Maisy Hallam

Education

2022 - 2026

PhD in Linguistics *University of Edinburgh (Centre for Language Evolution)*

Supervised by Kenny Smith, Simon Kirby, and Fiona Jordan (University of Bristol)

2020 - 2021

MSc with Distinction in Evolution of Language and Cognition

University of Edinburgh

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

University of Edinburgh

Dissertation: On the behaviour of adjective-to-noun conversion in English.

Teaching

TUTORING

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

2024

Time-travelling with Statistics: an intro to phylogenetic comparative methods for linguists

Centre for Language Evolution annual retreat

A two-hour session introducing phylogenetic statistical analysis and its practicalities in language evolutionary research.

Publications

Conference Proceedings

- 1. Hallam, M., Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary pressures. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (2024).
- 2. Hallam, M., Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary pressures. *Proceedings of Evolang XV* (2024).

Presentations

TALKS

May 2024 | Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary processes

International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang XV)

Jan 2024 | Learning systematicity in the structure of kinship

Centre for Language Evolution seminar series

Jan 2023 | A thousand families, all alike in terminology?

Centre for Language Evolution seminar series

POSTERS

Nov 2021 | The Origins of Cross-Cultural Patterns in Kinship Systems

Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology

June 2021 | Why do you have two grandmothers but only one mother?

Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference

Funding

2022 – 2026 | **ESRC-funded PhD Studentship**

Scottish Graduate School of Social Science

2023 | National Science Foundation (NSF)

HRAF Summer Institute for cross-cultural anthropological research

Academic community

Conference reviews

2023; 2024 | Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

EVENTS ORGANISATION

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), French (basic), Italian (basic)

Programming | Python, R, JavaScript, HTML, LTEX

& markup

Data analysis | lme4, tidyverse, pandas

Experiments | jsPsych, Prolific

Other | Git, Microsoft Office, InDesign, Audacity