Yasamin Motamedi

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Psychology and Language Sciences, UCL
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EMPLOYMENT

June 2017 – Present, Experimental Psychology, University College London
Research Associate
Employed on the ESRC-funded project, *The role of iconicity in word learning.*

Jan. 2017 – June 2017, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
Postdoctoral scholar, Language and Cognition
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

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

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

Supervisor
Provided technical and experimental design advice for Honours undergraduate dissertation.

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. (2017). The cultural evolution of complex linguistic constructions in artificial sign languages. In (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

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. (2017). 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. (2016, June). From pantomime to systematic sign: the emergence of structure in artificial sign languages. *Paper presented at the University of Edinburgh Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference,* Edinburgh, UK.

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 11th 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, July). 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
INVITED TALKS	The emergence of systematic structure in gestural communication systems. 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.
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND QUALIFICATIONS	**Associate fellow,** Higher Education Academy
	Reviewer for Interaction Studies and Cognitive Science
	Workshop and summer school organizer for the event *Minds, mechanisms and Interaction in the Evolution of Language,* held at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, September 2017.
	Committee chair for the Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2015, The University of Edinburgh.
OUTREACH	**2016 (February), Innovative Learning Week** *Culture communication and context: an interactive workshop*, the University of Edinburgh.
	2015 (June), Exhibit at the Science Museum, London *In One Ear and Out the Other*, for the Royal Society's Next Big Thing Museum Lates event.
PRESS COVERAGE	**From pantomime to sign language: how sign language evolves** featured in *Science magazine.* DOI: 10.1126/science.aaf4103 **http://tinyurl.com/h8l2roq**
	Also featured on the *Science magazine* podcast [April 14 2016]. **http://tinyurl.com/gqx5cek**
SKILLS	**Languages:** French (proficient user)
	Computer Programming: Python (including Psychopy), LaTeX, R
	Data analysis: Experimental design and statistical analysis, including mixed effects models, gesture coding and video analysis.