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Education **University of Edinburgh**

Ph.D., Linguistics and English Language, 2015-2019.

THESIS TITLE: *Co-evolution of language and mindreading: A computational exploration*

University of Amsterdam

M.Sc. (Res.), Brain & Cognitive Sciences (track: Cognitive Science),
2012-2014, Cum Laude.

LITERATURE THESIS: *On the Role of Intentionality in Explaining the Information Sharing Gap Between Nonhuman and Human Great Apes*. Supervised by Prof. Bridget Waller, University of Portsmouth.

8-MONTH RESEARCH PROJECT: *Modelling the Role of Theory of Mind in Language Acquisition*. Supervised by Prof. Simon Kirby, University of Edinburgh.

4-MONTH RESEARCH PROJECT: *Stats & Nets versus Rules & Symbols: Re-opening the Debate on Learning Mechanisms for Artificial Grammar Learning*. Supervised by Dr. Jelle Zuidema, University of Amsterdam.

B.Sc., Psychobiology (track: Psychobiology), 2009-2012.

THESIS PROJECT: *The relationship between phonology and morphosyntax in sentence processing: An ERP study into Dutch past tense allomorphs*. Supervised by Dr. Judith Rispens, University of Amsterdam.

B.A., Dutch Language & Culture, 2009-2012.

THESIS PROJECT: *On the Semantic Motivation and Disappearance of Embedded V2 in Dutch Dialects*. Supervised by Prof. Hedde Zeijlstra, University of Amsterdam.

- Publications Woensdregt, M. & Smith, K. (2017). [Pragmatics and Language Evolution](#). In Aronoff, M. (Ed), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780199384655.013.321
- Woensdregt, M., Kirby, S., Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (2016). [Modelling the co-development of word learning and perspective-taking](#). In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

- Talks & Posters
- Woensdregt, M., Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2017). *A model of cultural co-evolution of language and perspective-taking*. Talk at EvoLang XII, Toruń.
- Woensdregt, M., Kirby, S., Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (2017). *A model of cultural co-evolution of language and perspective-taking* Talk at “Workshop on Language Evolution, Semantics and Pragmatics”, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- Woensdregt, M., Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2017). *A model of cultural co-evolution of language and perspective-taking*. Talk at Workshop “Minds, Mechanisms and Interaction in the Evolution of Language”, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.
- Woensdregt, M., Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2017). *The cultural co-evolution of language and perspective-taking: Convergent transformation away from selection target can nevertheless strengthen selection effect*. Poster at Inaugural Conference of Cultural Evolution Society, Jena.
- Woensdregt, M., Kirby, S., Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (2017). *A model of cultural co-evolution of language and mindreading*. Poster at 39th CogSci Conference, London.
- Woensdregt, M., Kirby, S., Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (2016). *Modelling the co-development of word learning and perspective-taking*. Poster at 38th CogSci Conference, Philadelphia.
- Woensdregt, M., Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2016). *The Cultural Co-evolution Of Language And Mindreading*. Talk at EvoLang XI, New Orleans.
- Woensdregt, M., Kirby, S., & Smith, K. (2015). *Modelling the interaction between language acquisition and the development of theory of mind*. Talk at Workshop “Perspectives on the ontogeny of mutual understanding”, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.
- Woensdregt, M., Kirby, S., & Smith, K. (2015). *Modelling the Role of Theory of Mind in Language Evolution*. Talk at Protolang 4, Rome.
- Woensdregt, M. & Zuidema, W.H. (2014). *Neural Networks, Algebraic Rules & Human Uniqueness*. Talk at EvoLang X, Vienna.
- Woensdregt, M. & Zuidema, W.H. (2014). *Neural Networks, Algebraic Rules & Human Uniqueness*. Poster at Nijmegen Lectures (“No miracles! A Darwinian view of the evolution of cognition, language and culture”), Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.

- Woensdregt, M. & Zuidema, W.H. (2013). *Is Statistical Learning Sufficient to Learn Grammar? A New Neural Network to Solve the Marcus et al. (1999) Task*. Poster at Lorentz Center Workshop (“Modelling Meets Infant Studies in Language Acquisition: A Dialogue on Current Challenges and Future Directions”), Lorentz Center, Leiden.
- Rispens, J. & Woensdregt, M. (2013). *Processing past tense allomorphs: an ERP investigation*. Talk at 11th International Symposium of Psycholinguistics, Tenerife.

