

Marieke Woensdregt

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Positions held

2019–present **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Radboud University Nijmegen*.
On NWO Vidi project *Elementary particles of conversation*
PI: Dr. Mark Dingemanse

Education

- 2015–2019 **PhD in Linguistics**, *University of Edinburgh*.
Thesis: *Co-evolution of language and mindreading: A computational exploration*
Supervisors: Prof. Simon Kirby, Prof. Kenny Smith & Dr. Chris Cummins
- 2012–2014 **MSc in Brain & Cognitive Sciences**, *University of Amsterdam*, Cum Laude.
- Literature thesis: *On the Role of Intentionality in Explaining the Information Sharing Gap Between Nonhuman and Human Great Apes*
Supervisor: Prof. Bridget Waller
 - 8-month research project: *Modelling the Role of Theory of Mind in Language Acquisition*
Supervisor: Prof. Simon Kirby
 - 4-month research project: *Stats & Nets versus Rules & Symbols: Re-opening the Debate on Learning Mechanisms for Artificial Grammar Learning*
Supervisor: Dr. Jelle Zuidema
- 2009–2012 **BSc in Psychobiology**, *University of Amsterdam*.
Thesis project: *The relationship between phonology and morphosyntax in sentence processing: An ERP study into Dutch past tense allomorphs*
Supervisor: Prof. Judith Rispens
- 2009–2012 **BA in Dutch Language & Culture**, *University of Amsterdam*.
Thesis project: *On the Semantic Motivation and Disappearance of Embedded V2 in Dutch Dialects*
Supervisor: Prof. Hedde Zeijlstra

Additional training

July 2018 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. 56 hours total.

Feb.–July 2015 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.

Publications

- **Woensdregt, M.**, Smith, K., Cummins, C. & Kirby, S. (in prep). Pragmatic communication as a cultural trap: The interaction between pragmatic ability and linguistic ambiguity
- Blokpoel, M., Dingemanse, M., **Woensdregt, M.**, Kachergis, G., Bögels, S., Toni, I., & van Rooij, I. (under review). Pragmatic communicators can overcome asymmetry by exploiting ambiguity. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/q56xs>
- Rispens, J., & **Woensdregt, M.** (under review). Electrophysiological responses to processing morphophonological and morphosyntactic characteristics of the past tense.
- **Woensdregt, M.**, Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (accepted). A computational model of the cultural co-evolution of language and mindreading. *Synthese*.
- **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*.

Presentations

Invited talks

- **Woensdregt, M.**, Kirby, S., Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (2018). *A model of cultural co-evolution of language and perspective-taking*. “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*. Workshop “Minds, Mechanisms and Interaction in the Evolution of Language”, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.

Oral presentations

- Dingemanse, M., & **Woensdregt, M.** (2020). *The cultural evolution of collateral signals*. Workshop: Re-drawing the boundaries of language, Evolang XIII, Brussels. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak.)
- **Woensdregt, M.**, Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2019). *A computational model of co-evolution of language and mindreading*. Culture Conference, Stirling.
- **Woensdregt, M.**, Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2018). *A model of cultural co-evolution of language and perspective-taking*. EvoLang XII, Toruń.
- **Woensdregt, M.**, Smith, K., Cummins, C., & Kirby, S. (2016). *The Cultural Co-evolution Of Language And Mindreading*. EvoLang XI, New Orleans.
- **Woensdregt, M.**, Kirby, S., & Smith, K. (2015). *Modelling the interaction between language acquisition and the development of theory of mind*. 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*. Protolang 4, Rome.
- **Woensdregt, M.** & Zuidema, W.H. (2014). *Neural Networks, Algebraic Rules & Human Uniqueness*. EvoLang X, Vienna.
- Rispens, J. & **Woensdregt, M.** (2013). *Processing past tense allomorphs: an ERP investigation*. 11th International Symposium of Psycholinguistics, Tenerife (presented by J. Rispens).

Poster presentations

- **Woensdregt, M.**, & Dingemanse, M. (2020). *Other-Initiated Repair Can Facilitate the Emergence of Compositional Language* Evolang XIII, Brussels. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak.)
- Kapron-King, A., Kirby, S., & **Woensdregt, M.** (2020). *Modelling Cultural Evolution of Pragmatic Communication When Language Co-Develops With Perspective-Taking*. Evolang XIII, Brussels. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak.)
- **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*. 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*. 39th CogSci Conference, London.
- **Woensdregt, M.**, Kirby, S., Cummins, C., & Smith, K. (2016). *Modelling the co-development of word learning and perspective-taking*. 38th CogSci Conference, Philadelphia.
- **Woensdregt, M.** & Zuidema, W.H. (2014). *Neural Networks, Algebraic Rules & Human Uniqueness*. 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*. Lorentz Center Workshop ("Modelling Meets Infant Studies in Language Acquisition: A Dialogue on Current Challenges and Future Directions"), Lorentz Center, Leiden.

Teaching

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.
Guest lecturer	Simulating Language, 2018 (MSc); Two lectures on Bayesian learning and Iterated Bayesian learning (lectures were recorded).
Computer lab demonstrator	Simulating Language, 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019 (MSc).
Tutor	Linguistics and English Language 1B, 2018 (BA).
Tutor	Introduction to Cognitive Science, 2017 (BSc).
Tutor	Linguistics and English Language 1, 2016-17 (BA).
Tutor	Child Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, 2016 (MSc).
Tutor	Linguistic Theory and the Structure of English, 2015 (BA).
Tutor	Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories, 2015 (BA).

Student supervision

MSc Dissertation	Dissertation project of Anna Kapron-King titled " <i>Cultural Co-Evolution of Language and Pragmatic Ability</i> " for MSc in Linguistics at University of Edinburgh, 2019.
MSc Dissertation	Dissertation project of Yiyun Zhao titled " <i>Simulating the interaction between mindreading and language in development and evolution</i> " for MSc in Evolution of Language and Cognition at University of Edinburgh, 2016.

Professional service

- Member of Open Science Community Nijmegen

- Ad-hoc reviewing of journal articles for: *Cognitive Science*, *Journal of Language Evolution*, *Language Dynamics and Change*, *Nature Human Behaviour*.
- Ad-hoc reviewing for conferences: *Evolang XI*, *Evolang XII*, *Evolang XIII*.
- Co-organiser of LEL Postgraduate Conference, University of Edinburgh, 2016.
- Student Member of Education Committee for MSc Brain & Cognitive Sciences, University of Amsterdam, 2012–2013.

Grants & Awards

- 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
- 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.

Public outreach

- Lead organiser of interactive demo on conversational repair ("*How 'huh?' helps*") for children aged 6+ at the Kletsoppen Child Language Festival in Nijmegen, 2020.
- Volunteer for Workshop on Language Evolution for primary schools in and around Edinburgh. Helped deliver six 1-hour workshops, 2019.
- Interactive exhibit for children on memory games used to study non-human primates' behaviour. July 2018, Budongo Trail, Edinburgh Zoo.
- Science correspondent on 'Neurolinguistics & Aphasia' for the Journal of the Amsterdam Network of Psycholinguists (het WAP). Two articles per 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.

Languages & Skills

- Dutch (native), English (near-native), Frisian (advanced), German (intermediate), French (intermediate), Spanish (basic)
- Python, R, Bash, \LaTeX , HTML, CSS