

# Robert Lennon

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[robertlennon50.github.io](https://robertlennon50.github.io)

Qualifications	<b>PhD English Language &amp; Linguistics</b> <i>University of Glasgow</i> <b>2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Experience and learning in cross-dialect perception: derhoticised /r/ in Glasgow</i></li><li>• Supervisors: Rachel Smith, Jane Stuart-Smith</li><li>• Funding: ESRC 1+3 scholarship</li></ul>
	<b>MSc English Language &amp; Linguistics</b> (Distinction) <i>University of Glasgow</i> <b>2013</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The effect of experience in cross-dialect perception: Parsing /r/ in Glaswegian</i></li><li>• Supervisors: Rachel Smith, Jane Stuart-Smith</li><li>• Funding: ESRC 1+3 scholarship</li></ul>
	<b>MA English Language</b> (1st Class Honours) <i>University of Glasgow</i> <b>2012</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dissertation: <i>A real-time sociophonetic study of postvocalic /r/ in the speech of schoolchildren in Bearsden</i></li><li>• David Murison Prize: Best Performance in Modern English Language &amp; Scots</li></ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Senior Research Associate, Lancaster University</b> <b>2020–24</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– (project paused for PI's maternity leave, 2021-22)</li><li>– Promoted from Research Associate in 2021</li><li>– <a href="#">Leverhulme trust funded project</a> investigating loss of rhoticity in Lancashire</li><li>– Analysed speech corpus (transcription, forced alignment, auditory coding, phonetic analysis)</li><li>– Currently building a new corpus of ultrasound recordings</li><li>– Disseminating research findings in journal &amp; conference submissions</li><li>– Trained &amp; supervised RAs on auditory coding &amp; corpus processing</li><li>– Designed a new project strand in consultation with P.I., to meet Covid-19 restrictions</li><li>– Designed &amp; ran online perception experiment</li><li>– Contributing to lab group activities: co-organised a weekly R coding group, delivered talks</li><li>– Wrote &amp; delivered Masters sociophonetics lecture.</li><li>– Chaired an annual progress review: reviewed PhD writing sample &amp; gave feedback (Principal Investigator: <a href="#">Danielle Turton</a>)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Lecturer in Phonetics &amp; Sociolinguistics, University of Glasgow</b> <b>2021–22</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Teaching, assessment, supervision: sociolinguistics, phonetics &amp; general linguistics</li><li>– Convenor &amp; head lecturer: Sociolinguistics Honours &amp; PGT courses (44 students)</li><li>– Convenor: Level 2 Linguistics year group (94 students)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Coordinated teaching team of 8 lecturers &amp; 15 tutors</li><li>* Collated course documentation &amp; assessment materials</li><li>* Chaired tutor briefings &amp; student feedback sessions</li><li>* Students' first point of contact &amp; provided pastoral support</li><li>* Administered Moodle VLE &amp; made regular course announcements</li></ul></li><li>– Co-convenor: PGT in Speech, Lang. &amp; Sociolinguistics (incoming 2022-23 cohort)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* reviewed applications, coordinated with colleagues on course scheduling</li></ul></li><li>– Supervised nine dissertation students (UG &amp; PGT); chaired an annual progress review</li><li>– Conducted interviews for upcoming GTA positions (Head of Subject: <a href="#">Tom Bartlett</a>)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Research Fellow, University of Leeds</b> <b>2017–20</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <a href="#">Leverhulme trust funded project</a> investigating speech tempo perception</li><li>– Designed &amp; ran speech perception experiments</li><li>– Created &amp; maintained a large phonetic speech corpus</li><li>– Disseminated research findings in journal outputs &amp; conference submissions (Principal Investigator: <a href="#">Leendert Plug</a>)</li></ul></li></ul>

