

# Dr Greg Woodin BA, MA, MA, PhD

**Website** [www.gregwoodin.co.uk](http://www.gregwoodin.co.uk)

**Google Scholar** <https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=7xUR-DQAAAAAJ&hl=en>

**Twitter** [https://twitter.com/greg\\_woodin](https://twitter.com/greg_woodin)

**LinkedIn** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gregwoodin/>

**Email** [gawoodin@gmail.com](mailto:gawoodin@gmail.com)

Researcher in psychology, linguistics, and cognitive science using experimental and corpus methods to investigate the psychological processes involved in the comprehension and production of metaphoric and iconic communication, and the implications of these processes for language evolution.

## Academic Appointments

- **Post-doctoral Research Assistant** (Nov 2022–Present, University of Birmingham)  
Working on Dr Bodo Winter's UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship 'Making Numbers Meaningful' project

## Education

- **PhD English Language and Applied Linguistics** (2019–2022, University of Birmingham)  
Passed with minor corrections; supervised by Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Dr Bodo Winter, and Dr Marcus Perlman
- **MA Social Research** (2018–2019, University of Birmingham)  
Distinction; supervised by Professor Jeannette Littlemore and Dr Bodo Winter
- **MA by Research English Language and Applied Linguistics** (2017–2018, University of Birmingham)  
Passed with no corrections; supervised by Professor Jeannette Littlemore and Dr Bodo Winter
- **BA (hons.) English Language** (2014–2017, University of Birmingham)  
First class degree (average 80%); dissertation supervised by Dr Bodo Winter

## Publications

- **Woodin, G., Winter, B., Littlemore, J., Perlman, M. & Grieve, J.** (accepted). Large-scale patterns of number use in spoken and written English. *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*.
- Banks, B., Borghi, A., Fargier, R., Fini, C., Jonauskaitė, D., Mazzuca, C., Montalti, M., Villani, C. & **Woodin, G.** (accepted). Consensus paper: Current perspectives on abstract concepts and future research directions. *Journal of Cognition*.
- **Woodin, G.** (2023). *Interfaces between Language and Cognition: Metaphor, Iconicity, and Multimodal Numerical Communication*. PhD thesis. University of Birmingham. <https://osf.io/n3b5r>
- **Woodin, G., Winter, B. & Padilla, L.** (2022). Conceptual metaphor and graphical convention influence the interpretation of line graphs. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 28(2): 1209 – 1221, <http://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2021.3088343>
- Perlman, M. & **Woodin, G.** (2021). A complete real-world theory of language should explain how iconicity remains a stable property of linguistic systems. *Journal of Cognition*, 4(1): 43, <http://doi.org/10.5334/joc.166>
- **Woodin, G., Winter, B., Perlman, M., Littlemore, J. & Matlock, T.** (2020). 'Tiny numbers' are actually tiny: Evidence from gestures in the TV News Archive. *PLOS One*, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0242142>
- **Woodin, G.** (2019). *Degrees of Metaphoricity: A Quantitative Gesture Analysis*. MA thesis. University of Birmingham. <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/9966/>
- **Woodin, G. & Winter, B.** (2018). Placing abstract concepts in space: quantity, time and emotional valence. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 2169: 1-14, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02169>

## Work in Preparation

- Winter, B., **Woodin, G.** & Perlman, M. (in prep). Defining iconicity for the cognitive sciences. *Oxford Handbook of Iconicity in Language*.
- **Woodin, G., Winter, B. & Perlman, M.** (in prep). The iconic impetus of language: From sensorimotor simulation to the lexicon. *Journal of Language Evolution*.

