

PUBLICATIONS/ PRESENTATIONS

Blütgen, S., Culbertson, J., & Kirby, S. (2025). *Mitteilungsbedürfnis: How the human drive to share mental states shaped the evolution of language, collaboration, and culture*. [Conference talk]. Protolang 9, Vienna, Austria.

Blütgen, S. (2024). *Does our drive to communicate enable human collaboration?* [Poster Presentation]. University of Edinburgh, Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference, Edinburgh.

Blütgen, S. (2023). *Does our drive to communicate make us better collaborators?* [Poster Presentation]. University of Edinburgh, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences Poster Forum, Edinburgh.

EDUCATION

LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE (PHD), UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (PPLS PHD SCHOLARSHIP)

September 2024 – present

Supervisors: Prof Simon Kirby and Prof Jennifer Culbertson

LINGUISTICS (MSC BY RESEARCH), UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (AILIE DONALD SCHOLARSHIP)

September 2022 – November 2023

Supervisor: Prof Simon Kirby

Grade: Distinction

Dissertation: *Mitteilungsbedürfnis* – How our drive to share enables human collaboration

Courses: Online Experiments for Language Scientists, Statistics & Quantitative Measures, Guided Research: Form & Function in Language Evolution

LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE (MA HONS), UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

September 2018 – August 2022

Supervisor: Dr Warren Maguire

Grade: First Class

Dissertation: Dialect Geography in Ireland: An Investigation of Lexical Variation in Irish English

Honours courses include: Guided Research: Corpus Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Statistics & Experimental Design, Pragmatics, Second Language Acquisition, Dialects of English in Britain and Ireland, Origins & Evolution of Language

SWAP HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, NEWBATTLE ABBEY COLLEGE

September 2017 – June 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, EDINBURGH “PRAGMATIC EFFECTS ON TRUTH AND PROBABILITY JUDGEMENT”

January 2025 – June 2025

Leverhulme funded study investigating how different types of non-at-issue meanings (e.g. implicatures, presuppositions) affect truth and probability judgments, and how conversational relevance influences these effects. My tasks involved adapting an existing paradigm to address our RQs, as well as writing and editing code for the pilot [*jsPsych*].

PI: Dr Dan Lassiter

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH “ONLINE DISCOURSE ON UKRAINIANS IN THE UK AND POLAND: A COMPARATIVE STUDY”

April 2024 – August 2024

British-Academy funded study comparing online discourse on Ukrainians in the UK and Poland through corpus-assisted discourse studies from a socio-cognitive perspective. My work involved the development of methods to scrape below-the-line comments from a variety of online news publications [*Python*], as well as the scraping, wrangling [*Excel*], and compiling [*SketchEngine*] of the data.

PI: Dr Katerina Strani

Co-Investigator: Dr Marion Winters

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH “HASHTAG ACTIVISM: A STUDY OF #GAZAUNDERATTACK AND #ISRAELUNDERFIRE DURING THE 2023-2024 ISRAELI-HAMAS WAR”

April 2024 – July 2024

Study comparing tweets relating to two opposing hashtags during the 2023-2024 Israeli-Hamas war, using critical discourse analysis. My work involved the development of methods to scrape tweets relating to the hashtags of interest [*Apify*, *Python*], as well as the scraping, wrangling [*Excel*], and compiling [*SketchEngine*] of the data.

PI: Dr Katerina Strani

Co-Investigator: Prof Innocent Chiluwa

POSTGRADUATE DISSERTATION (MASTER OF SCIENCE BY RESEARCH) “MITTEILUNGSBEDÜRFNIS – HOW OUR DRIVE TO SHARE ENABLES HUMAN COLLABORATION”

September 2022 – November 2023

MScR project investigating the human communicative drive and its influence on collaborative partner selection via three online behavioural experiments (incl. design, stimulus design [text], coding [*jsPsych*], running [*Prolific*], analysis [*R*])

CODING PROJECT “TESTING THE COGNATE FACILITATION EFFECT WITH AN AUDITORY AND VISUAL LEXICAL DECISION TASK”

September – December 2022

Coursework coding project (incl. design, stimulus design [text and audio], coding [*jsPsych*])

UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION (LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE MA HONS) “DIALECT GEOGRAPHY IN IRELAND: AN INVESTIGATION OF LEXICAL VARIATION IN IRISH ENGLISH”

September 2021 – August 2022

Dissertation project investigating lexical variation in Irish English (incl. design, stimulus design [images], running [*Qualtrics*], analysis [descriptive statistics and creation of dialect maps])

CORPUS ANALYSIS PROJECT “HOW DO ADULT SPEAKERS OF BRITISH ENGLISH CONVEY INTERNAL STATES IN SPOKEN DISCOURSE? A CORPUS ANALYSIS OF MITTEILUNGSBEDÜRFTNIS”

February – April 2022

Research project investigating internal state language by applying corpus analysis methods to the *Spoken BNC2014* (incl. collocation, concordance, frequency analyses via *CQPweb* and *ScrapingAnt*)

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT “THE EFFECTS OF BILINGUALISM ON BASIC WORD ORDER: TESTING SCHOUWSTRA & DE SWART’S SEMANTIC ORIGINS OF WORD ORDER (2014) WITH TURKISH MONOLINGUAL AND BILINGUAL SPEAKERS”

September – December 2021

Research project using the silent gesture paradigm (incl. group organisation, design, stimulus design [images], coding of results)

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS PROJECT “FACE-THREATENING ACTS AND POLITICIANS: A CONVERSATION ANALYSIS OF SCOTLAND’S FIRST MINISTER NICOLA STURGEON IN POLITICAL AND PERSONAL INTERVIEWS”

February – April 2021

Research project investigating face-threatening acts in political vs more private interviews with Nicola Sturgeon by applying conversation analysis methods (e.g. transcription according to discourse analysis conventions, lexicogrammatical analysis, descriptive statistics)

ADDITIONAL
SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (C2), Italian (A2)
IT: Excellent MS Office skills, Knowledge of Python (Beginner), R (Intermediate), JsPsych (Intermediate)