## Research

### Publications:

- Lennon, R. (accepted pending revision). Perception of ambiguous rhoticity in Glasgow. *Journal of Phonetics*.
- Turton, D. & Lennon, R. (2023). An acoustic analysis of rhoticity in Lancashire, England. *Journal of Phonetics* 101, 101280. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2023.101280>
- Lennon, R. (in prep). Listener processing of fine phonetic detail in a familiar accent of English: Insights from mouse tracking.
- Turton, D. & Lennon, R. (in prep). 4,000 /r/s in Blackburn, Lancashire: An ultrasound study of Anglo-English derhoticisation.
- Nance, C. & Lennon, R. The Sociolinguistics of Approximants. In: *Approximants: Their Phonetics and Phonology*. Editor: Martin J. Ball (book chapter, to appear 2024)
- Plug, L., Lennon, R. & Smith, R. (2023). Testing for canonical form orientation in speech tempo perception. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218231198344>
- Plug, L., Lennon, R. & Smith, R. (2022). Measured and perceived speech tempo: Comparing canonical and surface articulation rates. *Journal of Phonetics* 95, 101193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2022.101193>
- Plug, L., Lennon, R. & Smith, R. (2022). Schwa deletion and perceived tempo in English. Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Speech Prosody. Lisbon: Universidade de Lisboa.
- Plug, L., Lennon, R. & Gold, E. (2021). Articulation rates' inter-correlations and discriminating powers in an English speech corpus. *Speech Communication* 132, 40-54. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.specom.2021.05.006>
- Plug, L., Smith, R., & Lennon, R. (2020). [Listeners' sensitivity to syllable complexity in speech tempo perception](#). Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Speech Prosody. Tokyo: University of Tokyo.
- Lennon, R., Plug, L. & Gold, E. (2019). [A comparison of multiple speech tempo measures: Inter-correlations and discriminating power](#). Proceedings of the 19th ICPhS. Melbourne: University of Melbourne.
- Plug, L., Lennon, & R. Smith, R. (2019). [Measured and perceived speech tempo: Canonical vs surface syllable and phone rates](#). Proceedings of the 19th ICPhS. Melbourne: University of Melbourne.
- Lennon, R., Smith, R. & Stuart-Smith, J. (2015). [An acoustic investigation of postvocalic /r/ variants in two sociolects of Glaswegian](#). Proceedings of the 18th ICPhS. Glasgow: University of Glasgow.
- Stuart-Smith, J., Lennon, R., MacDonald, R., Robertson, D., Sóskuthy, M., José, B. & Evers, L. (2015). [A dynamic acoustic view of real-time change in word-final liquids in spontaneous Glaswegian](#). Proceedings of the 18th ICPhS. Glasgow: University of Glasgow.

### Additional research experience:

- *Eye-tracking project*: In collaboration with [Gisela Tomé Lourido](#) and [Bronwen Evans](#), designed and ran an eye-tracking experiment, investigating the perception of Northern and Southern English vowels, and the effect of short-term priming on eye gaze. **2018–2022**
- *Research grant bid writing assistance*: Employed by a colleague at the University of Glasgow to research Bayesian modelling, eye-tracking methodology, design an eye-tracking experiment, and obtain detailed equipment quotes and advice from an eye-tracking company. **2016–17**
- *Research Assistant*: 'An Online Transitions Nexus for International PGTs', aimed at improving international students' academic & social transition to university life in a different country. Duties included standardising & populating the online student support service with materials including acclimatisation, advice on academic writing, and language guidance. ([Student Learning Development](#), University of Glasgow) **2017**

- *Research Assistant*: Conducted participant recruitment and recordings for [Understanding British Accents in Noise](#) (Paul Iverson, Bronwen Evans, UCL) **2014–17**
- *Laboratory support*: Completed a full inventory of recording equipment for [Glasgow University Laboratory of Phonetics](#) (Jane Stuart-Smith, Rachel Smith) **2013**
- *Research Assistant*: ESRC, Carnegie Trust and Leverhulme Trust funded projects, including [Sounds of the City](#), [Seeing Speech](#), and [Seeing the Links in the Speaker-hearer Chain](#) (Jane Stuart-Smith, University of Glasgow; James Scobbie, Queen Margaret University; Eleanor Lawson, University of Strathclyde) **2012–17**

