Analytical solution and application to language dynamics. *Physical Review E*, 91, 012808

Cuskley, C., Pugliese, M., Loreto, V., Colaïori, F., Castellano, C. & Tria, F. (2014). Internal and external dynamics in language: Evidence from verb regularity in a historical corpus of English. *PLoS One*, 9(8): e102882.

Cuskley, C. (2013b). Mappings between linguistic sound and motion. *Public Journal of Semiotics*, 5(1), 39–62.

Cuskley, C. and Kirby, S. (2013). Synaesthesia, cross-modality and language evolution. In: Simner, J. and Hubbard E.M. (Eds) *Oxford Handbook of Synaesthesia*, pp. 869–907.

Simner, J., Cuskley, C. and Kirby, S. (2010). What sound does that taste? Cross-modal mappings across gustation and audition. *Perception*, 39(4), 553–569.

#### EDITING

Cuskley, C., Flaherty, M., Little, H. McCrohon, L., Ravnani, A., & Verhoef, T. (Eds.) (2016). The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 11th International Conference (EvoLang12). doi: 10.12775/3991, available online at <http://evolang.org/torun/proceedings/index.html>

Roberts, S.G., Cuskley, C., McCrohon, L., Barceló-Coblijn, L., Fehér, O & Verhoef, T. (Eds.) (2016). *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 11th International Conference* (EVOLANG11). doi:10.17617/2.2248295, available at <http://evolang.org/neworleans/>

#### PRESENTATIONS

Cuskley, C. (2017). The Sensory Theory of Protolanguage Emergence. Protolang 5, Barcelona, Spain. 26 September – 28 September, 2017 (Presentation).

Cuskley C. & Loreto V. (2016). The Emergence Of Rules And Exceptions In A Population Of Interacting Agents. In S.G. Roberts, C. Cuskley, L. McCrohon, L. Barceló-Coblijn, O. Fehér & T. Verhoef (eds.) *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 11th International Conference* (EVOLANG11).

Cuskley C., Monechi B., Gravino P. and Loreto V. (2016). The Evolution Of Collaborative Stories. In S.G. Roberts, C. Cuskley, L. McCrohon, L. Barceló-Coblijn, O. Fehér & T. Verhoef (eds.) *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 11th International Conference* (EVOLANG11).

Cuskley, C., Castellano, C., Colaïori, F., Loreto, V., Pugliese, M. & Tria, F. (2014). Frequency and stability of linguistic variants. In: Cartmill, E., Roberts, S., Lyn, H. & Cornish, H. (Eds.), *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 10th International Conference*, p. 417–418. London: World Scientific. London: World Scientific.

Pugliese, M., Loreto, V., Cuskley, C., Castellano, C., Colaïori, F., & Tria, F. (2014). The role of coordination in regularization. In: Cartmill, E., Roberts, S., Lyn, H. & Cornish, H. (Eds.), *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 10th International Conference*, p. 260–261. London: World Scientific.

Pugliese, M., Cuskley, C., Loreto, V., Castellano, C., Colaïori, F., & Tria, F. (2014) Agent-based models of consensus in language dynamics. Meeting of the German Physical Society, focus session on Complex Systems Approaches to Language and Communication. Dresden, March 30–April 4, 2014.

Cuskley, C., Kirby, S. & Simner, J. (2010). Cross-modality: reviving iconicity in the evolution of language. In: A.D.M. Smith, M. Schouwstra, B. de Boer and K.Smith (Eds.) *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 8th International Conference*, p. 309–310. London: World Scientific. (Hurford Prize winner)

Cuskley, C., Simner, J. and Kirby, S (2009). Cross-modally bootstrapping protolanguage: reconsidering the evidence. Poster, European Human Behaviour and Evolution Conference, St. Andrews, UK: 6–9 April, 2009.

#### OTHER

Cuskley, C. (2017). The Field of Linguistics. In Shackelford, T.K. and Weekes-Shackelford, V.A. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Springer.

Cuskley, C. (2016). Evolution of Language. In: Miller, H.L (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Theory in Psychology*. SAGE: CA.

Cuskley, C. (2013a). *Shared cross-modal associations and the emergence of the lexicon*. University of Edinburgh Doctoral Thesis. <https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/7702>

## TEACHING

**Spring 2018, Lecturer, Language Evolution in the Lab** (University of Edinburgh). Postgraduate course covering hands-on research methods and analysis in empirical approaches to language evolution.

