

James Winters

Postdoctoral Researcher | Cognitive Science

contact

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www.replicatedtypo.com

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interests

cultural evolution, cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, language evolution, demographic processes, iterated learning, communication games, cross-cultural datasets, statistical models

academic appointments

since 2016 **Postdoctoral Researcher** Max Planck Institute SHH, Jena
The Minds and Traditions Research Group

education

2012-2017 **Ph.D.** University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Linguistics and English Language
2010-2011 **M.A.** Cardiff University, Cardiff
Language and Communication Research
2008-2009 **M.Sc** University of Edinburgh, Cardiff
The Evolution of Language and Cognition
2004-2007 **B.A.** University of Glamorgan, Trefforest
Journalism

publications

Morin, O., **Winters, J.**, Müller, T.F., Morisseau, T., Etter, C., & Greenhill, S. (submitted). The “Color Game”: What smartphone apps may contribute to language evolution research. *Journal of Language Evolution*.

Morin, O., **Winters, J.**, & Kelly, P. (submitted). Writing, graphic codes, and asynchronous communication. *topiCS*.

Müller, T.F., & **Winters, J.** (revise & resubmit). Compression effects in cultural evolution: Homogeneity and structure in the emergence and evolution of a large-scale online collaborative art project. *PLoS One*.

Winters, J., Morin, O. (revise & resubmit). From context to code: Information transfer constrains the emergence of graphic codes. *Cognitive Science*.

Winters, J., Kirby, S., & Smith, K. (2018). Contextual predictability shapes signal autonomy. *Cognition*, 176: 15-30. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2018.03.002

Hartmann, S, Pleyer, M., **Winters, J.**, & Zlatev, J. (2017). Interaction and iconicity in the evolution of language: Introduction to the special issue. *Interaction Studies*, 18(3): 303-313. doi:10.1075/is.18.3

Roberts, S.G., **Winters, J.**, & Chen, K. (2015). Future tense and economic decisions: Controlling for cultural evolution. *PLoS One*, 10(7): e0132145. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0132145.

Pleyer, M., & **Winters, J.** (2015). Integrating cognitive linguistics and language evolution research. *Theoria Et Historia Scientiarum*, 11: 19-44.

Winters, J., Kirby, S., & Smith, K. (2015). Languages adapt to their contextual niche. *Language and Cognition*, 7(3):415-449, doi:10.1017/langcog.2014.35.

Winters, J., Kirby, S., & Smith, K. (2014). Experimentally investigating the role of context in the structuring of linguistic systems over cultural evolution. In: E. A. Cartmill, S. Roberts, H. Lyn, & H. Cornish (Eds). *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 10th International Conference (EVO LANG 10)*. Singapore: World Scientific.

Littauer, R., Roberts, S.G., **Winters, J.**, Bailes, R., Pleyer, M., & Little, H. (2014). From the Savannah to the Cloud: Blogging Evolutionary Linguistics Research. In: *The Past, Present and Future of Language Evolution Research*, Eds., L. McCrohon, B. Thompson, T. Verhoef, H. Yamauchi.

Roberts, S. G., & **Winters, J.** (2013). Linguistic diversity and traffic accidents: Lessons from statistical studies of cultural traits. *PLoS One*, 8(8): e70902. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0070902.

Roberts, S. G., & **Winters, J.** (2012). Social structure and language structure: The new nomothetic approach. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 16, 89-112. doi: 10.2478/v10057-012-0008-6.

Littauer, R., **Winters, J.**, Roberts, S.G., Little, H., Pleyer, M., & Benzon, B (2012). Academic research in the blogosphere: Adapting to new risks and opportunities on the Internet. In: Jan Christoph Meister (Ed.): *Digital Humanities 2012. Conference Abstracts. University of Hamburg, July 16-22*. Hamburg: Hamburg University Press, 268-269.

Roberts, S. & **Winters, J.** (2012). Constructing Knowledge: Nomothetic approaches to language evolution. In: L. McCrohon, T et al, *Five Approaches to Language Evolution: Proceedings of the Workshops of the 9th International Conference on the Evolution of Language*. Evolang9 Organizing Committee.

teaching

since 2016	Supervisor Co-supervising Thomas Müller for his PhD project.	Max Planck Institute SHH
2015-16	Tutor Tutored second year students in Research Methods and Statistics module	University of Edinburgh, UK
2015-16	Tutor Tutored fourth year students on the Origins and Evolution of Language module	University of Edinburgh, UK
2014-16	Tutor Tutored first year students on Linguistics and English Language 1 module.	University of Edinburgh, UK
2014	Supervisor Co-supervised Sara Selzer (M.Sc Evolution of Language and Cognition) on her dissertation project.	University of Edinburgh, UK

technical skills

Programming Languages: Python, R, Mathematica, LaTeX, HTML, Javascript, CSS

grants received

2012-2015	AHRC Grant Received a fully-funded, 3-year AHRC grant covering tuition fees and an annual stipend for a PhD in Linguistics and English Language.	AH/K503010/1
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other academic outputs

Besides traditional academic outputs, I am also actively engaged in the science and linguistic blogging community. In particular, I founded *A Replicated Typo*: a group blog focused on language, cognition and cultural evolution.

media coverage

My work has been mentioned in Slate ("Did You Hear the One About Sex, Traffic Accidents, and Acacia Trees?"), Le Monde ("Le chocolat engendre-t-il des tueurs en série?"), Gawker ("What Does Extramarital Sex Have to Do with Acacia Trees? Everything."), and Arstechnica ("Louder vowels won't get you laid, and other tales of spurious correlation").