

# Jamie Y. Findlay

Centre for Linguistics and Philology

Walton St., Oxford, OX1 2HG

✉ [jamie.findlay@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jamie.findlay@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk)

🌐 [jyfindlay.com](http://jyfindlay.com)

📄 [findlayjy](#)

🔊 [findlayjy](#)

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

---

## EDUCATION

- 2015–2018 **D.Phil.** in Comparative Philology & General Linguistics.  
(exp.) University of Oxford.  
Thesis title: *Multiword expressions and the lexicon*.  
Supervisors: Ash Asudeh, Mary Dalrymple.
- 2012–2014 **M.Phil.** (with distinction) in General Linguistics & Comparative Philology.  
University of Oxford.  
Thesis title: *The prepositional passive: a Lexical Functional account*.  
Supervisor: Mary Dalrymple.
- 2011 Graduate Programme in Linguistics.  
McGill University.  
Attended for one term. GPA 3.92.
- 2007–2011 **B.A.** (with First Class Honours) in Modern Languages (French) & Linguistics.  
University of Oxford.

---

## TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- 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](#).

---

## EMPLOYMENT

- Since Oct. 2014 Tutor, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
- Since July 2012 Freelance linguistic consultant on various NLP tasks.
- Dec. 2014–Oct. 2015 Research Assistant, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press.
- Feb.–Sept. 2014 Annotator, Supportive Automated Feedback for Short Essay Answers (SAFeSEA) project, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford.
- May–Sept. 2013 Casual Research Assistant to Mary Dalrymple, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.

## 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 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 ([12]), theoretical syntacticians ([10]), and for more general linguistics audiences ([8]). The work has also appeared in the proceedings of two of these conferences ([5], [6]). The project has also involved collaboration with researchers at the Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, where I conducted a research visit in June 2018.
- FUTURE WORK:** My future plans involve conducting a number of psycholinguistic experiments to test the validity of certain theoretical claims, as well as delving more deeply into the semantic properties of idioms. Sascha Bargmann, Manfred Sailer and I are developing a theory of the semantics of idioms which can handle so-called ‘conjunction modification’, where modifiers target the literal meaning of idiom parts, e.g. *the businessmen had to tighten their Gucci belts*. I ultimately plan to synthesise these findings with my thesis work into a monograph.

### Honorification in Korean

[pragmatics]

- OVERVIEW:** Yoolim Kim and I have been developing a formal account of honorification in Korean. Little attention has been paid to how the *target* of honorification (the honoured one) is identified, and we give a novel analysis of this problem.
- OUTCOMES:** We have presented this work at the annual meeting of the LAGB ([9]) and at LangUE, a postgraduate student conference at the University of Essex ([11]), as well as at a number of informal venues.
- FUTURE WORK:** We intend to submit an article to the *Journal of Pragmatics* in the near future.

### 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 on both debates around same-sex marriage legislation and also on implicit homophobia.
- OUTCOMES:** My findings were reported at the IGALA conference in 2014 ([14]) and published in the *Journal of Language and Sexuality* ([2]).
- FUTURE WORK:** I intend 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**, and **sociolinguistics** at all levels, including designing tutorial courses for the latter two. My teaching experience covers small group and tutorial settings, larger classes, and lectures. I have also taught phonology at the graduate level and an ‘intro to linguistics’-type general linguistics course. I hold a SEDA-PDF Supporting Learning award (see above).

### University of Oxford

*Note:* At Oxford, ‘Prelims’ = first year undergraduate level; ‘FHS (Final Honour School)’ = advanced undergraduate level.

#### *Syntax*

- Since 2016 Occasional lectures in undergraduate and graduate syntax.
- Since 2014 FHS syntax tutorials (group size: 1–3).
- 2015–2016 Graduate ‘Introduction to syntax’ practical classes (group size: ~25).
- 2014 Prelims ‘Grammatical analysis’ classes (group size: 6).

#### *Semantics & pragmatics*

- Since 2014 FHS semantics & pragmatics tutorials (group size: 1–3).
- 2018 Prelims semantics & pragmatics lectures.
- 2017 Graduate ‘Formal foundations of linguistics’ practical classes (group size: 23).  
An introduction to set theory and logic for linguists.

#### *Sociolinguistics*

- Since 2017 FHS Sociolinguistics tutorials (group size: 1–3).
- 2018 Graduate classes in corpus methods in sociolinguistics (group size: 2).

#### *Phonology*

- 2014 Graduate ‘Introduction to phonology’ practical classes (group size: 12).

