Robert Lennon

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Qualifications	PhD English Language & Linguistics	*University of Glasgow*	**2019**

- *Experience and learning in cross-dialect perception: derhoticised /r/ in Glasgow*
- Supervisors: Dr Rachel Smith, Professor 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: Dr Rachel Smith, Professor 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*: Leverhulme trust funded project Changing /r/ accents? Towards a sociophonological understanding of sound change, investigating loss of rhoticity in Lancashire. In response to Covid-19 restrictions, I designed a major new strand to the project in consultation with the P.I., and I prepared, programmed & ran an online behavioural experiment (Gorilla, Prolific). Performed transcription, forced alignment, coding and sociophonetic analysis of an existing speech corpus (ELAN, MFA, Praat, R Studio). Trained & supervised RAs on auditory coding. Disseminated research findings in journal and conference submissions. Contributed to Phonetics Lab group activities (co-organised a weekly R coding group, delivered research talks). Wrote & delivered a lecture for Masters students on Speech Perception and sociophonetics.
  (Principal Investigator: Dr Danielle Turton) **2020–24**

- **Lecturer in Phonetics & Sociolinguistics**, *University of Glasgow*: Delivered teaching, assessment and supervision on theoretical, instrumental and articulatory Phonetics (segmental and prosodic approaches), variationist Sociolinguistics, and general linguistics at all levels from Level 1 to PGT. Adapted to changing Covid-19 restrictions with a highly flexible approach to blended learning. Course convenor and head lecturer for Sociolinguistics Honours & PGT courses (44 students), leading a team of guest lecturers. Level 2 year group convenor for the whole Linguistics subject (94 students): responsibilities included collating all course documentation & assessment materials, coordinating teaching team (8 lecturers & 15 tutors), chairing tutor briefings & student feedback sessions, students' first point of contact, making regular year-group course announcements, administer Moodle VLE, provide pastoral support for students. Supervised nine dissertation students – three undergraduate & six PGT. Chaired an Annual Progress Review panel for a PhD student in the subject: reviewed submitted work & provided supportive feedback on progress. Conducted interviews for upcoming GTA positions.
  (Head of Subject: Prof Tom Bartlett) **2021–22**

- **Research Fellow**, *University of Leeds*: Leverhulme trust funded project Speech tempo perception and missing sounds, investigating the link between laboratory measurements of speech tempo and how listeners perceive speaking rate. Duties include contributing to design of psycholinguistic experiments, programming experiment interfaces, recruiting participants and running experimental sessions, creating and maintaining a large phonetically segmented and aligned speech corpus, and contributing to the dissemination of results via conference presentations and journal submissions.
  (Principal Investigator: Dr Leendert Plug) **2017–20**

Additional teaching experience

Guest Lecturing:
- 'Sociophonetics & Speech Perception' (*Lancaster University*: MA Sociolinguistics) **2020**
- 'Phonation Types' lecture (*University of Glasgow*: Phonetics Introductory Concepts) **2016**

Graduate Teaching Assistant: *University of Glasgow*
- Phonetics Introductory Concepts & Phonetics Advanced Concepts **2016–17**
  - Honours courses: Practical ear-training tuition (production & perception of full IPA). Tuition on phonetic concepts, transcription, advanced analysis & manipulation techniques (Praat)
  - Assisted with design of both courses; maintained teaching materials on Moodle virtual learning environment; marked assignments & exams; conducted practical exams
- Phonetics & Phonology (Honours course: practical IPA tuition, organised lab groups) **2013–15**
- Level 2 English Language & Linguistics (Tuition on Sociolinguistics, Phonetics, Grammar, Semantics, Corpus Linguistics; marking) **2013–17**
- Level 1 English Language & Linguistics (Marking) **2013**
- Training Qualification: GTA Introduction to Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

Training and supervision:
- Supervising nine Honours & PGT dissertation students at Glasgow **2021–22**
- Supervised RAs at Lancaster, trained on software use & auditory coding **2021**
- 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 Dr Ewa Wanat & Dr 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**

Research

Publications:
- Turton, D. & Lennon, R. (accepted pending revisions). An acoustic analysis of rhoticity in Lancashire, England. *Journal of Phonetics*
- Plug, L., Lennon, R. & Smith, R. (2022). Measured and perceived speech tempo: Comparing canonical and surface articulation rates. *Journal of Phonetics*
- 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*.
- 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 Dr Gisela Tomé Lourido and Dr 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–ongoing**

- *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. (Learning Enhancement & Academic Development Service, *University of Glasgow*) **2017**

- *Research Assistant:* Conducted participant recruitment and recordings for Understanding British Accents in Noise (Professor Paul Iverson, Dr Bronwen Evans, *UCL*) **2014–17**

- *Laboratory support:* Completed a full inventory of recording equipment for Glasgow University Laboratory of Phonetics (Professor Jane Stuart-Smith, Dr 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 (Professor Jane Stuart-Smith, *University of Glasgow*; Professor James Scobbie, Dr Eleanor Lawson, *Queen Margaret University*) **2012–17**

Selected conference presentations:
- 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

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, MFA: automatic alignment and segmentation of phonetic corpora
- *Perceptual testing:* Gorilla, PsychoPy, Prolific, DMDX, MouseTracker, Experiment Builder
- *Linguistic analysis:* Ultrasound Tongue Imaging, Articulate Assistant Advanced, DeepLabCut, Formant Editor (Sóskuthy 2015), LaBB-CAT, ELAN, Transcriber
- *Other languages and software:* Moodle, Zoom, Teams, Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, LaTeX (Overleaf, TeXstudio), JabRef, Mendeley, Audacity, Python, GitHub, HTML, Trello, EndNote

Impact & Outreach

- Co-wrote and delivered (with Dr 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 Dr 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 Professor 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