

# Marieke Woensdregt

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## Positions held

2019–present **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Radboud University Nijmegen*.  
On Dr. Mark Dingemans's NWO Vidi project *Elementary particles of conversation*.

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## Education

2015–2019 **PhD in Linguistics and English Language**, *University of Edinburgh*.  
Thesis title: *Co-evolution of language and mindreading: A computational exploration*.  
2012–2014 **MSc in Brain & Cognitive Sciences**, *University of Amsterdam*, Cum Laude.  
2009–2012 **BSc in Psychobiology**, *University of Amsterdam*.  
2009–2012 **BA in Dutch Language & Culture**, *University of Amsterdam*.

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## 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.

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## Publications

- 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

- 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., 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)
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 project of Anna Kapron-King titled "*Cultural Co-Evolution of Language and Pragmatic Ability*" for MSc in Linguistics at University of Edinburgh, 2019.

MSc Dissertation project of Yiyun Zhao titled "*Simulating the interaction between mindreading and language in development and evolution*" for MSc in Evolution of Language and Cognition at University of Edinburgh, 2016.

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## Service activities

- Ad-hoc reviewing of journal articles: *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Journal of Language Evolution*, *Language Dynamics and Change*
- Ad-hoc reviewing for conferences: *Evolang XIII*, *Evolang XII*, *Evolang XI*.
- 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.

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## 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.

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## Public outreach

- Volunteer for Workshop on Language Evolution for primary schools in and around Edinburgh. Helped deliver six 1-hour workshops, 2019.
- 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.