## Awards and Achievements

- Awarded **HPC-Europa3 Transnational Access** funding (travel, accommodation, and subsistence) to undertake 10-week research visit to Dr Peter Uhrig at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (€3,080) (2021). <http://www.hpc-europa.eu/>
- Awarded **HEFi Horizon Award** for completing five modules relating to higher education teaching (2021). <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/hefi/index.aspx>
- Awarded **Constance Naden Medal** for submitting the highest quality thesis for the MPhil/MRes/MA by Research degree across the College of Arts and Law (2018)
- Awarded **ESRC Midlands Graduate School DTP Studentship**. 1+3 programme. Annual payment consists of course fees (£4,260) and maintenance award (£14,777), and £2,250 Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) (2018), [https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/mgsdtp/studentships/](https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/mgsdtp/studentships/)
- Offered **AHRC Midlands3Cities DTP Studentship** (annual course fees £4,260 + annual maintenance award £14,777, and £600 Research Training Support Grant) (2018). <https://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/> (now Midlands4Cities)
- Highly Commended in Language & Linguistics category of **The Undergraduate Awards Programme 2017** (2017) (now The Global Undergraduate Awards) <https://gua.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/1421>
- Awarded **College of Arts & Law Masters Scholarship** to undertake MA by Research in English Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Birmingham – worth £4,195 (2017). <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/funding/postgraduate/college-of-arts-and-law-masters-scholarships.aspx>
- Awarded **Gwyneth Fox Award** for having highest mark overall (80.291) enrolled on the English Language or the English Language and Linguistics single honours programmes – worth £250 (2017).
- Won **Vera Adamson Prize** for being the first-year undergraduate deemed to have produced “the most outstanding work in the field of Modern English Language” – worth £100 (2015).
- Won the **Sonnenschein Prize**, given to “first year students whose performance in their examinations is deemed to be of sufficient merit” – worth £75 (2015).
- Longlisted for the **Notting Hill Editions Essay Prize 2015** amongst names such as Hilary Mantel (2015). <https://www.nottinghilleditions.com/prizes/>
- Awarded **Access to Birmingham (A2B) Scholarship** for undergraduate study – worth £4,500 (2014). <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/support-students/access-to-birmingham-scholarships.aspx>
- Received **unconditional offer** to undertake undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham (2014).

## Teaching

- **MA Student Supervision 2022**. Providing written and oral feedback on MA dissertation (three sessions).
- **PG Tips 2022 – Talk – University of Birmingham**. A crash course in statistical modelling. <https://osf.io/xgjqu>
- **Teaching Associate 2021–2022 – UG Fundamentals of Language: Sounds and Words**. Leading two seminars per week (10 weeks) and marking assessments.
- **Realising Opportunities Academic Skills Module Reflective Tutor 2021–2022**. Providing feedback on reflective pieces written by students enrolled on the ASM programme. <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/year-12/realising-opportunities.aspx>
- **Teaching Associate 2021 – UG Applied Linguistics – University of Birmingham**. Leading two seminars per week (10 weeks) and marking assessments.
- **PG Tips 2021 – Workshop – University of Birmingham**. Linear and logistic regression in R. <https://osf.io/sa26g>
- **PG Tips 2021 – Talk – University of Birmingham**. A crash course in statistical modelling. <https://osf.io/3xctn>
- **PG Tips 2020 – Workshop – University of Birmingham**. Using R and RStudio for data wrangling and visualization. <https://osf.io/38hzb>

## Programming

- **R**: A time series regression analysis of Covid-19 deaths in the UK (2022), <https://osf.io/esb79/>
- **Python and R**: Polarization on Twitter (2021–2022), <https://osf.io/dn8ac>

- **Python and R:** Large-scale patterns of number use in spoken and written English (2020–2022), <https://osf.io/ze9vk/>
- **R:** Conceptual metaphor and graphical convention influence the interpretation of line graphs (2019–2022), <https://osf.io/5acjs/>
- **R:** An introduction to R (2020–2021), <https://osf.io/p4e67/>
- **R:** 'Tiny numbers' are actually tiny: Evidence from gestures in the TV News Archive (2019–2020), <https://osf.io/dncjg/>
- **R:** The verticality of vagueness: Variation in spatial-numerical cognition (2018–2020), <https://osf.io/w8hq7/>
- **R:** Degrees of metaphoricity (2017–2018), <https://osf.io/3mpc7/>

