

# 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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 two recent projects, with (clickable) cross-references to related publications and talks.

### Universal Natural Language Understanding

[computational semantics]

**PROJECT OVERVIEW:** This Norwegian Research Council-funded project aims to develop and implement a rule-based semantic interpretation system, built on the language-agnostic Universal Dependencies syntactic framework, and using Glue Semantics for the syntax-semantics interface. We are building a highly modular system, where the core predicate-argument analysis relies solely on the structure of the UD parse tree, which contains no lexical-semantic information. This means the system can be applied to any language for which a UD parser exists. Additional language-specific resources (such as valency lexica or more detailed word-sense databases) can then be used in addition if they exist, but are not required.

**MY ROLE:** I am a post-doctoral researcher on this project, working under the P.I. Dag T. T. Haug. I am jointly responsible with the P.I. for developing the rules used in translating the syntactic parse into semantic resources, and for managing and training annotators who we use to generate gold-standard data from existing UD corpora. I also work on developing theoretical insights about the syntax-semantics interface from our experience with implementing analyses of a wide range of phenomena.

**OUTPUTS:** We presented some of our initial findings on the inadequacies of existing quasi-semantic extensions to UD at the 2021 Dependency Linguistics conference ([9]), and will present a new theoretical approach to handling scope islands in Glue Semantics at the LFG conference this year ([14]).

### Multiword expressions and the lexicon

[syntax, semantics]

**PROJECT OVERVIEW:** This was my D.Phil. project, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. My 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 of 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.

**MY ROLE:** I was solely responsible for this project from conception to completion, under the supervision of my D.Phil. supervisors, Ash Asudeh and Mary Dalrymple. I developed the research proposal, disseminated the work through presentations and publications, and successfully applied for additional research funding, including for a research visit to Germany (and, of course, also wrote up the final thesis).

**OUTPUTS:** I have presented this work at peer-reviewed conferences for computational linguists ([25]), theoretical syntacticians ([23]), and for more general linguistics audiences ([21]). The work has also appeared in the proceedings of two of these conferences ([11], [12]). I organised a collaboration with researchers at the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, where I conducted a research visit in June 2018. This resulted in a series of presentations and an ongoing research collaboration ([18], [19], [28], [32]). My formal proposals for integrating LFG and TAG will appear in the forthcoming *Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar* ([3]).

## 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 Oslo

#### UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

*As joint primary instructor*

- 2021 **Psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics** (lectures – group size: ~20).  
[LING1113: Psykolingvistikk og sosiolingvistikk]

### 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, 2018–2020 **Grammatical Analysis** (classes – group size: 3–6).  
An introduction to both syntax and morphology.  
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.  
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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X workshops**: ‘L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X basics’ and ‘Going further with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X’.  
Two workshops to introduce graduate students in linguistics to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.  
Handouts available [here](#) and [here](#).

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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: “*Crazy syntax*”: *examining the role of the synchronic/diachronic distinction in syntactic theory*. 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.
- 2021 Tommy Zhang. Extended essay in syntax. Title: *The concept of Functional-Argument Biuniqueness in LFG & Glue and additional evidence from reflexives and complex predicates*. 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). *What are they talking about? A discourse analysis of US press coverage of mass shootings*. BA in Psychology & Linguistics.

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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.

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## Service

### TO THE PROFESSION

- Committee member Executive Committee, International Lexical Functional Grammar Association (ILFGA) (Sept. 2021–present).
- Editor *Proceedings of the LFG Conference* (2021–present).
- Grant reviewer Narodowe Centrum Nauki (Polish National Science Centre) (2019).
- Manuscript reviewer *Corpora and Discourse Studies* (2018),  
*Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar* [Language Science Press] (two chapters: 2020, 2022),  
*Journal of Language and Sexuality* (2019),  
*Journal of Linguistics* (2015, 2017, 2019),  
*Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics* (2019),  
*Proceedings of the LFG Conference* (2018–present),  
*Syntax* (2020).
- Abstract reviewer *Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE)* (2018),  
*International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference* (2019–2021).
- Marker UK Linguistics Olympiad (since 2014).
- Copy editor *Journal of Language Modelling* (2017–2021).

### TO THE DEPARTMENT

- Oct. 2019–Mar. 2021 **Committee member**, Athena Swan Self Assessment Team, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, University of Oxford.  
Athena Swan is a gender equality certification for higher education institutes in the UK.
- Oct. 2018–Mar. 2021 **Committee 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.

