


Maisy Hallam

✉ maisy.hallam@ed.ac.uk  <https://maisyhallam.github.io/>

Education

- 2022 – 2026 | **PhD in Linguistics**
University of Edinburgh (Centre for Language Evolution)
Supervised by Kenny Smith, Simon Kirby, and Fiona Jordan (University of Bristol)
- 2020 – 2021 | **MSc with Distinction in Evolution of Language and Cognition**
University of Edinburgh
Dissertation: Investigating the effect of communication on kinship terminology with artificial language experiments.
- 2016 – 2020 | **MA with First Class Honours in Linguistics and English language**
University of Edinburgh
Dissertation: On the behaviour of adjective-to-noun conversion in English.

Teaching

TUTORING

- 2022 – 2024 | **Origins and Evolution of Language**
Honours and postgraduate course on core research issues in language evolution including animal behaviour, genetics, evolutionary theory, computer modelling, and archaeology.
- Online Experiments for Language Scientists**
Honours and postgraduate course on effective experimental design and building online experiments using jsPsych.
- 2022 – 2023 | **PPLS Skills Centre: Writing**
One-on-one consultations helping undergraduate and postgraduate students improve their academic writing.
- PPLS Skills Centre: Introduction to Python**
Short course helping students learn to implement basic programming tasks in Python.

WORKSHOPS

- 2024 | **Time-travelling with Statistics: an intro to phylogenetic comparative methods for linguists**
Centre for Language Evolution annual retreat
A two-hour session introducing phylogenetic statistical analysis and its practicalities in language evolutionary research.

Publications

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2024 | 1. **Hallam, M.**, Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary pressures. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (2024).
2. **Hallam, M.**, Jordan, F. M., Kirby, S. & Smith, K. Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary pressures. *Proceedings of Evolang XV* (2024).

Presentations

TALKS

- Oct 2024 | **Evolving language in the lab: constraints on how we talk about kin**
University of Edinburgh Linguistics Society
- Sept 2024 | **Variation in the kin term lexicon is not predicted by population size**
Cultural Evolution Society
- May 2024 | **Systemic structure of kinship is shaped by evolutionary processes**
International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang XV)
- Jan 2024 | **Learning systematicity in the structure of kinship**
Centre for Language Evolution seminar series
- Jan 2023 | **A thousand families, all alike in terminology?**
Centre for Language Evolution seminar series

POSTERS

- Nov 2021 | **The Origins of Cross-Cultural Patterns in Kinship Systems**
Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology
- June 2021 | **Why do you have two grandmothers but only one mother?**
Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference

Funding

- 2022 – 2026 | **ESRC-funded PhD Studentship**
Scottish Graduate School of Social Science
- 2023 | **National Science Foundation (NSF)**
HRAF Summer Institute for cross-cultural anthropological research

Academic community

CONFERENCE REVIEWS

- 2023; 2024 | **Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society**

EVENTS ORGANISATION

- 2023 – 2024 | **Centre for Language Evolution Seminar**
A weekly hybrid talk series with 20+ attendees.
- Nov 2023 | **Edinburgh Lectures in Language Evolution 2023**
A four-part serial hybrid talk series with over 200 attendees.

COPYEDITING AND PROOFREADING

- 2019 – 2020 | **Journal for the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (JouLAB)**
- 2018 | **Second Language Phonology between Cognition and Use** by *Nadia Boucchioua*

OUTREACH

- 2024 | **PPLS Perspectives (episode host)**
A podcast exploring cutting edge research in philosophy, psychology and languages sciences at the University of Edinburgh.
- 2022 – 2023 | **Language Evolves!**
A pop linguistics workshop for children at local schools organised by the Centre for Language Evolution.

Awards and recognition

- 2024 | **Best Small Data-Driven Project**
Centre for Culture, Data and Society
For my typological work on the structure of kinship systems.
- 2023 | **Three Minute Thesis University Finalist**
University of Edinburgh
- 2020 | **Patterson Prize for research in Old English**
University of Edinburgh

Skills

- Languages | English (native), French (basic), Italian (basic)
- Programming & markup | Python, R, JavaScript, HTML, \LaTeX
- Data analysis | `lme4`, `tidyverse`, `pandas`
- Experiments | jsPsych, Prolific
- Other | Git, Microsoft Office, InDesign, Audacity