## Presentations

- **16<sup>th</sup> International Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2023 – Talk – HHU Düsseldorf.** How numerical communication reflects cognition: A corpus-based analysis.
- **16<sup>th</sup> International Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2023 – Talk (as co-author) – HHU Düsseldorf.** A corpus analysis of English change-of-state verbs used to talk about quantity.
- **16<sup>th</sup> International Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2023 – Talk (as co-author) – HHU Düsseldorf.** How children and adults use metaphor to reason about time, number, emotion, and music.
- **Cognitive Research Group 2022 – Talk – Northumbria University.** The spatial representation of abstract concepts. Funded by Northumbria University (£162).
- **British Association for Applied Linguistics 2022 – Talk – Queen's University Belfast.** How people gesture when they talk about actions: Evidence from English TV news media. Funded by ESRC RTSG (see Awards and Achievements). <https://osf.io/uz7d3>
- **9th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies 2022 – Talk – Loyola University Chicago.** Data science methods for the study of co-speech gesture: Open datasets and baseline machine learning. Funded by ESRC RTSG (see Awards and Achievements). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq4rXwLphgE/>
- **PG Tips 2022 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** Why I chose an Alternative Format Thesis and what it entails. <https://twitter.com/PGTipsUoB>
- **Language and Cognition at Birmingham 2022 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** What metaphor and iconicity reveal about the mind: Interfaces between language and cognition. <https://osf.io/xq68a>
- **The Linguistics Lab 2022 – Talk – FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg.** Rounding as communicative practice: A large-scale corpus analysis of number frequencies. <https://osf.io/ce2s3>
- **Open Science Festive Gifts 2021 – Talk – Virtual.** Making science open to all: The Realising Opportunities programme.
- **IEEE Visualization & Visual Analytics (VIS) 2021 – Talk – Virtual.** Conceptual metaphor and graphical convention influence the interpretation of line graphs. <https://osf.io/b73hw>
- **Embodied and Situated Language Processing (ESLP) 2021 – Talk – Virtual.** Conceptual metaphor and graphical convention influence the interpretation of line graphs. <https://osf.io/9s6ba>
- **Protolang 7 2021 – Talk – University of Düsseldorf.** The iconic impetus of language: From sensorimotor simulation to the lexicon. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z9HGJBj3o8>
- **Potsdam Embodied Cognition Group 2021 – Talk – University of Potsdam.** Conceptual metaphor and graphical convention influence the interpretation of line graphs. <https://osf.io/9qz62>
- **Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference 2021 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** The iconic impetus of language: From sensorimotor simulation to the lexicon. <https://osf.io/guavc>
- **Birmingham-Budapest Doctoral Seminar 2021 – Talk – University of Birmingham & Eötvös Loránd University.** Building a multimodal corpus with the TV News Archive. <https://osf.io/8uah4>
- **Psycholinguistics Coffee 2021 – Talk – University of Edinburgh.** 'Tiny numbers' are actually tiny: Evidence from gestures in the TV News Archive. <https://osf.io/mzcxn>
- **5th International Conference on Figurative Thought and Language 2020 – Talk – Sofia University.** Tiny numbers are actually tiny: Gestural evidence from the TV News Archive. <https://osf.io/nyu6k>
- **UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 – Poster – University of Birmingham.** The effect of conceptual metaphors on the interpretation of data visualisations. <https://osf.io/xjctu>
- **English Language Conference for A-Level Students 2020 – Talk – Worcester Racecourse.** Metaphor in language and thought. <https://www.southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk/>