Other Research Experience

- Part-time Research Assistantship for experiment comparing cultural transmission of visual patterns between baboons and children in a non-copying task. Principal investigators: Dr. Carmen Saldana, Prof. Kenny Smith, Prof. Simon Kirby and Dr. Nicolas Claidière, University of Edinburgh and Aix-Marseille University. I assisted Dr. Carmen Saldana in collecting data from children at Edinburgh Zoo. Participants were children aged 5-8 who were visiting the zoo, and were asked to complete the experiment on an iPad.
- Part-time Research Assistantship for pilot experiment comparing perspective-taking abilities of mono- and bilingual adults. Principal investigators: Dr. Chris Cummins and Prof. Antonella Sorace, University of Edinburgh. I was responsible for the experimental design and implementation, scheduling and running participants, and preparing data for analysis. 60 hours total.

Teaching & Supervision Experience

Department of Linguistics & English Language, University of Edinburgh

ACCREDITATION:

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (in recognition of attainment against the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning support in higher education); awarded May 2018.

MASTERS & HONOURS TEACHING AND SUPERVISORY ROLES:

Guest Lecturer, Simulating Language, 2018.

Lab Demonstrator, Simulating Language, 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019.

Marker, Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing, 2015.

Supervisor for M.Sc. Dissertation Project of Yiyun Zhao titled “*Simulating the interaction between mindreading and language in development and evolution*” for MSc Evolution of Language and Cognition, 2016.

Tutor, Child Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, 2016.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ROLES:

Tutor, LEL1B: Linguistics and English Language 1B, 2018.

Tutor, Introduction to Cognitive Science, 2017.

Tutor, LEL1: Linguistics and English Language, 2016-17.
 Tutor, LEL2A: Linguistic Theory and the Structure of English,
 2015.
 Tutor, LEL2D: Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories,
 2015.

Awards & Funding

PPLS-Gray postgraduate publication prize, University of Edinburgh, awarded for Woensdregt, M. & Smith, K. (2017). [Pragmatics and Language Evolution](#). In Aronoff, M. (Ed), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780199384655.013.321, 2017.
 Second place in Three Minute Thesis competition for PhD students of School for Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, 2016.
 Principal's Career Development PhD Scholarship, University of Edinburgh, 2015 - 2018.
 Erasmus Grant for Internship Abroad, University of Amsterdam, Sept. - Feb. 2014.

Academic Service

Reviewer for Evolang XII conference, Toruń, 2018.
 Co-organiser of LEL Postgraduate Conference, University of Edinburgh, 2016.
 Reviewer for Evolang XI conference, New Orleans, 2016.
 Student Member of Education Committee for MSc Brain & Cognitive Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Sept. 2012 - Aug. 2013.

Public Outreach

Volunteer for Workshop on Language Evolution for primary schools in and around Edinburgh. Helped deliver three 1-hour workshops, 2019.
 Science correspondent on 'Neurolinguistics & Aphasia' for the Journal of the Amsterdam Network of Psycholinguists (het WAP). Two articles a year, 2012-2016.
 Co-organiser of "*Culture, Communication and Context*" event for Innovative Learning Week "Ideas in Play", Feb. 2016, University of Edinburgh.
 Volunteer for "*Cultural Evolution in Action*" event for Innovative Learning Week "Dive in!", Feb. 2015, University of Edinburgh.

Other Professional Experience & Volunteering

Sessional Worker on Patient Engagement Team for Cyrenians.
 Organising and running nature-based and gardening activities with mental health patients at Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens and Royal Edinburgh Hospital for mental health, and with patients in physical rehabilitation at Astley Ainslie Hospital.
 Sept. 2017 - present.

Patient Engagement Volunteer at Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens.
Assisting in running nature-based and gardening activities with
mental health patients at Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens and
Royal Edinburgh Hospital for mental health. Feb. 2016 - Sept. 2017.
Organisational Development Volunteer for Better World Cameroon.
Sept. - Dec. 2014

Languages	PROFICIENT USER: Dutch, English, Frisian, German
	BASIC USER: French, Spanish
& Skills	PROFICIENT USER: Python, L ^A T _E X
	BASIC USER: R, MATLAB, Praat, HTML, CSS