

Dr Jamie Y. Findlay

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Research interests

Syntax, semantics, grammatical theory and the syntax-semantics interface (especially Lexical Functional Grammar and Glue Semantics), pragmatics, (critical) discourse analysis, language & gender, language & sexuality.

Academic employment

- 01/04/2021–present **Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Semantics**, University of Oslo.
- 01/12/2019–31/03/2021 **Outreach & Access Officer** (for linguistics), University of Oxford.
- 01/10/2019–31/03/2021 **Departmental Lecturer in Syntax**, University of Oxford.
- 01/10/2019–30/09/2020 **Stipendiary Lecturer in Linguistics**, Jesus College, University of Oxford.
- 01/10/2018–30/09/2019 **Stipendiary Lecturer in Linguistics**, St Hugh's College, University of Oxford.

Education

- 11/10/2015–06/05/2019 **D.Phil. in Comparative Philology & General Linguistics**.
University of Oxford.
THESIS TITLE: *Multiword expressions and the lexicon* [[pdf](#)].
SUPERVISORS: Ash Asudeh, Mary Dalrymple. EXAMINERS: Stephen Pulman, Tom Wasow.
- 09/10/2012–30/06/2014 **M.Phil. (with distinction) in General Linguistics & Comparative Philology**.
University of Oxford.
THESIS TITLE: *The prepositional passive: a Lexical Functional account*.
SUPERVISOR: Mary Dalrymple.
- 01/09/2011–06/12/2011 Graduate Programme in Linguistics.
McGill University.
Attended for one term. GPA 3.92.
- 09/10/2007–30/06/2011 **B.A. (with First Class Honours) in Modern Languages (French) & Linguistics**.
University of Oxford.

Teaching qualifications

- 05/12/2017 SEDA-PDF Supporting Learning award.
Mapped to Descriptor 1 of the UK Professional Standards Framework: equivalent to Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
My portfolio submission is available online [here](#).

Other professional experience

- 01/07/2012–01/10/2018 **Linguistic Consultant**, Freelance.
Expert consultancy services in and around general linguistics and NLP. This involved data annotation, resource mining and compilation, data analysis, and creative copywriting. I have worked with researchers at the University of Oxford and at Queen Mary University London, as well as with private enterprises such as TheySay Analytics.
- 01/12/2014–30/09/2015 **Part-time Research Assistant**, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press.

Research experience

Note: My publications and talks are given on pp. 6ff. This section gives details of some recent projects, with (clickable) cross-references to related publications and talks.

Multiword expressions and the lexicon

[syntax, semantics]

- OVERVIEW:** My D.Phil. thesis ([1]) gives an analysis of multiword expressions (MWEs), especially idioms. It argues against approaches which conceive of idioms like *spill the beans* as being made up special versions of *spill* and *beans*, and in favour of approaches which reaffirm the mixed nature of MWEs as partially word-like and partially phrase-like. It then develops a concrete example of the latter kind of theory, integrating insights from Tree-Adjoining Grammar into the Lexical Functional Grammar architecture.
- OUTCOMES:** I have presented this work at peer-reviewed conferences for computational linguists ([21]), theoretical syntacticians ([19]), and for more general linguistics audiences ([17]). The work has also appeared in the proceedings of two of these conferences ([9], [10]). I have also organised a collaboration with researchers at the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, where I conducted a research visit in June 2018.
- FUTURE WORK:** Sascha Bargmann, Manfred Sailer and I are developing a semantic theory of the ‘extended’ use of idioms, exemplified in e.g. *Once this cat is out of the bag, a lot of people are going to get scratched*, where the underlying metaphor is used to make sense of a figurative continuation ([14], [15], [24], [27]).

Mapping Theory

[syntax, semantics]

- OVERVIEW:** Mapping Theory is a theory within LFG which handles the linking of grammatical functions in the syntax with argument positions in the semantics. My work on this topic addresses a previous lack of explicit formalisation in this area, by formalising the version of Mapping Theory developed by Anna Kibort. This work has proved influential, and so-called ‘Kibort-Findlay Mapping Theory’ now constitutes the state of the art.
- OUTCOMES:** My original approach was published in the *Journal of Language Modelling* ([6]), while a formally cleaner version was presented at the LFG Conference in 2020 ([13]) and will appear in the proceedings ([8]). Anna Kibort and I have also written a chapter on Mapping Theory for the upcoming *Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar* ([2]).
- FUTURE WORK:** Going forward, I intend to improve the cross-linguistic coverage of the theory, testing how well the formal system I have developed can cope with the different argument structures and valency altering operations of the world’s languages.