#### *General linguistics*

- 2014 Prelims ‘General linguistics’ tutorials (group size: 2).  
Includes topics in general linguistics, psycholinguistics, historical linguistics, semantics & pragmatics, and sociolinguistics.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- 2017–2018 Workshop: ‘ $\text{\LaTeX}$  basics’.
- 2017–2018 Workshop: ‘Advanced topics in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ’.  
Two workshops to introduce graduate students in linguistics to  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .  
Handouts available [here](#) and [here](#).

- 25 Jan., 2017 'Language and identity: the view from linguistics'.  
An introduction to sociolinguistics for first year English language and literature undergraduates.  
Handout available [here](#).

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- May 2018 Scatcherd European Scholarship.  
Value: £1,000.
- Mar. 2018 Santander Academic Travel Award.  
Value: £1,000.
- 2015–2017 Professor Paul Slack Scholarship, Linacre College, University of Oxford.  
All fees covered; total value: ~£14,000.
- 2015–2017 AHRC Studentship, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.  
Total value: £28,353.
- July 2014 George Wolf Prize for best overall performance in the M.Phil. or M.St. degree, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
- June 2014 Graduate student essay prize, International Gender and Language Association.
- 2012–2014 AHRC Studentship, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.  
Total value: ~£38,000.
- 2011 McCall McBain Fellowship, McGill University.  
Total value: ~CAN\$62,000 for 2 years; partially declined.
- 2008–2011 Casberd Scholarship, St. John's College, University of Oxford.  
Total value: ~£900.

## SERVICE

### To the department

- Since 2017 Co-founder and co-convenor, D.Phil. workshop, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.
- Since 2015 Admissions interviewing for undergraduate degrees involving linguistics.
- 2017 Convenor (Hilary Term), Syntax Working Group, University of Oxford.
- 2009–2010 President, Oxford University Linguistics Society.
- 2007–2009 Student representative, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.

### To the profession

- Manuscript reviewer *Journal of Linguistics* (2015, 2017), *Corpora and Discourse Studies* (2018).
- Abstract reviewer *Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE)* (2017).
- Marker UK Linguistics Olympiad (since 2014).
- Copy editor *Journal of Language Modelling* (since 2017).

## LANGUAGES

Natural	English (native), French (near-fluent), Latin (intermediate), German (basic).
Programming	Bash (Unix shell), Python.
Markup	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X/BibT <sub>E</sub> 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

*Note:* To the right of each item below, I provide a link to an accessible version. When that is a published version, I give an indication of its Open Access status by making the text **gold** or **green**.

### Articles in Refereed Journals and Books

- [1] **In preparation** 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*. De Gruyter Mouton.
- [2] **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. [\[paper\]](#)
- [3] **2016** Jamie Y. Findlay. Mapping theory without argument structure. *Journal of Language Modelling* 4(2), 293–338. [\[paper\]](#)
- [4] **2013** Janak Bechar, Jamie Y. Findlay, and Joseph Hardwicke. Understanding medical words of Greek and Latin origin. *Student BMJ* 21. [\[paper\]](#)

### Articles in Refereed Conference Proceedings

- [5] **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. [\[paper\]](#)
- [6] **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. [\[paper\]](#)
- [7] **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. [\[paper\]](#)

### Refereed Presentations

- [8] **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. [\[slides\]](#)
- [9] **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. [\[slides\]](#)
- [10] **27 July, 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism. Presented at the 22nd International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference, University of Konstanz. [\[handout\]](#)
- [11] **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. [\[slides\]](#)

- [12] **4 Apr., 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism: the view from LFG. Poster presented at the 13th Workshop on Multiword Expressions (MWE 2017), Valencia. [poster]
- [13] **29 July, 2016** The prepositional passive in Lexical Functional Grammar. Presented at HeadLex16, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. [handout]
- [14] **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

- [15] **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

- [16] **26 May, 2018** Lexicalised LFG. Presented at the 25th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [handout]
- [17] **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]
- [18] **4 Feb., 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism. Presented at the 22nd South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [handout]
- [19] **20 Feb., 2016** Idioms in LFG. Presented at the 19th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [handout]
- [20] **1 Nov., 2014** Mapping theory without argument structure. Presented at the 15th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [handout]
- [21] **22 Oct., 2013** The pseudopassive: a Lexical Functional account. Presented at the MPhil/PRS Thesis Workshop, University of Oxford. [handout]
- [22] **8 May, 2013** The pseudopassive in LFG: some preliminary thoughts. Presented at the Syntax Working Group, University of Oxford. [handout]