

Personal Profile

ESRC-funded graduate and first-year PhD student in English Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Birmingham. Linguist and cognitive scientist researching metaphor, gesture, and iconicity.

Education

PhD (2019 – present) with Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Dr Bodo Winter, Dr Marcus Perlman
English Language and Applied Linguistics, University of Birmingham
Thesis title: Talking about numbers: The role of language in numerical cognition

MA (2018-2019)

Distinction in Social Research, University of Birmingham
Dissertation title: More is mostly up: Vertical trumps horizontal in spatial metaphors for quantity

MA by Research (2017-2018) with Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Dr Bodo Winter
Passed with no corrections in English Language and Applied Linguistics – University of Birmingham
Thesis title: Degrees of metaphoricity: A quantitative gesture analysis

BA (hons.) (2014-2017)

First class degree (average 80%) in English Language – University of Birmingham
Dissertation title: Horizontal and vertical metaphors in the spatialization of time, quantity, and valence

Publications

- **Woodin, G. & Perlman, M.** (in prep). The iconic impetus of language: From sensorimotor simulation to the lexicon.
- **Woodin, G., Littlemore, J. & Winter, B.** (in prep). The vagueness of verticality: Variation in spatial-numerical associations.
- **Woodin, G., Winter, B. & Padilla, L.** (submitted). The effect of conceptual metaphors on the interpretation of data visualizations. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*.
- **Woodin, G., Winter, B., Perlman, M., Littlemore, J. & Matlock, T.** (under review). Tiny numbers are actually tiny: Gestural evidence from the TV News Archive. *PLOS One*.
- **Woodin, G.** (2019). Ritual. *Ad Alta: the Birmingham Journal of Literature*, 10: 35.
- **Woodin, G. & Winter, B.** (2018). Placing abstract concepts in space: Quantity, time and emotional valence. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 2169: 1-14.
- **Woodin, G.** (2018). Aquariva. *Ad Alta: the Birmingham Journal of Literature*, 10: 27.

Presentations

- **5th International Conference on Figurative Thought and Language – Talk – Sofia University.** More is mostly up: Vertical trumps horizontal in spatial metaphors for quantity. Funded by ESRC.
- **UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 – Poster – University of Birmingham.** The effect of conceptual metaphors on the interpretation of data visualisations.
- **English Language Research Seminar 2019 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** The spatial organisation of abstract thought.
- **PG Tips 2019 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** Using the TV News Archive for gesture research.
- **Language and Cognition at Birmingham 2019 – Poster – University of Birmingham.** More is mostly up: Vertical trumps horizontal in spatial metaphors for quantity.
- **12th 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.
- **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.

- **The Creative Power of Metaphor 2019 – Poster – University of Oxford.** Degrees of metaphoricity: a quantitative gesture analysis. Funded by ESRC.
- **Spatial Cognition 2018 – Poster – University of Tübingen.** Placing abstract concepts in space: quantity, time and emotional valence.
- **Figurative Language: Experimental and Corpus-Based Studies 2018 – Poster – University of Nottingham.** Thinking metaphorically: what do figurative language and metaphoric gestures reveal about thought?
- **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.
- **Research Poster Conference 2018 – Poster – University of Birmingham.** Thinking metaphorically: what do language and gesture reveal about thought?
- **Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Conference 2018 – Talk – University of Birmingham.** Metaphors of space: recent developments and new questions in Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

Academic Experience

Panel Chair for UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 (January 2020 – Present)

- Hosting Zoom session and introducing speakers

Teaching Associate at University of Birmingham (Oct 2017 – Present)

- Running eye-tracking experiments and data-cleaning with Dr Gareth Carroll

Committee Member for UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 (January 2020 – March 2020)

- Reviewing abstract submissions to conference

Student Member of Quinquennial Vice-Chancellor's Integrated Review (November 2019 – March 2020)

- Participate in review of School of History and Culture at University of Birmingham

Research Assistant at University of Birmingham (June 2018 – Present)

- Running reaction time tests and conducting statistical analyses for 'Exploring different types of creativity in metaphor' research placement with Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Professor John Barnden, and Dr Eirini Mavritsaki

Transcript Checker at University of Birmingham (December 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
- 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 co-occurring with number metaphors 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 for Maths, Music & Metaphor study with Professor Jeannette Littlemore

Research Assistant (Scholarship) at University of Birmingham (May 2016 - Aug 2016)

- Transcribing spoken data using ELAN for Maths, Music & Metaphor 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
- Interviewing Professor Mark Ryan about his research on electronic voting and writing short piece relaying his findings to general public

Research Assistant at University of Birmingham (May 2016 - Jun 2016)

- Transcribing spoken data for Multimodal Metaphor in Advertising study with Dr Paula Pérez-Sobrinho

Peer-Reviewing Experience

- Pyers, J. & Emmorey, K. (2020). Is there an iconic motivation for the morphological distinctions between noun-verb pairs in American Sign Language. *Language and Cognition*.
- [Anonymous]. Cultural evolution leads to vocal iconicity in an experimental iterated learning task. *Journal of Language Evolution*.

- Cánovas, C. P., Valenzuela, J., Carrión, D. A., Olza, I., Ramscar, M. Quantifying the speech-gesture relation with massive multimodal datasets: Informativity in time expressions. *PLOS One*.
- Hartman, J. & Paradis, C. Figurative meaning in multimodal work by an autistic artist and vlogger: A cognitive semantic approach. *Language and Cognition*.
- [Anonymous]. 'Living things': Combative metaphors and urban youth culture in Abolore Akande Adigun's (9ice) hip hop music. *Metaphor and the Social World*.
- Götz, F. J., Böckler, A. & Eder, A. B. Low numbers from a low head? Effects of observed head orientation on numerical cognition. *Psychological Research*.
- Chen, L. & Xiao, C. The vertical and horizontal pair-order effect among Mandarin speakers: Number and time might not be associated through spatial mediation. *Acta Psychologica*.

Awards and Achievements

2018

- Awarded the Constance Naden Medal, given to the student who submits the highest quality thesis for the MPhil/MRes/MA by Research degree across the College of Arts and Law.
- Awarded ESRC Midlands Graduate School DTP Studentship. 1+3 programme (MA Social Research + PhD English Language & Applied Linguistics) at the University of Birmingham with an October 2018 start. Annual payment consists of course fees (£4,260) and a maintenance award (£14,777).
- Offered AHRC Midlands3Cities DTP Studentship (£14,777 course fees + £4,260 maintenance award).

2017

- Highly Commended in Language & Linguistics category of The Undergraduate Awards Programme 2017.
- Awarded College of Arts & Law Masters Scholarship to undertake an MA by Research in English Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Birmingham for 2017/18. Worth £4,195.
- Awarded the Gwyneth Fox Award, awarded to the student with the highest mark overall (80.291) enrolled on the English Language or the English Language and Linguistics single honours programmes. Worth £250.

2015

- Won the Vera Adamson Prize, given to the first-year undergraduate deemed to have produced "the most outstanding work in the field of Modern English Language". Worth £100.
- Won the Sonnenschein Prize, given to "first year students whose performance in their examinations is deemed to be of sufficient merit". Worth £75.
- Longlisted for the Notting Hill Editions Essay Prize 2015 amongst names such as Hilary Mantel.

2014

- Awarded Access to Birmingham (A2B) Scholarship for undergraduate study. Worth £4,500.
- Received unconditional offer to undertake undergraduate degree in BA English Language at the University of Birmingham.