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Education

University of Edinburgh

Ph.D., Linguistics and English Language, Jan. 2015 - present. (Expected thesis submission date: August 2018.)

TOPIC: *Modelling the co-evolution of language and perspective-taking.*

University of Amsterdam

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

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), Sept. 2009 - Aug. 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, Sept. 2009 - Aug. 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

Talks & Posters

- 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*.
- 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

Research Assistant on experiment comparing perspective-taking abilities of mono- and bilinguals. Principal investigators: Dr. Chris Cummins and Prof. Antonella Sorace, University of Edinburgh.

Teaching &
Supervision
Experience

Department of Linguistics & English Language, University of Edinburgh

MASTERS & HONOURS:

Supervisor, M.Sc. Thesis Project of Yiyun Zhao titled “*Simulating the interaction between mindreading and language in development and evolution*” for MSc Evolution of Language and Cognition, sem. 2, 2015/16.

Lab Demonstrator, Simulating Language, sem. 2, 2014/15; 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18.

Tutor, Child Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, sem. 2, 2015/16.

UNDERGRADUATE:

Tutor, Introduction to Cognitive Science, sem. 1, 2017/18.

Tutor, LEL1: Linguistics and English Language, sem. 1+2, 2016/17.

Tutor, LEL2A: Linguistic Theory and the Structure of English, sem. 1, 2015/16.

Tutor, LEL2D: Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories, sem. 2, 2014/15.

Awards &
Funding

PPLS-Gray postgraduate publication prize, University of Edinburgh, June 2017

Second place in Three Minute Thesis competition for PhD students of School for Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, Mar. 2016

Principal’s Career Development PhD Scholarship, University of Edinburgh, Jan. 2015 - Jan. 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, June 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	<p>Author of articles on topics in ‘Neurolinguistics & Aphasia’ for the Journal of the Amsterdam Network of Psycholinguists (het WAP). Two articles per year, 2012-2016.</p> <p>Co-organiser “<i>Culture, Communication and Context</i>” event for Innovative Learning Week “Ideas in Play”, Feb. 2016, University of Edinburgh.</p> <p>Volunteer “<i>Cultural Evolution in Action</i>” event for Innovative Learning Week “Dive in!”, Feb. 2015, University of Edinburgh.</p>
Other Professional Experience & Volunteering	<p>Sessional Worker on Patient Engagement Team for Cyrenians.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Patient Engagement Volunteer at Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens. Feb. 2016 - Sept. 2017.</p> <p>Organisational Development Volunteer for Better World Cameroon. Sept. - Dec. 2014</p>
Languages & Skills	<p>Dutch (native), English (near-native), Frisian (advanced), German (advanced), French (intermediate), Spanish (basic)</p> <p>Python (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), Bash (intermediate), R (basic), MATLAB (basic), Praat (basic), HTML (basic), CSS (basic)</p>