

# Clíodhna Hughes

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## Education

- 2022–2025 **University of Sheffield**, MPhil with Integrated PGCert in Speech and Language Technologies and their Applications.
- Thesis: An initial investigation into the effects of facial feminisation surgery on the voice. Supervised by Prof. Guy Brown, Dr Ning Ma & Prof. Nicola Dikken. Part published in Proceedings of Interspeech 2024.
  - Presented research at major international conferences.
  - Awarded a grant for development of intellectual property by the University of Sheffield Commercialisation Team (£5,600).
  - Courses covering speech technology, machine learning, text processing & research ethics.
- 2018–2022 **University of Edinburgh**, Linguistics (MA Hons), First Class Honours Degree.
- Dissertation: Evidence for word order harmony between abstract categories in silent gesture. Supervised by Prof. Simon Kirby & Prof. Jennifer Culbertson. Awarded Angus McIntosh Prize (£100) & LAGB Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Dissertation in Linguistics (£100). Published in Cognition.
  - Awarded Ailie Donald Memorial Prize (£1000) for best performance in second year.
  - Courses in phonetics & laboratory phonology, speech technology, computational linguistics, speech production and perception, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, language typology, historical linguistics, statistics & experimental design, cognitive science, Turkish and Sanskrit.

## Academic Employment

### Full-Time

- Since Feb 2025 **Research Assistant in Phonetics**, *University of Edinburgh*, UK.
- Project: PlanArt: Planning the articulation of spoken utterances. PI: Prof. Alice Turk.
  - Analysing articulatory data to test the applicability of Tau theory to speech production.
  - Performing data annotation (using AAA and bespoke software), statistical analysis (using R) and preparing a research manuscript for journal submission.

### Part-Time

- 2024 **Research Annotator**, *University of Edinburgh*, UK.
- Project: Prosodic Structure at the Interface Between Language and Speech. PI: Prof. Alice Turk.
  - Acoustic segmentation of read speech using Praat.
- 2021–2024 **Senior Annotator**, *University of Edinburgh*, UK.
- Project: Charting lexical development through dense coding and analysis of word senses. PI: Prof. Hugh Rabagliati.
  - Used a web-based app to code the meanings of words in a corpus of child language data, for use in research on polysemy in child language acquisition.

- 2021 **Transcriber**, *University of Edinburgh*, UK.
- Project exploring language development of English-Gaelic bilinguals. PI: Prof. Vicky Chondrogianni.
  - Transcribed child responses to a number of tasks, both in English orthography and IPA.

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## Selected Academic Service

- 2024–2025 **Co-Organiser**, *Special Sessions on Speech, Gender & Sexuality at Interspeech*.
- Established the first session on speech, gender and sexuality at ISCA Interspeech.
  - After successful inaugural session in 2024 (10 published papers), the second session will take place in 2025.
- 2022–2023 **Opportunities Coordinator**, *Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain*.
- Organised a 2-day careers event with industry & academic professionals for linguistics students, including panel discussions, networking events, skills workshops and a careers fair. Applied for, secured and managed a budget of £3,000 for this event.
  - Used profit from the careers event to create bursaries to help students attend linguistics conferences.
  - Ran online panel events to give linguistics undergraduates an insight into life after a linguistics degree, and showcase both postgraduate study and job opportunities.
  - Secured sponsors for the ULAB 2023 Conference.
- 2022–2023 **Programme Chair**, *UKSpeech 2023 Conference*.
- Assisted in creating the schedule for a 2-day conference.
  - Created bursaries to enable students with limited funding to attend.
  - Organised a Best Student Poster Competition.
- 2020–2022 **National Chair**, *Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (ULAB)*.
- Elected as National Chair in 2020 and 2021.
  - Managed a team of over 40 students to run ULAB activities including organising an annual conference with over 120 attendees and an essay competition.
  - Founded a peer-reviewed academic journal publishing original research by linguistics undergraduates (JoULAB).
  - Founded a guided research scheme where master's and PhD students worked with undergraduates to complete a small research project, presented at the ULAB Conference.

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## Teaching and Supervision Experience

- 2023–2024 **Co-supervisor**, *MComp Dissertation Group Project*, University of Sheffield.
- Project title: Cough Sound Analysis for Tuberculosis Screening.
  - Provided teaching on technical and ethical aspects of the project, gave advice on academic writing and project management, and provided feedback on written report drafts.
- 2019–2021 **Coordinator & Volunteer**, *FamiLing Peer Support*, University of Edinburgh.
- Recruited, coordinated and trained undergraduate volunteers.
  - Liaised with the department, school and Students' Association.
  - Organised and delivered revision sessions, and provided 1-to-1 tutoring in several subfields.
  - Designed and ran essay-writing skills workshops.
  - Supported the design and delivery of first year undergraduate linguistics tutorials.
- 2018–2020 **Volunteer UK Linguistics Olympiad Tutor & Marker**, University of Edinburgh.
- Designed and delivered outreach activities to secondary school pupils in collaboration with linguistics faculty.
  - Designed puzzles to introduce students to particular linguistic phenomena.
  - Marked scripts for the UK Linguistics Olympiad.

## Publications

- 2025 Alice Ross, **Clíodhna Hughes**, Eddie Ungless, & Catherine Lai, *Conveying gender through speech: insights from trans men*, In Proceedings of Interspeech 2025.
- 2025 **Clíodhna Hughes**, Jennifer Culbertson & Simon Kirby, *Evidence for word order harmony between abstract categories in silent gesture*, Cognition 259:106100.
- 2024 **Clíodhna Hughes**, Guy Brown, Ning Ma & Nicola Dibben, *Acoustic effects of facial feminisation surgery on speech and singing: A case study*, In Proceedings of Interspeech 2024.

## Selected Conference Talks and Posters

- 2025 **Interspeech Conference 2025**, *Conveying gender through speech: insights from trans men*, with Alice Ross, Eddie Ungless & Dr Catherine Lai.
- 2024 **British Association of Applied Linguistics Conference 2024**, *Monitoring & Understanding Generative AI in (Language) Education: A Project Proposal*, with Dr Nina Markl.
- 2024 **Lavender Language and Linguistics Conference 2024**, *The Effects of Facial Feminisation Surgery on Speech and Singing: A Preliminary Study*, supervised by Prof. Guy Brown, Dr Ning Ma and Prof. Nicola Dibben.
- 2024 **Interspeech Conference 2024**, *Acoustic Effects of Facial Feminisation Surgery on Speech and Singing: A Case Study*, supervised by Prof. Guy Brown, Dr Ning Ma and Prof. Nicola Dibben.
- 2022 **71. Studentische Tagung Sprachwissenschaft (Student Conference in Linguistics)**, *On Forced-Alignment and its Utility in Corpora for Phonetic Research*.
- 2022 **Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain Conference 2022**, *An Exploration of Syntactic Harmony between the Verb Phrase and the Adpositional Phrase*, supervised by Prof. Simon Kirby and Prof. Jennifer Culbertson.
- 2021 **Edinburgh University Young Scientific Researchers Association Conference 2021**, *A corpus comparison of transitional probabilities in infant-directed speech and adult-directed speech*, with Em Charreteur and Fern Tan, supervised by Prof. Mits Ota.

## Skills and Software

Experienced Praat, R, AAA, CHAT Transcription using CLAN, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, jsPsych, Qualtrics, Prolific