#### **Selected conference presentations:**

- The decline of rhoticity in Lancashire, Northern England: Data from ultrasound and sociolinguistic interviews.  
*NWAV51, Queens College, City University New York* **October 2023**
- [The loss of rhoticity in Blackburn, Lancashire: Evidence from sociolinguistic interviews and ultrasound](#). (Co-author) *UKLVC 14, University of Edinburgh*  
– Invited session chair: Sociophonetics **June 2023**
- [Do listeners orient to canonical forms when judging speech tempo?](#) (Co-author)  
*LabPhon18, Online conference* **June 2022**
- [Schwa deletion and perceived tempo in English](#). (Co-author)  
*Speech Prosody 11, Universidade de Lisboa* **May 2022**
- [“An island of rhoticity”: The first comprehensive instrumental analysis of postvocalic /r/ in Lancashire](#). *‘R-Atics 7, Université de Lausanne* **November 2021**
- Ambiguous rhoticity in Lancashire and Glasgow: A perceptual comparison.  
*UKLVC 13, University of Glasgow* **September 2021**
- Processing regional accent variation: Real-time and reaction time measures. (Co-author)  
*UKLVC 13, University of Glasgow* **September 2021**
- The perception of variable rhoticity in Blackburn, Lancashire: Evidence from an online study.  
*Phonetics Lab, Aarhus University*  
– Invited speaker **May 2021**
- Using eye-tracking to investigate the role of regional variation in spoken word recognition.  
(Co-author) *Phonetics Lab meeting, Lancaster University* **February 2021**
- Acoustics and perception of Glaswegian /r/. *Phonetics Lab meeting, Lancaster University*  
– Invited speaker **November 2020**
- [Listeners’ sensitivity to syllable complexity in speech tempo perception](#). (Co-author)  
*Speech Prosody 10, University of Tokyo* **May 2020**
- Speech tempo perception and deletion: Evidence from a listening experiment.  
*Rate and Rhythm in Speech Recognition, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen* **December 2019**
- [The effect of regional variation on speech processing: Evidence from an eye-tracking experiment](#). (Co-author) *UKLVC 12, QMU/UCL* **September 2019**
- [A comparison of multiple speech tempo measures: Inter-correlations and discriminating power](#).  
*19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Melbourne* **August 2019**
- [Measured and perceived speech tempo: Canonical vs surface syllable and phone rates](#).  
(Co-author) *19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Melbourne* **August 2019**
- Comparing alternative speech tempo measures: Inter-correlations and discriminating powers.  
*28th International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics, Istanbul* **July 2019**
- Speech tempo measurement and perception *Linguistics Colloquium, University of York*  
– Invited speaker (co-presented with Leendert Plug) **February 2019**
- Experience and learning in cross-dialect perception: Ambiguous /r/ in Glasgow.  
*Speech Science Forum seminar, University College London* **October 2018**