**Autumn 2016, Lecturer, Foundations of Evolution (EUSA Teaching Award Nominee)** (University of Edinburgh). Postgraduate course, covering the core principles of evolution as they apply to psychology, linguistics, and culture.

**2010-2012, Lecturer, Psychology** (University of Edinburgh, Open Studies). Courses delivered: Psychology of Language (SCQF Level 7), Evolution of Cognition (SCQF Level 7), Sensation and Perception, and the Science of Language.

**Autumn 2008-2012, Tutor, Pre-Honours Linguistics** (University of Edinburgh). Covered topics in introductory linguistics, acoustic phonetics, and empirical methods in sociolinguistics.

## SUPERVISION/MENTORING

de Rooij, L. (expected 2018). Cultural transmission in an iterated learning task: the effect of animated motion on language structure. University of Amsterdam, Masters in Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

Voosloo, M. (2018). An investigation into the impact of segregation on creole genesis using agent-based modelling. University of Edinburgh, Linguistics and English Language Undergraduate Honours Dissertation

Giannoulaki, I. (2016). Experimental evidence for the effect of group size and verbal teaching on cumulative cultural evolution. University of Edinburgh, MSc Evolution of Language and Cognition.

Pugliese, M. (2014) Statistical physics and social dynamics. PhD (Physics), University of Rome La Sapienza. (Mentor)

Foster, E. (2013). Are Taste Terms Non-Arbitrary? Evidence from a large-scale cross-linguistic survey. University of Edinburgh, Linguistics and English Language Undergraduate Honours Dissertation

Brand, J. (2012) The cultural emergence of structure and sound symbolism in an artificial sound-taste language. University of Edinburgh, MSc Evolution of Language and Cognition

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

**Creating Communication**, an installation of interactive experimental games investigating language evolution, the Edinburgh International Science Festival Experimentarium, Summerhall, April 13–19, 2018.

**Sing the Gloaming**, outdoor art installation of sung phonaesthemes and sculptures (Sanctuary Dark Skies Art Festival, Galloway, 23–24 September 2017). Inspired by Cuskley & Kirby (2013).

**Learn Ferro**, a sequence learning game on display at the Language exhibit (Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany). 26 September 2016 – 20 August 2017. More info: [bit.ly/ferrovid](http://bit.ly/ferrovid)

**CreaStoria**, game of collaborative flash fiction. Debuted September 2015 at Kreyon Day: Sperimenta la tua Creatività, Palazzo Esposizioni, Rome. Finalist at iGamer4 competition in Paris, France, January 29–31, 2016.

**Sensory Dining**, Edinburgh International Science Festival (panel member), The Jam House, Edinburgh: 10th April 2012.

**Synaesthesia and Language**, Edinburgh International Science Festival (interactive experiment and informational poster), National Museum of Scotland, 8–14 April 2009.

## PRESS

**Why language exceptions remain the rule.** *Focus: Physics*, 8, 3 (January 9, 2015).

**Kiki or Bouba? In search of language's missing link.** *The New Scientist* (Cover), 16 July, 2011 (Issue 2821).

## REVIEWING

TopiCS, Cognitive Science, JEP: Learning, Memory and Cognition, JEP: Human Perception and Performance, Advances in Complex Systems, Interaction Studies, PLoS One, Language and Speech.

## SELECTED WORKSHOPS/ORGANISING

- The making of opinions: A multidisciplinary point of view. CNRS Lyon, France, 6 June 2018 (Invited Speaker)
- EvoLang: International Evolution of Language Conference, Scientific committee member 2016, lead scientific editor 2018.
- CreativEvolang: Creativity and Innovation in the Evolution of Language, EvoLang 2016 Satellite Workshop. (Organiser). More info: <http://creativevolang.wordpress.com>
- Workshop on The Emergence of Consensus and Misunderstanding. Rome, Italy, February 24–25, 2013 (Organiser). More info: <http://emergcons.wordpress.com>
- Opening for University of Aarhus Cognition and Behaviour Lab (University of Aarhus, Denmark, August 23, 2013; Invited Speaker)
- Workshop on Cross-modal associations and language (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, Netherlands, July 9, 2009; Invited Speaker)

## SKILLS

**Programming:** Proficient: Python, R, Java/Processing, JavaScript; Intermediate: C++. **Web:** HTML/HTML5; CSS/SCSS; Bootstrap; JavaScript incl. p5js, d3js, jQuery; Flask (Python) web framework; Heroku; MongoDB. **Languages:** Fluent Italian.