

# Annie Holtz

PHD STUDENT · RESEARCHER · SUBJECT TUTOR (LINGUISTICS)

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## Research Interests

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Typology, syntax, cognition, language acquisition, artificial language learning & metascience.

## Education

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### The University of Edinburgh

PHD IN LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Edinburgh, Scotland

Sep. 2019 - current

- Supervisors: Prof. Jennifer Culbertson and Prof. Simon Kirby.
- Topic: Typological effects of competition between cognitive biases at different levels of the linguistic system.

### The University of Edinburgh

MA(HONS) ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Edinburgh, Scotland

Sep. 2015 - Jul. 2019

- Awarded a First Class degree with Honours.
- Dissertation: An experimental investigation of harmony and isomorphism in the noun phrase.

## Research Experience

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### The Centre for Language Evolution

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Edinburgh, Scotland

Apr. 2019 - May 2019

- PI: Dr. Jennifer Culbertson.
- Project name: Connecting cognitive biases and typological universals in syntax.
- Fixed-term position as RA, recruiting and running participants.

### Edinburgh Laboratory for Language Development

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (VOLUNTEER POSITION)

Edinburgh, Scotland

Jan. 2017 - Apr. 2019

- PI: Prof. Mits Ota.
- Assisted with programming, planning and running studies.
- Was lead experimenter for a long-term study on segmentation abilities in infants.
- Recruited participants and trained new cohort of research assistants.

## Publications

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- **Holtz, A.** and Papineau, B. (in press) Examining the female-talker default in experimental language acquisition research. *Journal of Infant and Child Development*.
- **Holtz, A.**, Kirby, S., and Culbertson, J. (2022) [The influence of category-specific and system-wide preferences on cross-linguistic word order patterns](#). In *Proceedings of the 44th annual meeting of the cognitive science society*. Toronto, Cognitive Science Society.
- **Holtz, A.** (2021) [Ambiguity and variable phonological rules: The challenge of TD Deletion in US English](#). In Holtz, Annie, Iva Kovač, Rasmus Puggaard-Rode, and Joanna Wall, eds. *ConSOLE XXIX: Proceedings of the 29th Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe* (26-28 January 2021, Leiden University). Leiden: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.
- Martin, A., **Holtz, A.**, Abels, K., Adger, D., and Culbertson, J. (2020). [Experiment evidence for the influence of structure and meaning on linear order in the noun phrase](#). *Glossa*, 5(1):1–21.

## Editor

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- **Holtz, Annie**, Iva Kovač, and Rasmus Puggaard-Rode eds. (in press). *ConSOLE XXIX: Proceedings of the 30th Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe* (25-27 January 2022, Nantes University). Leiden: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.
- **Holtz, Annie**, Iva Kovač, Rasmus Puggaard-Rode, and Joanna Wall, eds. 2021. [ConSOLE XXIX: Proceedings of the 29th Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe](#) (26-28 January 2021, Leiden University). Leiden: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.

## Conference Contributions

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- **Holtz, A.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2022). The effect of improvisation and learning on word order preferences. *Joint Conference on Language Evolution 2022*, Kanazawa.

- **Holtz, A.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2022). The influence of category-specific and system-wide preferences on cross-linguistic word order patterns. *CogSci 2022*, Toronto (online).
- **Holtz, A.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2022). Cognitive biases differ in improvisation and learning of noun phrase word order. [Workshop presentation]. *CCILE 2022*, Istanbul (online).
- **Holtz, A.**, Culbertson, J. and Kirby, S. (2022) Postnominal adjectives and prenominal genitives as reflections of cognitive preferences. *ConSOLE XXX*, Nantes University (online).
- **Holtz, A.**, Culbertson, J., Kirby, S. and Martin, A. (2021) An experimental investigation of item-specific word order preferences. *LELPGC21*, Edinburgh (online).
- **Holtz, A.** (2021). Ambiguity and variable phonological rules: The challenge of TD Deletion in US English. *ConSOLE XXIX*, Leiden University (online).
- Ota, M., **Holtz, A.** and Skarabela, B. (2019) Syllable repetition is privileged over consonant repetition in infant word segmentation. *BUCLD 44*, Boston, MA.
- **Holtz, A.** (2019). Challenging Functional Explanations of Variable TD Deletion in American English. *The 69th Language Lunch at Edinburgh*, Edinburgh, UK.
- **Holtz, A.** (2019). Cognitive biases and how they shape typology. *The 2019 conference of Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain*, Queen Mary University of London, London, UK.
- **Holtz, A.** (2018). Mutual exclusivity and synonymy avoidance: Two sides of the same coin. *The 2018 conference of Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain*, Edinburgh, UK.
- Ota, M., Barrera Navarro, M., Go, L., Heimann, J., **Holtz, A.**, Little, S., O'Connor, R. and Skarabela, B. (2018). Do British mothers use less exaggerated infant-directed speech than American mothers?, *Child Language Symposium*, Reading, UK.