- Invited speaker
  - Perception of Glaswegian rhoticity suffers in challenging listening conditions. *British Association of Academic Phoneticians, University of Kent* **April 2018**
    - Invited session chair: Speech Perception
  - Challenging listening conditions make understanding Glaswegian /r/ even harder. *10th annual Speech in Noise Workshop, Glasgow* **January 2018**
  - When is sound change more than segmental change? Coda /r/ and voice quality shifts in Glasgow since 1890. (Co-author) *UKLVC 11, Cardiff University* **August 2017**
  - Tracking the timecourse of perception: Ambiguous rhoticity in Glasgow. *Abstraction, Diversity, and Speech Dynamics Workshop, Institute of Phonetics and Speech Processing, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München* **May 2017**
  - The long and winding road between groups and individuals: A non-linear approach to changing liquids in Glasgow English. (Co-author) *4th International Workshop on Sound Change, Edinburgh University* **April 2017**
  - Fussed, second, thud: Mouse tracking reveals implicit perception of ambiguous /r/ in Glasgow. *English Language & Linguistics Research Seminar, University of Glasgow* **March 2017**
    - Invited speaker
  - Glasgow Smiles Better? Long-term and short-term adaptation to accents. *Human Language Processing Lab presentation, University of Rochester* **February 2017**
    - Invited speaker (co-presented with Rachel Smith)
  - [Ambiguous rhoticity in Glasgow: Short term exposure promotes perceptual adaptation for experienced and inexperienced listeners.](#) *LabPhon15, Cornell University* **July 2016**
    - National Science Foundation travel award (\$400)
  - Short term learning of derhoticised /r/ in Glasgow: Adaptation occurs for experienced and inexperienced listeners. *British Association of Academic Phoneticians, Lancaster University* **March 2016**
  - Is gender a factor in real-time acoustic change in coda liquids in Glasgow? (Co-author) *British Association of Academic Phoneticians, Lancaster University* **March 2016**
  - [An acoustic investigation of postvocalic /r/ variants in two sociolects of Glaswegian.](#) *18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Glasgow* **August 2015**
  - [A dynamic acoustic view of real-time change in word-final liquids in spontaneous Glaswegian.](#) (Co-author) *18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Glasgow* **August 2015**
  - The role of experience in accent perception: Parsing /r/ in Glaswegian. *English Language & Linguistics Research Seminar, University of Glasgow* **October 2014**
    - Invited speaker
  - Increased exposure can aid perception of ambiguous /r/ variants in Glasgow. *British Association of Academic Phoneticians, University of Oxford* **April 2014**
    - Joint winner of Eugénie Henderson prize for best oral presentation
  - A real-time sociophonetic study of postvocalic /r/ in Glaswegian schoolchildren. *8th Newcastle Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics, Newcastle University* **April 2013**
  - A real-time sociophonetic study of /r/ in Bearsden. *Lab Lunch lecture series, Glasgow University Laboratory of Phonetics* **January 2013**
    - Invited speaker
- Reviewing:**
- BAAP 2024, *Cardiff University* **2023**
  - Groundings undergraduate journal, *University of Glasgow* **2022**

## Teaching

### Lecturer in Phonetics & Sociolinguistics, *University of Glasgow*

2021–22

- Introduction to Sociolinguistics (PGT) – Convenor, head lecturer, tutor
- Sociolinguistics (UG Honours) – Convenor, head lecturer, tutor
- Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology (PGT) – Lecturer, tutor
- Methods in Phonetics (PGT) – Lecturer ('Articulatory Phonetics' strand)
- Phonetics: Introductory Concepts (UG Honours) – Lecturer, tutor
- Level 1 English Language & Linguistics (UG) – Lecturer ('Varieties of English' strand), tutor for Phonetics & Sociolinguistics topics
- Level 2 English Language & Linguistics (UG) – Year group convenor, phonetics lecturer. Tutor:
  - Phonetics, Sociolinguistics & Psycholinguistics
  - Semantics, Morphology & Conversation analysis
  - Corpus linguistics & Etymology
  - Middle English & Early Modern English
  - Old English & Historical text analysis

### Additional teaching experience:

- External assessor for PhD thesis summary, *Universidad de Murcia* 2023
- 'Sociophonetics' guest lecture, *Lancaster University* (Sociolinguistics MA) 2020
- 'Phonation' guest lecture, *University of Glasgow* (Phonetics: Introductory Concepts) 2016
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, *University of Glasgow* 2013–17
  - Phonetics Intro. Concepts (UG Hons, 2016–17) – Tutor, maintained VLE, course design
  - Phonetics Advanced Concepts (UG Hons, 2016–17) – Tutor, marking, practical exams
  - Phonetics & Phonology (UG Hons, 2013–15) – Tutor
  - Level 2 English Language & Linguistics (UG) – Tutor: Syntax, Semantics, Phonetics, Sociolinguistics, Corpus linguistics; marking
  - Level 1 English Language & Linguistics (UG) – Marking
  - Training Qualification: GTA Introduction to Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

