Robert Lennon

r.w.lennon@lancaster.ac.uk
robertlennon50.github.io

Qualifications

PhD English Language & Linguistics   *University of Glasgow*   **2019**
- *Experience and learning in cross-dialect perception: derhoticised /r/ in Glasgow*
- Supervisors: Rachel Smith, Jane Stuart-Smith
- Funding: ESRC 1+3 scholarship

MSc English Language & Linguistics (Distinction)   *University of Glasgow*   **2013**
- *The effect of experience in cross-dialect perception: Parsing /r/ in Glaswegian*
- Supervisors: Rachel Smith, Jane Stuart-Smith
- Funding: ESRC 1+3 scholarship

MA English Language (1st Class Honours)   *University of Glasgow*   **2012**
- Dissertation: *A real-time sociophonetic study of postvocalic /r/ in the speech of schoolchildren in Bearsden*
- David Murison Prize: Best Performance in Modern English Language & Scots

Employment

- **Senior Research Associate**, *Lancaster University*   **2020–24**
  - (project paused for PI's maternity leave, 2021-22)
  - Promoted from Research Associate in 2021
  - Leverhulme trust funded project investigating loss of rhoticity in Lancashire
  - Analysed speech corpus (transcription, forced alignment, auditory coding, phonetic analysis)
  - Built & analysed a corpus of ultrasound recordings
  - Disseminating research findings in journal & conference submissions
  - Trained & supervised RAs on auditory coding & corpus processing
  - Designed a new project strand in consultation with P.I., to meet Covid-19 restrictions
  - Designed & ran online perception experiment
  - Contributing to lab group activities: co-organised a weekly R coding group, delivered talks
  - Wrote & delivered Masters sociophonetics lecture.
  - Chaired an annual progress review: reviewed PhD writing sample & gave feedback

  (Principal Investigator: Danielle Turton)

- **Lecturer in Phonetics & Sociolinguistics**, *University of Glasgow*   **2021–22**
  - Teaching, assessment, supervision: sociolinguistics, phonetics & general linguistics
  - Convenor & head lecturer: Sociolinguistics Honours & PGT courses (44 students)
  - Convenor: Level 2 Linguistics year group (94 students)
    * Coordinated teaching team of 8 lecturers & 15 tutors
    * Collated course documentation & assessment materials
    * Chaired tutor briefings & student feedback sessions
    * Students' first point of contact & provided pastoral support
    * Administered Moodle VLE & made regular course announcements
  - Co-convenor: PGT in Speech, Lang. & Sociolinguistics (incoming 2022-23 cohort)
    * reviewed applications, coordinated with colleagues on course scheduling
  - Supervised nine dissertation students (UG & PGT); chaired an annual progress review
  - Conducted interviews for upcoming GTA positions

  (Head of Subject: Tom Bartlett)

- **Research Fellow**, *University of Leeds*   **2017–20**
  - Leverhulme trust funded project investigating speech tempo perception
  - Designed & ran speech perception experiments
  - Created & maintained a large phonetic speech corpus
  - Disseminated research findings in journal outputs & conference submissions

  (Principal Investigator: Leendert Plug)

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

- 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, 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