

Maisy Hallam

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Education

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| 2022 – 2026 | PhD in Linguistics
<i>University of Edinburgh (Centre for Language Evolution)</i>
Supervised by Kenny Smith, Simon Kirby, and Fiona Jordan (University of Bristol) |
| 2020 – 2021 | MSc with Distinction in Evolution of Language and Cognition
<i>University of Edinburgh</i>
Dissertation: Investigating the effect of communication on kinship terminology with artificial language experiments. |
| 2016 – 2020 | MA with First Class Honours in Linguistics and English language
<i>University of Edinburgh</i>
Dissertation: On the behaviour of adjective-to-noun conversion in English. |

Teaching

LECTURING

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| 2025 | Evolution and Human Behaviour (University of Bristol)
Invited guest lecture on the biological and cultural evolution of language for students in the department of Anthropology and Archaeology at The University of Bristol. |
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TUTORING

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| 2022 – 2024 | Origins and Evolution of Language
Honours and postgraduate course on core research issues in language evolution including animal behaviour, genetics, evolutionary theory, computer modelling, and archaeology.

Online Experiments for Language Scientists
Honours and postgraduate course on effective experimental design and building online experiments using jsPsych. |
| 2022 – 2023 | PPLS Skills Centre: Writing
One-on-one consultations helping undergraduate and postgraduate students improve their academic writing.

PPLS Skills Centre: Introduction to Python
Short course helping students learn to implement basic programming tasks in Python. |

WORKSHOPS

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| 2024 | Time-travelling with Statistics: an intro to phylogenetic comparative methods for linguists
<i>Centre for Language Evolution annual retreat</i>
A two-hour session introducing phylogenetic statistical analysis and its practicalities in language evolutionary research. |
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Publications

JOURNAL PAPERS

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| 2025 | I. Hallam, M. , Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Predictive structure emerges during the generalisation of kin terms to new referents. <i>PsyArxiv Preprints</i> (2025). |
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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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| 2024 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Hallam, M., Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary pressures. <i>Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> (2024).3. Hallam, M., Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary pressures. <i>Proceedings of Evolang XV</i> (2024). |
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Presentations

TALKS

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| Oct 2024 | Evolving language in the lab: constraints on how we talk about kin
<i>University of Edinburgh Linguistics Society</i> |
| Sept 2024 | Variation in the kin term lexicon is not predicted by population size
<i>Cultural Evolution Society</i> |
| May 2024 | Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary processes
<i>International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang XV)</i> |
| Jan 2024 | Learning systematicity in the structure of kinship
<i>Centre for Language Evolution seminar series</i> |
| Jan 2023 | A thousand families, all alike in terminology?
<i>Centre for Language Evolution seminar series</i> |

POSTERS

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| Nov 2021 | The Origins of Cross-Cultural Patterns in Kinship Systems
<i>Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology</i> |
| June 2021 | Why do you have two grandmothers but only one mother?
<i>Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference</i> |

Funding

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| 2022 – 2026 | ESRC-funded PhD Studentship
<i>Scottish Graduate School of Social Science</i> |
| 2023 | National Science Foundation (NSF)
<i>HRAF Summer Institute for cross-cultural anthropological research</i> |

Academic community

CONFERENCE REVIEWS

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| 2023; 2024 | Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society |
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EVENTS ORGANISATION

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| 2023 – 2024 | Centre for Language Evolution Seminar
A weekly hybrid talk series with 20+ attendees. |
| Nov 2023 | Edinburgh Lectures in Language Evolution 2023
A four-part serial hybrid talk series with over 200 attendees. |

COPYEDITING AND PROOFREADING

2019 – 2020 | **Journal for the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (JouLAB)**

2018 | **Second Language Phonology between Cognition and Use** by *Nadia Boucchioua*

OUTREACH

2024 | **PPLS Perspectives (episode host)**

A podcast exploring cutting edge research in philosophy, psychology and languages sciences at the University of Edinburgh.

2022 – 2023 | **Language Evolves!**

A pop linguistics workshop for children at local schools organised by the Centre for Language Evolution.

Awards and recognition

2024 | **Best Small Data-Driven Project**

Centre for Culture, Data and Society

For my typological work on the structure of kinship systems.

2023 | **Three Minute Thesis University Finalist**

University of Edinburgh

2020 | **Patterson Prize for research in Old English**

University of Edinburgh

Skills

Languages | English (native), British Sign Language (basic), French (basic), Italian (basic)

Programming
& markup | Python, R, JavaScript, HTML, \LaTeX

Data analysis | `lme4`, `tidyverse`, `pandas`

Experiments | `jsPsych`, Prolific

Other | Git, Microsoft Office, InDesign, Audacity