Cara Featherstone

B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., MBPsS

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Education and qualifications

Ph.D. in Psychology, University of Leeds (submitted September 2010, defended January 2011)

Thesis title: Sounding sparks: Incongruities and aesthetics in music and language

Investigating the processing of aesthetically-purposed incongruities in music and language using EEG methods and behavioural measures

MSc, Psycholinguistics, University of Edinburgh (2007)

Obtained with Distinction

Masters Dissertation: Reanalysis and 'surprisal' in the processing difficulties arising from verb-bias inconsistent anaphoric pronouns

Joint Honours BSc, Psychology and Music, University of Leeds (2006)

Obtained with First Class Honours

Psychology Dissertation: Flying butter and bald mice: An investigation into the impact of shadow meanings on semantic activation, a French-English cross-linguistic study

Music Dissertation: Language, music and emotions: Exploring the relationship between the expression of emotions and the quality of thought processes underlying emotional intelligence

Baccalauréat Scientifique, Spécialité Mathématiques, Mention Européenne (2002)

Obtained with 'Mention Bien' (71.25%). Having grown up in France in a British family, I am a native speaker of French and English

Diplôme Départemental de Fin d'Etudes Musicales (2002)

French Grade-8 equivalent music exam, in music theory and performance (piano)

Academic awards

See appendix

Research Experience

Honorary Research Fellow (October 2010 - Present)

Conducting further data analyses and preparing manuscripts for publication

PhD Research Project (October 2007 – September 2010)

Recruiting, screening and testing participants using EEG methods

Developing the skills necessary for programming experiments using *E-Prime* and analysing ERP experiments using *Neuroscan 4.3* (Visual Basic, Tcl, Python)

Developing *Sibelius* and *ProTools* skills for the creation and editing of auditory stimuli

Developing programming skills in Visual Basic, Python, Tcl, and text setting skills in LaTeX

MSc Research Project (January 2007 – August 2007)

Recruiting, screening and testing participants using eye tracking methods

Designing psycholinguistic experiments and creating written language stimuli

Developing the skills necessary for the programming of eye tracking experiments and the analysis

of eye tracking data using *EyeLink1000*

Research Assistant (November 2006 – August 2007)

> Recruiting participants, acting as a confederate and experimenter, and debriefing participants in two French monolingual and French-English bilingual experiments alongside my MSc

Organisation, public engagement and management experience

Symposium organiser for the British Psychological Society's Annual conference (September 2009 – April 2010)

> Drafting of the proposal and securing a grant to cover the costs of inviting leading international researchers to present

> Liaising with conference staff, British Psychological Society representatives, senior researchers and their administrative staff

> Coordinating the symposium program

Project manager in a Students in Research scheme (RESUS) (September 2009 – June 2010)

> Leading a team of students in a research project as part of a departmental scheme to involve undergraduates in ongoing research projects led by postgraduates and members of staff

Institute of Psychological Sciences Open day (April 2009)

> Drafting a proposal for a hands-on session designed to help the general public engage with psychology

> Presenting new research and key psychological concepts to attendees

> Organising, designing and implementing an experiment appropriate for this setting

University of Edinburgh Language and Music group (September 2006 – August 2007)

> Suggesting, reading and discussing recent publications of interest to this interdisciplinary group of researchers

> Suggesting avenues of research in line with new findings

Teaching experience

Level 3 research project co-supervision (September 2008 – June 2009)

> Helping with experiment design and experiment programming

> Suggesting avenues for data analysis

> Supporting the student through the dissertation write-up and poster presentation for the finalists' conference

Level 2 essay marking (May 2009)

> Marking the end of year essays of all the students enrolled on the level 2 applied psychology of music module in the music department of the University of Leeds

Level 1 teaching assistant (September 2008 – June 2010)

> Preparing materials for research skills seminars, many of which were adopted by the module leaders the following year as standard hand-outs

> Teaching different types of statistical analyses, the rationale underlying them and research report writing skills

> Marking research reports in two research skills modules using *Turnitin*

Appendix

Academic awards

EPS Grindley Grant (March 2010) - £500 to help towards the costs of attending the 11th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC11), held in Seattle in August 2010

ICMPC Travel Award (April 2010) - $500 to help towards the costs of attending ICMPC11

Postgraduate Conference poster prizes (November 2009) - Best overall poster and Runner-up to best category poster in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Psychology and Health Care Conference

British Psychological Society 2010 Annual Conference Grant (October 2009) One of five grants of £1000 to assist with the costs of organising a symposium for the BPS 2010 annual conference

ESRC +3 Open Competition award (October 2007 – October 2010)

Edinburgh University EU/UK Master's Scholarship (September 2006)

Two William Arthur Crabtree Awards (June 2004 and June 2005) Award given to one student in each faculty on the basis of academic achievement

Publications

Papers

Featherstone, C.R. & Sturt, P. (2010) Because *there* was a cause for concern: an investigation into a word-specific prediction account of the implicit causality effect. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *63*(1), 3-15.

Featherstone, C.R., Waterman, M.G. & Morrison, C.M. (in press, *Behavior Research Methods*) Norming the Odd: Development, selection and validation of a stimulus set for the study of aesthetic incongruities across music and language.

Featherstone, C.R., Morrison, C.M, Waterman, M.G. and MacGregor, L.J. (in prep. for *Nature Neuroscience*) Harmony: semantics, syntax or neither? Incongruities, resolutions and a disentangling of the N400/P600 debate.

Featherstone, C.R., Waterman, M.G., Morrison, C.M. and MacGregor, L.J. (in prep.) Incongruous rhythmic resolutions: oddity-related ERP effects upon return to an original beat.

Featherstone, C.R., Morrison, C.M, Waterman, M.G. and MacGregor, L.J. (in prep.) Expert musicians do not present the N400 seen in non-musicians in response to semantically incongruous words.

Featherstone, C.R., Waterman, M.G., Morrison, C.M. and MacGregor, L.J. (in prep.) Blissful ignorance? Incongruous chords are more pleasant than congruous chords, but only to non-musicians.

Poster presentations

Featherstone, C.R. (2008) Weird and wonderful: emotions and incongruities in music and language. *Award winning poster at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Psychology and Health Care Postgraduate Conference*

Invited talk

Featherstone, C.R. (2011) Musical training and semantic processing: tales of the unexpected. *Talk to be*

given as part of the Music Cognition Symposium at the BPS Cognitive Section Annual Conference, September 2011.

Paper presentations

Featherstone, C.R. (2010) Where weird is wonderful: Incongruities and aesthetics across music and language. *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC11), Seattle*

Featherstone, C.R. (2010) Sounding sparks: Aesthetic incongruities in music and language. *Presentation given in the BPS Annual Conference, April 2010*

Featherstone, C.R. (2009) Normal, weird, wonderful: Incongruities and aesthetics in music and language. *Presentation given at the BPS Cognitive Psychology Section Annual Conference*

Featherstone, C.R. (2008) Does music sound more interesting when it does something strange? *Presentation given at the Leeds Institute of Psychological Sciences Postgraduate Conference*

Featherstone, C.R. (2007) Predictions in implicit causality. *Presentation given at the Edinburgh Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences Postgraduate conference*