

# Greg Woodin

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

## Education

**PhD** (2019 – present) with Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Dr Bodo Winter, and Dr Marcus Perlman  
English Language and Applied Linguistics, University of Birmingham  
Thesis title: The sensorimotor basis of multimodal communication

### **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, and 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., Winter, B., Perlman, M., Littlemore, J. & Matlock, T.** (2020). 'Tiny numbers' are actually tiny: Evidence from gestures in the TV News Archive. *PLOS One*.
- **Woodin, G. & Winter, B.** (2018). Placing abstract concepts in space: quantity, time and emotional valence. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 2169: 1-14.

## Presentations

- **Psycholinguistics Coffee 2021 – Talk – University of Edinburgh.** 'Tiny numbers' are actually tiny: Evidence from gestures in the TV News Archive.
- **5th International Conference on Figurative Thought and Language 2020 – Talk – Sofia University.** Tiny numbers are actually tiny: Gestural evidence from the TV News Archive. 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.
- **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.
- **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.

## Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Assistant 2021 – UG Applied Linguistics Module – University of Birmingham.** Leading two seminars per week and marking assessments.
- **PG Tips 2021 – Workshop – University of Birmingham.** Statistical modelling using RStudio.
- **PG Tips 2020 – Workshop – University of Birmingham.** Using R and RStudio for data wrangling and visualization.

## Peer-Reviewing Experience

- 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*.
- 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*.
- Quantifying the speech-gesture relation with massive multimodal datasets: Informativity in time expressions. *PLOS One*.
- Figurative meaning in multimodal work by an autistic artist and vlogger: A cognitive semantic approach. *Language and Cognition*.
- ‘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*.
- The vertical and horizontal pair-order effect among Mandarin speakers: Number and time might not be associated through spatial mediation. *Acta Psychologica*.

## Academic Experience

### Research Assistant at University of Birmingham (Jun 2018 – Present)

- Running reaction time tests and conducting statistical analyses for research placement with Professor Jeannette Littlemore, Professor John Barnden, and Dr Eirini Mavritsaki

### Panel Chair for UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 (July 2020)

### Committee Member for UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 (Jan 2020 – Mar 2020)

- Reviewing abstract submissions to conference

### 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

### 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
- 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
- Interviewing Professor Mark Ryan 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-Sobrino

## **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). Annual payment consists of course fees (£4,260) and 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 MA by Research in English Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Birmingham. Worth £4,195.
- Awarded the **Gwyneth Fox Award**, given 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 at the University of Birmingham.

## **Editorial and Writing Experience**

- **Editorial Assistant** at **Redbrick** (Oct 2017 – July 2018)
- **Freelance Journalist** at **Vice**, **tmrw**, and **Mantality** (July 2017 – July 2018)
- **Clubs Editor** at **Birmingham Wire** (Mar 2016 – June 2018)
- **Music Editor** at **Redbrick** (Aug 2016 - June 2017)
- **Careers Editor** at **Redbrick** (Jan 2016 - Aug 2016)

## **Miscellaneous**

- 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
- Passed **British Sign Language exams** 101 and 103 (prior to postponement of exams due to COVID-19)