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## Languages

- Natural English (native), French (advanced), Latin (intermediate), German (beginner), Norwegian (beginner).
- Programming Bash, Python, Emacs Lisp.
- Markup  $\text{\LaTeX}$ /Bib $\text{\TeX}$ , 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. [2 citations]

### Articles in Refereed Journals and Books

- [2] **Under review** Jamie Y. Findlay, Anna Kibort and Roxanne Taylor. Argument structure and Mapping Theory. In Mary Dalrymple (ed.), *Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar*. Language Science Press.
- [3] **Under review** Jamie Y. Findlay. LFG and Tree Adjoining Grammar. In Mary Dalrymple (ed.), *Handbook of Lexical Functional Grammar*. Language Science Press.
- [4] **2021** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Meaning in LFG](#). In I. Wayan Arka, Ash Asudeh, and Tracy Holloway King (eds.), *Modular design of grammar: linguistics on the edge*, 340–374. Oxford University Press. [1 citation]
- [5] **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]
- [6] **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](#). [16 citations]
- [7] **2016** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Mapping theory without argument structure](#). *Journal of Language Modelling* 4(2), 293–338. DOI: [10.15398/jlm.v4i2.171](#). [37 citations]
- [8] **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

- [9] **2022** Jamie Y. Findlay & Dag T. T. Haug. [How useful are Enhanced Universal Dependencies for semantic interpretation?](#) In *Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (Depling, SyntaxFest 2021)*, 22–34. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- [10] **2020** Jamie Y. Findlay. [Mapping Theory and the anatomy of a verbal lexical entry](#). In Miriam Butt and Ida Toivonen (eds.), *Proceedings of the LFG'20 Conference*, 127–147. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. [6 citations]
- [11] **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]

- [12] **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]
- [13] **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. [8 citations]

### Refereed Presentations

- [14] **12–14 July, 2022** Managing scope ambiguities in Glue via multistage proving. Joint work with Dag T. T. Haug. To be presented at the 27th International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference, University of Groningen.
- [15] **22 Mar., 2022** How useful are Enhanced Universal Dependencies for semantic interpretation? Presented online at the Sixth International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (Depling 2021), Sofia. [[slides](#)]
- [16] **20 Aug., 2021** Constructions in LFG. Presented online at the Workshop on Constructional Approaches in Formal Grammar at the 11th International Conference on Construction Grammar (ICCG11), University of Antwerp. [[slides](#)]
- [17] **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](#)]
- [18] **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](#)]
- [19] **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](#)]
- [20] **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](#)]
- [21] **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](#)]
- [22] **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](#)]
- [23] **27 July, 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism. Presented at the 22nd International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference, University of Konstanz. [[handout](#)]
- [24] **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](#)]
- [25] **4 Apr., 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism: the view from LFG. Poster presented at the 13th Workshop on Multiword Expressions (MWE 2017), Valencia. [[poster](#)]
- [26] **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](#)]



- [27] **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

- [28] **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. [\[slides\]](#)
- [29] **25 June, 2018** How (not) to analyse multiword expressions. Presented at the Linguistics Oberseminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main. [\[slides\]](#)
- [30] **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

- [31] **21 May, 2022** Managing scope ambiguities in Glue via multistage proving . Joint work with Dag T. T. Haug. To be presented at the 32nd South of England LFG Meeting, University of Oxford.
- [32] **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. [\[slides\]](#)
- [33] **26 May, 2018** Lexicalised LFG. Presented at the 25th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [34] **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. [\[slides\]](#)
- [35] **4 Feb., 2017** Multiword expressions and lexicalism. Presented at the 22nd South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [36] **20 Feb., 2016** Idioms in LFG. Presented at the 19th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [37] **1 Nov., 2014** Mapping theory without argument structure. Presented at the 15th South of England LFG Meeting, SOAS, London. [\[handout\]](#)
- [38] **22 Oct., 2013** The pseudopassive: a Lexical Functional account. Presented at the MPhil/PRS Thesis Workshop, University of Oxford. [\[handout\]](#)
- [39] **8 May, 2013** The pseudopassive in LFG: some preliminary thoughts. Presented at the Syntax Working Group, University of Oxford. [\[handout\]](#)