Discourses of homosexuality

[sociolinguistics, corpus linguistics]

- OVERVIEW:** I conducted a short research project using corpus linguistic and critical discourse analysis tools to examine the UK House of Lords debates on same-sex marriage in 2013. This contributed to a growing literature both on debates around same-sex marriage legislation and also on implicit homophobia.
- OUTCOMES:** My findings were reported at the IGALA conference in 2014 ([23]) and published in the *Journal of Language and Sexuality* ([5]).
- FUTURE WORK:** I would like to continue this research by examining parliamentary debates from other countries where discursive norms differ in interesting ways, such as the focus on family values and religion in Uganda or the USA.

Teaching

I have taught **syntax, semantics & pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics**, and **general linguistics** at both the introductory and advanced undergraduate level. At the graduate level, I have led courses in **syntax**, and TA-ed for courses in **syntax, phonology**, and **formal foundations of linguistics** (the latter being an introduction to set theory, logic, and formal language theory for linguists). This teaching experience covers small group and tutorial settings, larger classes, and lectures, including designing tutorial courses and lecture series. I hold a SEDA-PDF Supporting Learning award (see above).

In this section, years refer to the academic calendar (e.g. 2017 = the 2017/18 academic year).

University of Oxford

GRADUATE LEVEL

As primary instructor

2019–2020 **Contemporary Syntactic Theory** (lectures and classes – group size: ~12).

2019–2020 **Introduction to Syntax** (lectures – group size: ~25).

As TA

2017–2018 **Formal Foundations of Linguistics** (classes – group size: ~25).

An introduction to set theory, logic, and formal language theory for linguists.

2015–2016 **Introduction to Syntax** (classes – group size: ~25).

2014 **Introduction to Phonology** (classes – group size: 12).

ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

2014–2016, 2019–2020 **Syntax** (tutorials – group size: 1–3).

2018–2019 **General Linguistics** (tutorials – group size: 2–3).

A survey module which covers the development of linguistic theory since the 19th century.

2017–2019 **Sociolinguistics** (tutorials – group size: 1–3).

2018 **Psycholinguistics** (tutorials – group size: 1–3).

2014–2017 **Semantics & Pragmatics** (tutorials – group size: 1–3).

FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

2014, 2018–2019 **General Linguistics** (tutorials – group size: 2–3).

An introductory course which covers topics in general linguistics proper, along with psycholinguistics, semantics & pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and historical linguistics.

2014, 2018–2020 **Grammatical Analysis** (classes – group size: 3–6).

An introduction to both syntax and morphology.

2018 **Psycholinguistics** (lectures – group size: ~50).

2017 **Semantics & Pragmatics** (lectures – group size: ~50).

IRREGULAR CLASSES

2016, 2019 **Language and identity: the view from linguistics** (class – group size: ~6).

An introduction to sociolinguistics for first year English language and literature undergraduates.

Handout available [here](#).

2017 **Corpus methods in sociolinguistics** (graduate class – group size: 3).

- 2016–2017, 2019 **L^AT_EX workshops:** ‘L^AT_EX basics’ and ‘Going further with L^AT_EX’.
Two workshops to introduce graduate students in linguistics to L^AT_EX.
Handouts available [here](#) and [here](#).

Supervision

GRADUATE SUPERVISION (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD)

- 2021 Robert Flick. Extended essay in syntax. Title: *Distinguishing middles and passives in Hungarian: a numerical information structure approach*. M.St. in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.
- 2021 Kamran Sharifi. Extended essay in syntax. Title tbc (historical syntax). M.St. in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.
- 2021 Tianxin Tu. Extended essay in syntax. Title: *The Mandarin Chinese ba construction revisited: an LFG account*. M.St. in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.
- 2021 Xiulin Yang. Extended essay in syntax. Title: *The ambiguous binding of ziji: an LFG analysis*. M.St. in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.
- 2020 Chenyu Fang. Extended essay in syntax. Title: *An LFG analysis of anaphoric reflexive (ta)-ziji in Mandarin Chinese*. M.St. in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.

UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD)

- 2020–2021 Caitlyn McDermott. Linguistic project (thesis with a large data collection/analysis component). Title tbc (discourse analysis of US media representations of mass shootings). BA in Psychology & Linguistics.

Grants and awards

- May 2018 **Scatcherd European Scholarship.**
Value: £1,000. Awarded, with the next award, for a research visit to the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main.
- Mar. 2018 **Santander Academic Travel Award.**
Value: £1,000.
- Oct. 2015–
June 2017 **Professor Paul Slack Scholarship**, Linacre College, University of Oxford.
Total value: ~£14,000 (fees for first 2 years of D.Phil.).
- Oct. 2015–
June 2017 **AHRC Studentship**, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
Total value: £28,353 (living costs for first 2 years of D.Phil.).
- July 2014 **George Wolf Prize**, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
Awarded for best overall performance in the M.Phil. or M.St. degree.
- June 2014 **Graduate student essay prize**, International Gender and Language Association.
- Oct. 2012–
June 2014 **AHRC Studentship**, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
Total value: ~£38,000 (fees and living costs for M.Phil.).
- Sept. 2011–
June 2013 **McCall McBain Fellowship**, McGill University.
Total value: ~CAN\$62,000 (fees and living costs for 2-year MA degree); partially declined.
- Oct. 2008–
June 2011 **Casberd Scholarship**, St John’s College, University of Oxford.
Awarded for achieving a distinction in first year examinations. Total value: ~£900.