- **English Language Research Seminar 2019 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** The spatial organisation of abstract thought. <https://osf.io/dvynf>
- **PG Tips 2019 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** Using the TV News Archive for gesture research. <https://osf.io/9p6q2>
- **Language and Cognition at Birmingham 2019 – Poster – University of Birmingham.** More is mostly up: Vertical trumps horizontal in spatial metaphors for quantity. <https://osf.io/bpsae>
- **12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature 2019 – Talk – Lund University.** Degrees of metaphoricity: a large-scale, quantitative analysis of iconic gestures in the TV News Archive. Funded by ESRC RTSG (see Awards and Achievements). <https://osf.io/pgdc7>
- **Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference 2019 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** Degrees of metaphoricity: a large-scale, quantitative analysis of gestures in the TV News Archive. <https://osf.io/py5mb>
- **The Creative Power of Metaphor 2019 – Poster – University of Oxford.** Degrees of metaphoricity: a quantitative gesture analysis. Funded by ESRC RTSG (see Awards and Achievements). <https://osf.io/3mpc7/>
- **Spatial Cognition 2018 – Poster – University of Tübingen.** Placing abstract concepts in space: quantity, time and emotional valence. <https://osf.io/ursn5>
- **Figurative Language: Experimental and Corpus-Based Studies 2018 – Poster – University of Nottingham.** Thinking metaphorically: what do figurative language and metaphoric gestures reveal about thought? Funded by University of Nottingham. <https://osf.io/a6jup>
- **Researching and Applying Metaphor 2018 – Talk – Hong Kong Polytechnic University.** The continuity of metaphor? Horizontal and vertical metaphors in the spatialization of time, quantity and valence. Funded by School of EDACS and College of Arts & Law (£575). <https://osf.io/r2wt9>
- **Research Poster Conference 2018 – Poster – University of Birmingham.** Thinking metaphorically: what do language and gesture reveal about thought? <https://osf.io/b9su3>
- **Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference 2018 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** Metaphors of space: recent developments and new questions in Conceptual Metaphor Theory. <https://osf.io/jvc4>

## Academic Experience

- **Research Assistant at University of Birmingham** (Jun 2021 – July 2021). Conducting literature review and scraping tweets for polarization study with Professor Jack Grieve and Dr Matteo Fuoli
- **Committee Member for Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference 2021** (February 2021 – April 2021). Reviewing abstract submissions and chairing conference sessions
- **Panel Chair for UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020** (July 2020)
- **Research Assistant at University of Birmingham** (Jun 2018 – Jun 2020). Running reaction time tests and conducting statistical analyses for Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Professor John Barnden, and Dr Eirini Mavritsaki
- **Research Assistant at University of Birmingham** (February 2020 – March 2020). Running experiments for Dr Dagmar Divjak and Dr Peter Milin
- **Committee Member for UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020** (Jan 2020 – Mar 2020) – Reviewing abstract submissions
- **Student Member of Quinquennial Vice-Chancellor's Integrated Review** (Nov 2019 – Mar 2020). Participating in review of School of History and Culture at University of Birmingham
- **Assistant for Birmingham Statistics for Linguists Summer School** (Jun 2018). With Dr Bodo Winter, Dr Timo Röettger, and Dr Márton Sóskuthy.
- **Teaching Associate at University of Birmingham** (Oct 2017 – Mar 2020). Running eye-tracking experiments and data-cleaning with Dr Gareth Carroll
- **Transcript Checker at University of Birmingham** (Dec 2018). Anonymising transcripts for 'Death before birth' research project with Professor Jeannette Littlemore
- **Research Centre Assistant at University of Birmingham** (Oct 2017 – June 2018). Organising Corpus Linguistics Summer School 2018 with Dr Florent Perek, and social media and events promotion for Centre for Corpus Research with Professor Michaela Mahlberg



- **Research Assistant at University of Birmingham** (Jun 2017 – Oct 2017). Analysing gestures in the TV News Archive with Dr Bodo Winter and Dr Marcus Perlman
- **Research Assistant at University of Birmingham** (Jun 2017 – Oct 2017). Coding quantitative data and transcribing spoken data with Professor Jeannette Littlemore
- **Research Assistant (Scholarship) at University of Birmingham** (May 2016 – Aug 2016). Transcribing spoken data using ELAN for pilot study with Professor Jeannette Littlemore
- **Freelance Writer at University of Birmingham** (May 2016 – Aug 2016). Writing for Higher Education project with Professor Susan Hunston, and interviewing Professor Mark Ryan and writing short piece relaying his findings to public
- **Research Assistant at University of Birmingham** (May 2016 – Jun 2016). Transcribing spoken data for Multimodal Metaphor in Advertising study with Dr Paula Pérez-Sobrino

