

Hannah Little

*Evolutionary Linguist
Science Communicator*

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British Citizen, Belgian Resident

My research uses artificial language creation and learning experiments to explore the emergence of structure in speech-like signals. Specifically, I'm interested in how the dynamics of signal-meaning mappings, as well as social learning and coordination, affect the nature of emerging structure.

- 2012–
expected 2016 **PhD**, *Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Vrije Universiteit Brussel*.
Project: ABACUS (Advancing behavioral and cognitive understanding of speech).
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Bart de Boer
- 2010–2011 **MSc Evolution of Language and Cognition**, *University of Edinburgh*.
Dissertation: "Foreigner Directed Speech: Its role in Cultural Transmission of Language & the resulting effects on Language Typology". Supervisor: Dr. Kenny Smith
- 2007–2010 **BA English Language and Linguistics**, *University of York*, (First Class Honors).
Dissertation: "Morphosyntactic Unification of Case Markers and Postpositions in Hungarian"
Supervisor: Dr. George Tsoulas
- additional **DGfS Summer School 2013**, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*, Language Development: Evolution, Change, Acquisition.

Experience in designing, building and running experiments and analysing data.

Programming R, python (including PsychoPy), html, E-Prime, praat, latex

Statistics R, SPSS (PASW)

Publications

Journal Papers

- in prep Little, Hannah, Kerem Eryilmaz and Bart de Boer "Signal dimensionality and the emergence of structure"

Selected Conference Proceedings

- 2015 Little, Hannah "Introduction to the evolution of phonetic capabilities satellite meeting."
In: Hannah Little, ed., The proceedings of Evolution of Phonetic Capabilities: Causes, Constraints and Consequences. pp 1. Glasgow, Scotland.
- 2015 Little, Hannah, Kerem Eryilmaz and Bart de Boer. "A new artificial signal-space proxy for investigating the emergence of structure and categories in speech." In The Scottish Consortium for ICPHS 2015 (Ed.), Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Glasgow, UK: the University of Glasgow. ISBN 978-0-85261-941-4. Paper number 31.
- 2015 Little, Hannah, Kerem Eryilmaz and Bart de Boer. "Linguistic Modality Affects the Creation of Structure and Iconicity in Signals." In D. C. Noelle, R. Dale, A. S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C. D. Jennings, & P. P. Maglio (Eds.), Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 1392-1398). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

- 2014 Little, Hannah and Catriona Silvey "Interpreting emerging structures: the interdependence of combinatoriality and compositionality". In First Conference of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics (IACS 2014). pp 113-114. Lund, Sweden.
- 2014 Little, Hannah and Bart de Boer. "The effect of size of articulation space on the emergence of combinatorial structure". In: Erica A. Cartmill, Seán Roberts, Heidi Lyn and Hannah Cornish, ed., *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 10th international conference (EvoLangX)*. pp. 479-481. Vienna, Austria.
- 2014 Little, Hannah and Kerem Eryilmaz "The effect of physical articulation constraints on the emergence of combinatorial structure". In: Bart de Boer and Tessa Verhoef, ed., *The EvoLangX Workshop on Evolution of Signals, Speech and Signs*. pp.11-17. Vienna, Austria.
- 2014 Littauer, Richard, Seán G. Roberts, James Winters, Rachael Bailes, Michael Pleyer and Hannah Little. "From the Savannah to the Cloud: Blogging Evolutionary Linguistics research". In: Luke McCrohon, Bill Thompson, Tessa Verhoef and Hajime Yamauchi, ed., *The Past, Present and Future of Language Evolution Research. Student Volume of the 9th International Conference on the Evolution of Language*. pp 121-133. Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 Wilson, Jack, J. and Hannah Little. "Emerging languages in Esoteric and Exoteric Niches: evidence from Rural Sign Languages". In: *Ways to Potolanguage 3 book of abstracts*. pp. 54-55. Wroclaw, Poland.
- 2012 Littauer, Richard, James Winters, Seán G. Roberts, Hannah Little, Michael Pleyer and Bill Benzon. "Academic Research in the Blogosphere: Adapting to new opportunities and risks on the internet". In: Jan Christoph Meister, ed., *Digital Humanities 2012 Conference Abstracts*, pp. 268-269. Hamburg: Hamburg University Press.
- 2012 Little, Hannah "The Role of Foreigner-Directed Speech in Language Evolution". *European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Annual Meeting 2012 Poster Abstracts*. pp. 7. Durham, UK

Edited Volumes

- 2015 Little, Hannah. *The proceedings of Evolution of Phonetic Capabilities: Causes, Constraints and Consequences*. 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences Satellite Event. Glasgow, Scotland.