Service

TO THE PROFESSION

Grant reviewer	Narodowe Centrum Nauki (Polish National Science Centre) (2019).
Manuscript reviewer	<i>Corpora and Discourse Studies</i> (2018), <i>Journal of Language and Sexuality</i> (2019), <i>Journal of Linguistics</i> (2015, 2017, 2019), <i>Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics</i> (2019), <i>Proceedings of the LFG Conference</i> (2018–2020), <i>Syntax</i> (2020).
Abstract reviewer	<i>Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE)</i> (2018), <i>International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference</i> (2019–2021).
Marker	UK Linguistics Olympiad (since 2014).
Copy editor	<i>Journal of Language Modelling</i> (since 2017).

TO THE DEPARTMENT

Oct. 2019–Mar. 2021	Member , Athena Swan Self Assessment Team, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
Oct. 2018–Mar. 2021	Member , Undergraduate Studies Committee, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
Oct. 2019–Sept. 2020	Personal tutor and Linguistics Organising Tutor , Jesus College. Providing pastoral support and coordinating teaching for undergraduate linguistics students.
Jan.–Mar. 2018, Jan.–June 2020	Convenor , Syntax Working Group, University of Oxford.
Dec. 2015–Dec. 2019	Admissions interviewing for undergraduate degrees involving linguistics, University of Oxford.
Oct. 2018–Sept. 2019	Personal tutor and Linguistics Organising Tutor , St Hugh's College.
Oct. 2017–June 2018	Co-founder and co-convenor , D.Phil. workshop, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.

Languages

Natural	English (native), French (advanced), Latin (intermediate), German (basic).
Programming	Bash, Python, Emacs Lisp.
Markup	L ^A T _E X/BibT _E X, HTML/CSS.

Professional Memberships

Since 2017	Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).
Since 2014	International Lexical Functional Grammar Association (ILFGA).
Since 2012	Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA/ACL).
Since 2011	Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB).
Since 2011	International Gender and Language Association (IGALA).

Scholarship

Where possible, clicking on a title will take you to an openly accessible version of that item. For conference presentations, I provide a link to the slides, handout, or poster, as appropriate.

Number of citations is given per Google Scholar, and does not include self-citations.

Thesis

- [1] **2019** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Multiword expressions and the lexicon](#). D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford.

Articles in Refereed Journals and Books

- [2] **To appear** Jamie Y. Findlay and Anna Kibort. Argument structure and Mapping Theory. In Mary Dalrymple (ed.), *Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar*. Language Science Press.
- [3] **To appear** Jamie Y. Findlay. LFG and Tree Adjoining Grammar. In Mary Dalrymple (ed.), *Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar*. Language Science Press.
- [4] **2019** Mary Dalrymple and Jamie Y. Findlay. [Lexical Functional Grammar](#). In András Kertész, Edith Moravcsik, and Csilla Rákosi (eds.), *Current approaches to syntax: a comparative handbook*, 123–154. De Gruyter Mouton. DOI: [10.1515/9783110540253-005](#). [1 citation]
- [5] **2017** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Unnatural acts lead to unconsummated marriages: discourses of homosexuality within the House of Lords debate on same-sex marriage](#). *Journal of Language and Sexuality* 6(1), 30–60. DOI: [10.1075/jls.6.1.02fin](#). [17 citations]
- [6] **2016** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Mapping theory without argument structure](#). *Journal of Language Modelling* 4(2), 293–338. DOI: [10.15398/jlm.v4i2.171](#). [33 citations]
- [7] **2013** Janak Bechar, Jamie Y. Findlay, and Joseph Hardwicke. [Understanding medical words of Greek and Latin origin](#). *Student BMJ* 21. DOI: [10.1136/sbmj.f7394](#).