## Peer Reviews

- Perceptual strength norms for 510 Japanese words, including ideophones: A comparative study with English. **CogSci 2023**.
- Expressing attitudes indirectly by manipulating the distance and size of objects in an interactive software environment. **Metaphor and Symbol**.
- Things we smell and things they smell like: Communicatively relevant odours and odorants. **International Journal of Corpus Linguistics**.
- Implicit effect of abstract/concrete components in the categorization of Chinese words. **Journal of Cognitive Psychology**. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20445911.2022.2049279>
- Time heals all wounds: Analysis of changes in temporal focus and implicit space-time mappings among survivors of the 2018 China earthquake overtime. **Language and Cognition**.
- The influence of metaphor-congruent motor action on word learning of adults and children. **Journal of Cognitive Psychology**.
- An implicit task reveals space-time associations along vertical and diagonal axes. **Psychological Research**. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00426-021-01561-y>
- Towards a corpus-based description of speech-gesture units of meaning: the case of the circular gesture. **International Journal of Corpus Linguistics**.
- Un-box LIS signs: conceptual metaphors comprehension through the eyes of hearing speakers. **Language and Cognition**.
- The vertical time-space association. **Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology**. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218211057031>
- Is there an iconic motivation for the morphophonological distinctions between noun-verb pairs in American Sign Language? **Language and Cognition**.
- Cultural evolution leads to vocal iconicity in an experimental iterated learning task. **Journal of Language Evolution**. <https://doi-org.eres.qnl.qa/10.1093/jole/lzab001>
- Quantifying the speech-gesture relation with massive multimodal datasets: Informativity in time expressions. **PLOS One**. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0233892>
- Figurative meaning in multimodal work by an autistic artist and vlogger: A cognitive semantic approach. **Language and Cognition**. <https://doi.org/10.1017/langcog.2020.20>
- ‘Living things’: Combative metaphors and urban youth culture in Abolore Akande Adigun’s (9ice) hip hop music. **Metaphor and the Social World**.
- Low numbers from a low head? Effects of observed head orientation on numerical cognition. **Psychological Research**. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00426-019-01221-2>
- The vertical and horizontal pair-order effect among Mandarin speakers: Number and time might not be associated through spatial mediation. **Acta Psychologica**.

## Editorial and Writing Experience

- **Editorial Assistant – Redbrick** (Oct 2017 – July 2018)  
<https://www.redbrick.me/>
- **Freelance Journalist – Vice, tmrw, and Redbrick** (July 2017 – July 2018)  
<https://www.vice.com/en/contributor/greg-woodin>

<https://www.tmrwmagazine.com/features/legacy/accntism-birmingham>

<https://www.redbrick.me/author/greg-woodin/>

- **Clubs Editor – Birmingham Wire** (Mar 2016 – June 2018)  
<https://birminghamwire.co.uk/>
- **Music Editor – Redbrick** (Aug 2016 – June 2017)  
<https://www.redbrick.me/music/>
- **Careers Editor – Redbrick** (Jan 2016 – Aug 2016)  
<https://www.redbrick.me/interview-imagine-forest-founder/>

## Miscellaneous

- **Forecaster** for Delios, A., Clemente, E., Wu, T., Tan, H., Wang, Y., Gordon, M., Viganola, D., Chen, Z., Dreber, A., Johannesson, M., Pfeiffer, T., **Generalizability Tests Forecasting Collaboration**, & Uhlmann, E. (2022). Examining the generalizability of research findings from archival data. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119 (30), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2120377119>
- Passed **British Sign Language exams** 101 and 103 (prior to COVID-19 postponement of exams)
- Interviewed for Metaphor & Emotion video alongside **Zoltán Kövecses, Marianna Bolognesi, Jeannette Littlemore**, and **Francesca Citron**, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttUEG6Lafz>
- Interviewed for **Metaphor Column** and interviewed **Jeannette Littlemore** for RAAM Fall 2020 Newsletter