Yasamin Motamedi

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Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, UCL
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EMPLOYMENT

June 2017 – Present, Experimental Psychology, University College London
Research Associate
Researcher for 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

University College London, UK

Project supervisor, for Jieyun Fan (MRes), Oisin Twomey Brenner (MSc), Theresa Bloder (MSc), Christine Wuerth (MArch), Ahrian Taylor (MArch), Claudia Wittich (BSc short project), Annie Flowers (BSc short project), Kristina Jin (BSc short project).

Lecturer, Embodied Cognition lecture for the MSc Cognitive and Decision Science core module Principles of Cognition.

Seminar leader for BSc study skills seminar on academic and non-academic CVs.

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, the Netherlands

Summer school instructor at 2 day practical summer school adjoined to *Minds, Mechanisms and Interaction in the Evolution of Language* workshop. Lead instructor for sessions on designing experimental trial structure and linear mixed effects models.

The University of Edinburgh, UK

Lecturer, Sign Language Acquisition lectures for Honours module in Sign Language Linguistics.

Teaching assistant, for Cross-linguistic Variation: Theories and Limitations, Linguistic theory and the structure of English, Origins and Evolution of Language (Hons)**,** Linguistics and English Language 1

PUBLICATIONS

Motamedi, Y., Wonnacott, E., Marshall, C., Perniss, P., Murgiano, M., and Vigliocco, G. (Under review). Contextual effects of iconicity on verb learning in 2-3 year olds.

Motamedi, Y., Schouwstra, M., Culbertson, J., Smith, K., and Kirby, S. (In press). Evolving artificial sign languages in the lab: from improvised gesture to systematic sign. *Cognition.* Pre-print at
https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/be7qy .

Motamedi, Y., Little, H., Nielsen, A. and Sulik, J. (In press). The iconicity toolbox: empirical approaches to measuring iconicity. *Language and Cognition*.

Vigliocco, G., Motamedi, Y., Murgiano, M., Wonnacott, E., Marshall, C. R., Milan Maillo, I., & Perniss, P. (In press). Onomatopoeias, gestures, actions and words in the input to children: How do caregivers use multimodal cues in their communication to children? *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Cognitive Science Society, Austin, TX. Pre-print at https://psyarxiv.com/v263k/.

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 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., Perniss, P. and Vigliocco, G (2018, June). The role of iconicity in word learning: insights from child-directed language. *Paper presented at the Child Language Symposium.* Reading, UK.

Motamedi, Y., Schouwstra M., Culbertson, J., Smith K. and Kirby, S. (2017, Sept.) Culturally evolving complex constructions in artificial sign languages. *Paper presented at Architechtures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP).* Lancaster, UK.

Motamedi Y., Schouwstra M., Culbertson, J., Smith K. and Kirby, S. (2017, July). The cultural evolution of complex linguistic constructions in artificial sign languages. *Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, London, UK.

Motamedi, Y. (2017, April). Building language with the body: iconicity in an evolving system*. Paper presented at the 11th International Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature*, Brighton, 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	From pantomime to systematic sign: the evolution of linguistic structure in the manual modality. Deafness Language and Cognition Research Centre, University College London. May 2018. The body as linguistic articulator. The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. October 2017. 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

Symposium organizer for the symposium *Multimodality in language learning and processing*. European Society for Cognitive Psychology Conference, to occur September 2019.

Workshop and summer school organiser for the event *Minds, mechanisms and Interaction in the Evolution of Language,* held at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, September 2017.

Workshop organiser, postgraduate presentation skills workshop. The University of Edinburgh, September 2016.

Committee chair for the Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2015, The University of Edinburgh.

OUTREACH

2019 (June) UCL Festival of Culture
Learning from the voice and from the hands, public talk given as part of UCL's Festival of Culture.

2018 (January) I'm A Scientist Get Me Out of Here!
Online expert for Q&A sessions with schoolchildren, affiliated with the Royal Institution's Christmas Lectures on communication.

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* (**http://tinyurl.com/h8l2roq**) and on the *Science magazine* podcast (April 14 2016: **http://tinyurl.com/gqx5cek**)

SKILLS

Languages: French (proficient user), British Sign Language level 1, British Sign Language Level 2 (in progress)

Computer Programming: Python (including Psychopy), LaTeX, R, JavaScript, HTML

Data analysis: Experimental design and statistical analysis using Python, R and SPSS, including mixed effects models and Bayesian analysis; gesture coding and video analysis using ELAN.

Audiovisual manipulation: video and audio editing, video captioning