

# Stephanie Droop

Versatile former finance professional turns to research

Specialist in causal modelling for data science

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University of Edinburgh, UK

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In 2017 I left my chartered accountancy profession and went to grad school to learn data science research because I want to use information to solve strategic problems.

I'm in my final year of PhD and looking to apply my skills to economics.

## Relevant skills

### Primary research and analysis in teams

- Formed >4 teams to run primary behavioral research to advance field of causal cognition (4 conferences)
- Designed statistical analyses of primary and secondary data for insights into how people explain (5 papers)
- Instigated department code review process to ensure rigorous, reproducible workflow and results
- Created datasets, functions, scripts and models usable by others to solve same problems (see GitHub)
- Interpreted and contextualised generalizable results within and outside field (2 start-ups advised)

### Data analysis and modelling

- Used R to process and analyse data, and visualize results to convey impact in dynamic online reports with charts
- Developed new counterfactual reasoning model during PhD to solve abduction using unobserved variables
- Projected financials and doggedly investigated detailed accounts to save client £50 million in M&A deal (KPMG)

### Written communication

- First author journal papers currently under review (2), collaborative team papers (5; including 2 interdisciplinary)
- Edited technical and financial due diligence reports to let clients negotiate price and buy right companies (KPMG)
- Reviewed for Journal of Experimental Psychology and many conferences to increase quality of published work

### Oral communication

- Honed a compelling presenting style to galvanize interest in findings and field (2 lay talks, 3 conferences, many internal presentations, investor pitching, guest host on MLST podcast)
- Taught courses on Cognitive Science and Intro to Programming to inspire and encourage undergraduates

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## Skills continued

### Influence, leadership and vision

- Introduced own new “active editing” approach to work closer with project teams (KPMG)
- Influenced partners to fund chartership, thus join professional staff and transfer to a UK office (KPMG)
- Managed team of undergraduate researchers to produce dissertation projects and assistants to process data
- Raised £1500 sponsorship to allow validation of health economics start-up while on incubator scheme
- Proactively shepherded 300-person residential meditation centre through regulatory and construction decisions to reopen under new covid restrictions while working as voluntary manager

## Relevant education and employment

### University of Edinburgh

PhD with integrated study

Centre for Doctoral Training in Natural Language Processing, School of Informatics, funded by UKRI

Sept 2021 – Aug 2025 (ongoing)

Working title of thesis: Counterfactual reasoning models of unconstrained verbal explanations

### University of Edinburgh

MSc Human Cognitive Neuropsychology (distinction)

Sept 2018 – Aug 2021

### University of Glasgow

MSc Psychological Studies (merit)

Conversion MSc = second undergrad. Large statistics and research methods component

Sept 2017 – Aug 2018

### KPMG LLP

Editor and translator from Russian (Moscow) then Analyst, Deal Advisory (Aberdeen). Inc. funded accounting chartership

June 2011 – Aug 2017

### OU Business School

Communications Consultant, between Milton Keynes and Moscow, responsible for partner institutes

2008