Joshua W. Z. Hew

⚲ Edinburgh ✉ tisjoshuahew@gmail.com 🔗 https://j2hwz.github.io/ in J2hwz ⌗ J2hwz

Education

University of Edinburgh *Sept 2021 – May 2025*
MA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychology (Expecting first class)

- **Representative courses:** Big Data and Psychological Science (75%, top of the class), Logic 2: Modal logics (87%), Data Analysis for Psychology in R 3 (83%), Thinking and Reasoning
- **Psychology Dissertation:** "Helplessness in Dynamic Environments: The Impact of Reward Contingency on Perceived Control" (Supervisor: **Neil Bramley**)

Publications

Hew, J., Tarighat, A., Corley, M., & Horne, Z. (2024). Examining structural and semantic predictors of announced sarcasm on r/AskReddit. In *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

In preparation:
Hew, J., Tarighat, A., Corley, M., & Horne, Z. A Cross-Platform Analysis of Announced Sarcasm Discussing Sociomoral Content.
Hew, J., Rottman, J., & Horne, Z. Consensus Judgements under Different Types of Evidence.

Presentations & Talks

Examining structural and semantic predictors of announced sarcasm on r/AskReddit

- Poster presented at Social Data Science Poster Session, University of Edinburgh (June 2024).
- Poster presented at Cognitive Science Conference, Rotterdam (July 2024).
- Talk presented at Brain, Cognition and Development Seminar, University of Edinburgh (Nov 2024).

Consensus Judgements under Different Types of Evidence

- Talk presented at Cognition, Computation and Development Lab, University of Edinburgh (October 2024)

Grants, Honors, & Awards

Carnegie Trust Summer Vacation Scholarship (**£3800**) *Summer 2024*
University of Edinburgh Our Minds Scholarship (**£1600**) *Summer 2024*

Research Experience

Cognition, Computation and Development Lab (PI: Zachary Horne) **University of Edinburgh**
Research Assistant *Jan 2024-Present*

- Designed a self-paced reading study investigating sarcasm processing and detection when reading direct or indirect speech (Co-superviser: Martin Corley)
- Administered 2 online studies exploring how people judge the presence of consensus and persist in their beliefs despite widespread disagreement. We aim to measure behavioural outcomes for future studies.
- Applied Huggingface language models to quantify the uniqueness of comments on r/Showerthoughts. Utilised this to test a theory of belief persistence based on the probabilistic generalisation of the pigeonhole principle.

User-centric Privacy and Security Research Team (PI: Jingjie Li) **University of Edinburgh**
Research Intern *March 2024-Present*

- Collaborated with project members to develop a theory-informed taxonomy of unsafe content.
- Used this taxonomy to code 80 sections of script from a role-playing game.
- Coded Python scripts to parse other video game scripts and generate annotator agreement statistics.

Holly-Martin Psycholinguistics Lab (Supervisor: Greta Gandolfi)   **University of Edinburgh**
Research Assistant   *Autumn 2023*

- Annotated the linguistic features for transcriptions of conversations between humans and social robots.
- Coded an R script to check for annotator spelling mistakes and calculate inter-annotator agreement.

Health and Relationship Processes Lab (PI: Sarah Stanton)   **University of Edinburgh**
Research Assistant   *Autumn 2022*

- Coordinated communications and administered Qualtrics surveys for 48 paired participants

Teaching Experience

Big Data and Psychological Science   **University of Edinburgh**
Teaching Assistant   *Autumn 2024*

- Assisted Students with Coding Exercises in R.
- Developed a reference guidebook using R Markdown containing coding tutorials and course tips.

Other Relevant Experience

Psychology Magazine   **University of Edinburgh**
Writer, Head Writer   *Spring 2023, 2024*

- Wrote 2 research articles aimed at the general public:
  - Can Money Buy Happiness? (2023)
  - The Good, the Bad, and the Obsession: Understanding Stan Culture in the Digital Era. (2024)
- As head writer, offered peer support and organised writing workshops.

180 Degrees Consulting   **University of Edinburgh**
Consultant   *Autumn 2022-Spring 2023*

- Prepared a report with monetisation and volunteer retainment strategies for wellbeing hub Zennistoun.
- Conducted a case study on Street Soccer Scotland to quantify their digital social impact.

Bentoya Japanese Fusion Restaurant   **Edinburgh, UK**
Part-time Waiter   *February 2022-July 2024*

- Regularly managed a section of up to 8 tables during peak hours with 50+ customers daily.
- Took charge to mentor new waiters on restaurant SOPs and ways to maximise customer satisfaction.

Additional Information

Programming: R, Python, HTML, CSS, Javascript

Misc: Qualtrics, Connect, Latex Overleaf, Adobe Premiere Pro, FlipaClip (animation).

Languages: English (native), Chinese (fluent), Malay (proficient)

Personal Projects: YouTube channel with 6 videos with 3000+ views, aim to create educational and scientific animated videos in the future. *Lepak Time* podcast ran with friends during COVID consisting 21 episodes.

Other Interests: Piano (diploma), Violin (grade 8), existentialism, Bildungsroman literature, and backpacking.