Book Reviews

- 2014 Little, Hannah. Review of Denis Bouchard: *The Nature and Origin of Language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. *Linguist List* 25(4460)

Selected Presentations

- 2015 van der Ham, Sabine, Hannah Little, Kerem Eryilmaz and Bart de Boer. "Experimental Evidence on the Emergence of Phonological Structure." In: *The proceedings of The 13th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC-13)*. Newcastle, England.
- 2015 Little, Hannah. "Extherements: An experimental investigation into signal space topology and the emergence of structure." Invited talk. *The Language Evolution and Computation Unit*. 17 March 2015. The University of Edinburgh, UK.
- 2014 Little, Hannah. "Experiments in the Emergence of Combinatorial Structure: Considering the Limitations of Articulation Space Proxies". Poster presentation. *Nijmegen Lectures*. 28 January 2014. Nijmegen, Netherlands.
- 2013 Little, Hannah and Sabine van der Ham. "The challenges of investigating the emergence of speech with artificial language learning experiments". Oral presentation. *Experimental Linguistics Talks Utrecht*. Utrecht, Netherlands.

Academic Service & Conference Organising

- 2015 **Reviewer**, *Cognitive Science (Journal)*, WileyBlackwell.
- 2015 **Organiser**, *The evolution of phonetic capabilities: causes, constraints and consequences*, International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2105 Satellite Meeting.
- 2015 **Reviewer**, *37th Annual Cognitive Science Society Meeting (CogSci2015)*.
- 2013–2014 **Reviewer**, *Literary and Linguistics Computing (Journal)*, Oxford Journals.
- 2013 **Reviewer**, *10th Evolution of Language Conference (EvoLangX)*, World Scientific.
- 2011–2012 **Reviewer**, *Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (ULAB) Conference*.
- 2008 **Reviewer**, *Language in Use: A Reader*, Routledge.

Society Memberships

The Society of the Study of Cultural Evolution (Founding member)
International Phonetics Association (Student Member)
International Association for Cognitive Semiotics (Member)
Cognitive Science Society (Student Member)

Teaching Experience

- 2012–2014 **Assistant**, *Methods of Scientific Research (MSc Course)*, VUB, Brussels, Belgium.

Grants and Bursaries

- 2015 **VUB Doctoral School**, NSE Travel Grant €750.
- 2012–present **European Research Council**, PhD studentship as part of the ABACUS project.
- 2012 **British Interactive Group**, Bursary to attend the BIG Annual Training Conference.
- 2012 **Edinburgh Beltane**, Bursary to attend the Science Communication Conference.

Science Communication and Public Engagement Work

- 2013 **Scientist**, *I'm a Scientist get me out of here*, Wellcome Trust, London.
- 2011–2012 **STEM Outreach Coordinator**, *Newcastle College*, STEM Outreach, Newcastle.
- 2012 **Press Office Assistant**, *British Science Association*, British Science Fest, Aberdeen.
- 2012 **Science Explainer**, *BBC*, Mr. Bloom's Nursery Roadshow, Ready, Set, Grow!.

Talks & Events Skeptics in the Pub, Bright Club, SciScreen, Science Pirates at Newcastle Community Festival, Threshold Networking at Edinburgh University, Greenlight for Girls Days, the Discovery Festival and the European Gender Summit

Writing EuSci (Edinburgh University Science) Magazine and replicatedtypo.com (Language Evolution Blog)

CPD Effective Science Communication Course (Principae, Brussels), Science Communication Conference, British Interactive Group Event, "Engaging Hard to Reach Users" Workshop (National Centre for Research Methods, Northumbria University), Twilight CPD Course for STEM Club leaders (STEM Clubs Network), Science Communication Training Workshop, Icebreakers & Games (The Training Group, Graphic Science), EUSci Popular Science Editing Workshop (University of Edinburgh)

References

Available on request