## Events

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- October 2022, Introduction to artificial language learning experiments (invited workshop at the University of Konstanz, co-organised with Marc Meisezahl and Shira Tal).

## Honors & Awards

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2022	<b>Nominated</b> Students' Association Teaching Award – Student Tutor of the Year	<i>Edinburgh University</i>
2019	<b>Awarded</b> Department of Linguistics and English Language full PhD Scholarship	<i>University of Edinburgh</i>
2015	<b>Awarded</b> Outstanding performance in English Language and Literature	<i>Bexhill College</i>

## Teaching

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### Simulating Language

TUTOR/MARKER

- Course teaching students to run models of language evolution using Bayesian methods.
- Honours and postgraduate level course.

*The University of Edinburgh*

*Spring 2021 & 2022*

### Linguistics and English Language 1A

TUTOR/MARKER

- Introductory course in linguistics covering syntax, phonology, phonetics, morphology and semantics.
- Pre-honours level course.

*The University of Edinburgh*

*Autumn 2021*

### LEL2D: Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories

MARKER AND SUBSTITUTE TUTOR

- Course on typological variation, focusing on morphosyntax and phonology.
- Pre-honours level course.

*The University of Edinburgh*

*Spring 2020*

### Skills Centre

TUTOR

- JsPsych tutor doing one-on-one appointments with students to work on their code.
- Academic writing tutor doing one-on-one appointments with students to work on their writing.

*The University of Edinburgh*

*Mar 2020-current*

### Online Experiments

TUTOR

- Short course in using JsPsych to programme online experiments.

*The University of Edinburgh*

*Jan. 2020*

## Supervision

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Masters **Ruizhe Zhou** 2022

Masters **Wei Ding** 2022

*Edinburgh University*

*Edinburgh University*

## Professional Activities & Services

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- Board member for The Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (2021-present)
- Member of The Cognitive Science Society (2020-present)
- Member of The Linguistics Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2019-present)
- Ad hoc reviewer for *The Journal of the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain* and *The ConSOLE Proceedings*
- Ad hoc conference reviewer for *ULAB Conference* and *ConSOLE*
- Editor for *The ConSOLE Proceedings* (2021-present)
- Programme representative for MA in Linguistics and English Language at Edinburgh (2016-2019)
- Vice-president and social secretary for the Edinburgh Linguistics Society (2019-2020)
- Conference chair for the Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference (2020)
- Committee member for the Edinburgh Symposium for Historical Phonology (2019)

## Outreach

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### Language Evolves!

DEMONSTRATOR

- Travelling to schools or hosting online sessions introducing the concept of language evolution in primary schools.

*Edinburgh*

*Autumn 2019, 2021*

### UK Linguistics Olympiad

DEMONSTRATOR

- Helping during practice sessions in schools that are interested in entering the Linguistics Olympiad.

*Edinburgh*

*Autumn 2019*

## Skills

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**Languages** Swedish (native), English (fluent), Italian (basic)

**Programming** JavaScript, Python, R, LaTeX

**Tools and Packages** jsPsych, PsychoPy, Audacity, Praat, CLAN

**Platforms** Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Gather, Blackboard Collaborate