Articles in Refereed Conference Proceedings

- [8] **2020** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Mapping Theory and the anatomy of a lexical entry](#). In Miriam Butt and Ida Toivonen (eds.), *Proceedings of the LFG'20 Conference*, 127–147. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
- [9] **2017** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Multiword expressions and lexicalism](#). In Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King (eds.), *Proceedings of the LFG'17 Conference*, 209–229. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. [1 citation]
- [10] **2017** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Multiword expressions and lexicalism: the view from LFG](#). In *Proceedings of the 13th Workshop on Multiword Expressions (MWE 2017)*, 73–79. Association for Computational Linguistics. DOI: [10.18653/v1/W17-1709](#). [2 citations]
- [11] **2016** Jamie Y. Findlay. [The prepositional passive in Lexical Functional Grammar](#). In Doug Arnold, Miriam Butt, Berthold Crysmann, Tracy Holloway King, and Stefan Müller (eds.), *Proceedings of the Joint 2016 Conference on Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar and Lexical Functional Grammar*, 255–275. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. [5 citations]

Refereed Presentations

- [12] ~~20–22 Aug., 2020~~ **[Delayed until 2021 due to COVID-19]** Constructions in LFG. To be presented at the Workshop on Constructional Approaches in Formal Grammar at the 11th International Conference on Construction Grammar (ICCG11), University of Antwerp.

- [13] **25 June, 2020** Lexical Mapping Theory and the anatomy of a lexical entry. Presented online at the 25th International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference, University of Oslo. [[slides](#)]
- [14] **30 Mar., 2019** Extended idioms as metaphors. Joint work with Sascha Bargmann and Manfred Sailer. Poster presented at the Conference on the Creative Power of Metaphor, Worcester College, University of Oxford. [[poster](#)]
- [15] **24 Jan., 2019** Why the butterflies in your stomach can have big wings: combining formal and cognitive theories to explain productive extensions of idioms. Joint work with Sascha Bargmann and Manfred Sailer. Presented at the International Conference of the Europäische Gesellschaft für Phraseologie (EUOPHRAS 2019): Productive Patterns in Phraseology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain. [[slides](#)]
- [16] **18 July, 2018** Lexical and grammatical meaning: attributive adjectives in French. Joint work with Hannah Senior. Presented at the 23rd International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference, University of Vienna. [[slides](#)]
- [17] **8 Mar., 2018** Conspiracy theories: the problem with lexical approaches to idioms. Presented at the Workshop on One-to-Many Relations in Morphology, Syntax and Semantics at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS 2018), Universität Stuttgart. [[slides](#)]
- [18] **6 Sept., 2017** The logic of Korean honorification. Joint work with Yoolim Kim. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB 2017), University of Kent, Canterbury. [[slides](#)]
- [19] **27 July, 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism. Presented at the 22nd International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference, University of Konstanz. [[handout](#)]
- [20] **15 June, 2017** When the subject honorific brings honour to all: the expanding role of pragmatics in Korean honorification. Joint work with Yoolim Kim. Presented at the 12th Language at the University of Essex Postgraduate Conference (LangUE 2017), Colchester. [[slides](#)]
- [21] **4 Apr., 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism: the view from LFG. Poster presented at the 13th Workshop on Multiword Expressions (MWE 2017), Valencia. [[poster](#)]
- [22] **29 July, 2016** The prepositional passive in Lexical Functional Grammar. Presented at the Joint 2016 Conference on Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar and Lexical Functional Grammar (HeadLex16), Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. [[handout](#)]
- [23] **5 June, 2014** Unnatural acts lead to unconsummated marriages: discourses of homosexuality in the House of Lords revisited. Presented at the 8th International Gender and Language Association Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver. [[handout](#)]

Invited Talks

- [24] **27 Nov., 2018** When the cat you let out of the bag has claws: the role of metaphor in understanding idioms. Presented at the Linguistics and English Language Research Seminar, University of Manchester. [[slides](#)]
- [25] **25 June, 2018** How (not) to analyse multiword expressions. Presented at the Linguistics Oberseminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main. [[slides](#)]
- [26] **31 Jan., 2017** The pseudopassive: not so phoney after all. Presented at the Linguistics Departmental Seminar Series, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. [[handout](#)]

Other Presentations

- [27] **4 Aug., 2018** Pulling a pretence rabbit out of the hat. Joint work with Sascha Bargmann and Manfred Sailer. Presented (by Manfred Sailer) at the Workshop on Form-Meaning Mismatches in Natural Language (FMM2018), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. [[slides](#)]
- [28] **26 May, 2018** Lexicalised LFG. Presented at the 25th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [[handout](#)]

- [29] **13 May, 2017** When the subject honorific brings honour to all: the expanding role of pragmatics in Korean honorification. Joint work with Yoolim Kim. Presented at the 23rd South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[slides\]](#)
- [30] **4 Feb., 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism. Presented at the 22nd South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [31] **20 Feb., 2016** Idioms in LFG. Presented at the 19th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [32] **1 Nov., 2014** Mapping theory without argument structure. Presented at the 15th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [33] **22 Oct., 2013** The pseudopassive: a Lexical Functional account. Presented at the MPhil/PRS Thesis Workshop, University of Oxford. [\[handout\]](#)
- [34] **8 May, 2013** The pseudopassive in LFG: some preliminary thoughts. Presented at the Syntax Working Group, University of Oxford. [\[handout\]](#)