

# Yasamin Motamedi

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## EDUCATION

**2013-2017, The University of Edinburgh, UK**

PhD Linguistics and English Language

*Artificial Sign Language Learning: a method for evolutionary linguistics.*

Supervised by Professor Simon Kirby, Dr. Kenny Smith and Dr. Marieke Schouwstra

**2012-2013, The University of Edinburgh, UK**

MSc with Distinction, Evolution of Language and Cognition

**2008-2012, The University of Edinburgh, UK**

MA with Honours (First Class) French and English Language,  
with ERASMUS exchange at the Université Paris Diderot

## EMPLOYMENT

**2017, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics,  
Nijmegen, the Netherlands**

**Visiting Postdoctoral scholar**

For the project proposal *Modality specific effects in artificial language-learning experiments: measuring iconicity in silent gesture studies.*

**2014-2015, University of Edinburgh, UK**

**Research Assistant**

Stimulus collection and experimental implementation for a project on linguistic regularization and frequency effects run by Dr. Kenny Smith

## TEACHING

**2016-2017, The University of Edinburgh UK**

**Tutor**

Cross-linguistic Variation: Theories and Limitations

Linguistic theory and the structure of English

Origins and Evolution of Language (Hons)

**2015, The University of Edinburgh UK**

**Lecturer**

Sign Language Linguistics

**2014-2015, The University of Edinburgh, UK**

**Tutor**

Linguistics and English Language 1

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Motamedi, Y., Schouwstra, M., Culbertson, J., Smith, K., and Kirby, S. (2016). Evolving artificial sign languages in the lab: from improvised gesture to systematic sign. Manuscript under revision.

Motamedi, Y., Schouwstra, M. and Kirby, S. (in press). An evolutionary approach to sign language emergence: from *state* to *process*. [Peer commentary on “Gesture, sign and language: the coming of age of sign language and gesture studies”]. *Behavioural and Brain Sciences*.

Motamedi Y., Schouwstra M., Smith K. and Kirby S. (2016). Linguistic Structure Emerges In The Cultural Evolution Of Artificial Sign Languages. In S.G. Roberts et al. (eds.) *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 11th International Conference*.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Motamedi Y., Schouwstra M., Smith K. and Kirby S. (2016, March). Linguistic Structure Emerges In The Cultural Evolution of Artificial Sign Languages. *Paper presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang 11)*, New Orleans, USA.

Motamedi, Y., Smith, K., Schouwstra, M. and Kirby, S. (2015, September). The emergence of structure in artificial gestural communication systems. *Paper presented at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLAP)*, Valetta, Malta.

Motamedi, Y., Smith, K., Schouwstra, M. and Kirby, S. (2015, September). The emergence of structure in artificial gestural communication systems. *Paper presented at the International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC)*, Newcastle, UK.

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

**2016 Elsevier Prize for best paper presentation**  
Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference,  
University of Edinburgh

**2015 Grindley grant**  
Experimental Psychology Society

**2013-2016 Carnegie-Caledonian PhD Scholarship**  
Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland

<b>INVITED TALKS</b>	The emergence of systematic structure in gestural communication systems. The University of Chicago, Goldin-Meadow Lab. February 2015.
	The emergence of systematicity in gestural communication systems. University of California, San Diego, Padden Lab. February 2015.
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>Associate fellow</b> , Higher Education Academy
	<b>Reviewer</b> for Interaction Studies
	<b>Committee chair</b> for the Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2015, The University of Edinburgh.
<b>OUTREACH</b>	<b>2016 (February), Innovative Learning Week</b> <i>Culture communication and context: an interactive workshop</i> , the University of Edinburgh.
	<b>2015 (June), Exhibit at the Science Museum, London</b> <i>In One Ear and Out the Other</i> , for the Royal Society's Next Big Thing Museum Lates event.
<b>PRESS COVERAGE</b>	<b>From pantomime to sign language: how sign language evolves</b> featured in <i>Science magazine</i> . DOI: 10.1126/science.aaf4103 <a href="http://tinyurl.com/h8l2roq">http://tinyurl.com/h8l2roq</a>
	Also featured on the <i>Science magazine</i> podcast [April 14 2016]. <a href="http://tinyurl.com/gqx5cek">http://tinyurl.com/gqx5cek</a>
<b>SKILLS</b>	<b>Languages</b> French (fluent)
	<b>Computer Programming</b> Python (including Psychopy) LaTeX R
	<b>Data analysis</b> Experimental design and statistical analysis, including mixed effects models, gesture coding and video analysis.