### Training and supervision:

- Wrote workshop: [Ultrasound Tongue Imaging: Workflow guide](#), delivered at The University of Oxford's Phonetics Laboratory 2023
- Supervising RAs at Lancaster, trained on software use & auditory coding 2021–23
- Supervised nine Honours & PGT dissertation students at Glasgow 2021–22
- Co-founder of 'R for Data Science' reading group at [Lancaster University Phonetics Lab](#), helping PG students work through [this online resource](#) 2020–21
- Provided training in methodological techniques to students & colleagues at [Leeds](#) 2018–20
- Assisted with writing & delivery of two 3-day 'R for Arts' programming workshops for PhD students across Scotland (with [Ewa Wanat](#) & [Vijay Solanki](#), funder: [SGSAH](#)) 2017
- Delivered training session: 'Signal Detection Theory', [GULP](#) 2015
- Co-chaired statistics training session using R, '*R Group*' workshop series, [GULP](#) 2014
- Led Sociophonetics reading group for three sessions, [GULP](#) 2014



## IT skills

- [Praat](#): acoustic & auditory analysis, TextGrid transcription, scripting, spectral & prosodic manipulation, resynthesis, experiment presentation
- [RStudio](#): data manipulation (Tidyverse), graphical output (e.g. ggplot2), modelling (e.g. LMEM, Discrete Cosine Transformation), Knitr, Shiny, Plotly
- [WebMAUS](#), [Montreal Forced Aligner](#): automatic corpus alignment and segmentation software
- [Gorilla](#), [PsychoPy](#), [Prolific](#), [MouseTracker](#), [Experiment Builder](#), [DMDX](#): perceptual testing
- [Articulate Assistant Advanced](#) (ultrasound tongue imaging), [DeepLabCut](#) (image analysis via deep neural networks), [Formant Editor](#), [LaBB-CAT](#), [ELAN](#): linguistic analysis
- *Other languages and software*: Moodle, Zoom, Teams, Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint,  $\text{\LaTeX}$  (Overleaf, TeXstudio), JabRef, Mendeley, Zotero, Audacity, Python, GitHub, HTML, Trello, EndNote

## Impact & Outreach

- Designing Knowledge Exchange Partnership event for Blackburn community, and project website to facilitate public engagement with research findings **2023**
- Three-month fieldwork residency, *Blackburn Central Library* (with follow-up visit to Blackburn College), conducting ultrasound recordings alongside recruitment & engagement activities (e.g. having our recruitment advertisement read out on BBC Radio Lancashire). **2023**
- Co-wrote and delivered (with Leendert Plug) public engagement activity *How do we understand speech rate?*; part of University of Leeds [Be Curious](#) event **2018**
- Interviewed for BBC World Service [CrowdScience](#) radio broadcasts & podcasts, discussing accent diversity in Glasgow: [Why do we have so many accents?](#) and [What do our accents say about us?](#) **2017**
- Co-wrote and delivered (with Rachel Smith) public engagement workshops *Hearing Voices*; assisted with companion workshops *Seeing Speech* and *Changing Accents*; part of Science Sunday at [Glasgow Science Festival](#) **2014–17**
- Assisted at University of Glasgow Open Days **2012–16**
- Conference assistance: [18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences](#), [Perspectives on Rhythm and Timing](#), [Progress in Colour Studies](#) **2012–15**
- Interviewed [Christian Kay](#) on creating [The Historical Thesaurus of English](#), and on 'life as an academic': [Employability](#), *University of Glasgow* **2011**

## Awards, prizes & funding

- Research Support Fund to attend BAAP and SPiN conferences **2018**
  - *School of Languages, Cultures, and Societies, University of Leeds* (1x £450; 1x £235)
- ESRC 1+3 (MSc+PhD) Scholarship maintenance stipend (£55,000), and tuition fees grant (£15,000), with additional annual research grant (£750 x4) **2012–16**
  - *Economic & Social Research Council* (£73,000)
- Conference travel award, to attend LabPhon 15 conference **2016**
  - *National Science Foundation, USA* (\$400)
- Postgraduate research grants for fieldwork **2013–16**
  - *College of Arts, University of Glasgow* (1x £275; 1x £250)
  - *School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow* (£150)
- Eugénie Henderson prize: Best oral presentation **2014**
  - *British Association of Academic Phoneticians* (Joint winner: £50)
- David Murison Prize: Best Performance in Modern English Language & Scots **2012**
  - *School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow* (£60)

## Memberships

- British Association of Academic Phoneticians