

Fae Hicks
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Education

Linguistics PhD, University of Edinburgh, October 2023 –

Supervisors: Prof. Patrick Honeybone and Prof. Rob Truswell

My research takes a formal approach to Historical Linguistic theory investigating whether there is a cognitive basis (phonological and syntactic) for processes reported in the historical literature. I am conducting a fine-grained analyses of the phonological and syntactic changes that occur in examples of so-called ‘phonetic erosion’ and ‘grammaticalisation’ to determine whether there is any evidence for the proposed causative relationship between the two. This feeds into my overarching aim of theorising the progression of change from i-language to Language.

Linguistics MRes, University of York, October 2022 – September 2023

Supervisor: Prof. Giuseppe Longobardi

I investigated the parametric development of Latin nominal syntax from the 1st to the 6th century using the Parametric Comparison Method to determine the degree of difference among stages of Latin and modern Romance.

Linguistics BA (Hons), 1st Class, University of York, 2019 - 2022

Research Experience

Visiting Doctoral Researcher, Concordia University, April – May 2025

Visiting researcher working with Prof. Charles Reiss at Concordia University

Research Analyst, Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities, February – July 2025

Analysing current trends in interdisciplinary research at Scottish HEIs developing strategies to maximise IDR impact whilst improving efficiency amid fiscal restructure.

Research Assistant, ERC project PARTHICO, University of Reggio Emilia, February 2024 – January 2025

Working on the project “Parameter theory on historical corpora: Measuring the power of parameter setting theory on historical corpora”. Evaluating the efficacy as the Parametric Comparative Method as a tool for historical linguistic analysis as an extension of my MRes.

Research Consultant, Make_Sense, June 2020 – September 2020

Working within a team researching and developing educational strategy to help schools transition to online learning models during the Covid-19 pandemic. Producing resources to optimise online teaching and finding solutions to boost engagement with virtual material.

Teaching Experience

Guest Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, January 2025 -

- Historical Phonology (Hons/MSc) (2025-26)
- Historical Linguistics (Hons/MSc) (2024-25)

Tutor, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 –

- Linguistics and English Language 1A (2025-26)
- Linguistics and English Language 1B (2023-24)
- Linguistic Theory and the Structure of English (2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26)
- English in Time and Space (2024-25; 2025-26)
- PPLS Skills Centre: one-to-one academic writing support (2024-25; 2025-26)

Peer Assisted Learning Tutor, University of York, October 2020 – May 2021

- Introduction to Syntax

Private Tutor, June 2020 – June 2024

Designing and delivering GCSE and A-level syllabi for home educated students in Physics, English Language and Literature, and Latin.

Publications

Hicks, F. & Guardiano, C (Forthcoming). Parameter Systems and Diachronic Change in Nominal Structures: The Case of Latin. In prep.

Bertollo, S. Crisma, P., Gaurdiano, C., **Hicks, F.**, Madaro, R., Sanfelici, E., Silvestri, G. (Forthcoming) The noun on the move: Rethinking N-raising from Latin to Modern Italian. *Proceedings of Diachronic Generative Syntax 26*. In prep.

Hicks, F. (Forthcoming). All Data is Bad Data. *The Naxos Papers, Volume II*. Accepted

Invited Talks

Hicks, F. (2025) 'What is linguistic change? And do historical linguists study it?' *Concordia University, Department of Classics, Modern Languages, and Linguistics*. 15th May.

Hicks, F. (2025). Is 'erosion' causal. A case study in Romance determiners. *York University, Department of Languages, Literature, and Linguistics*, 1st May.

Conference Presentations

Hicks, F. (2026). Phonologising *phonetic erosion*: the daughters of Latin *ille*. The Old World Conference in Phonology. Cambridge. 14th – 16th January. Poster presentation

Hicks, F. and Honeybone, P. (2025). The Myth of Phonetic Erosion: Grammaticalisation, Causality, Phonology and Syntax. *International Conference of Historical Linguistics*. Santiago de Chile, 18th - 22nd August.

Bertollo, S. Crisma, P., Gaurdiano, C., **Hicks, F.**, Madaro, R., Sanfelici, E., Silvestri, G. (2025) The noun on the move: Rethinking N-raising from Latin to Modern Italian. *Diachronic Generative Syntax*. Oxford, 23rd – 26th June. Poster presentation.

Hicks, F. (2025). Is 'phonetic erosion' a phonological concept? *Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference*. Edinburgh, 4th – 6th June.

Hicks, F. (2025) Is 'phonetic erosion' a phonological concept? *Manchester Phonology Meeting*. Manchester, 29th – 31st May. Poster presentation.

Hicks, F. (2025) 'Phonetic erosion: metalanguage and causality. *North American Phonology Conference*. Montreal, 9th – 10th May.

Hicks, F. (2024). All Data is Bad Data: The Role of Historical Data in Syntax and Phonology. *Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of Great Britain*. Newcastle, 28th -30th August

Hicks, F. (2024). All Data is Bad Data: Modelling Grammar from Learner to Linguist. *79th Language Lunch*, Edinburgh, 4th April. Poster presentation.

Hicks, F. (2023). Using the Parametric Comparison Method: A Case Study in Latin. *Lancaster Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference*. 30th June

Hicks, F. (2021). An Examination of Third Person Singular Pronoun Usage in Written English by Native Cantonese Speakers. *International Conference of Undergraduate Research*, online 28th – 29th September

Other Talks

Hicks, F. (2025). Exploring the notion of 'historical process' within the generative framework. *Eastern Generative Grammar Open Podium*, University of Zagreb, 6th August.

Hicks, F. (2025). Is 'phonetic erosion' a phonological concept: an exploration of the nature of phonological processes and causality of change. *P-workshop, University of Edinburgh*, 4th April.

Hicks, F. (2025). Grammaticalisation, Reduction, and Erosion: A Case Study in Causality. *Angus McIntosh Centre Catchup Session*, 5th March

Hicks, F. (2024). All Data is Bad Data: The Role of Historical Data in Syntax and Phonology. *Angus McIntosh Centre Catchup Session*, 21st August

Hicks, F. (2024). All Data is Bad Data: The Role of Historical Data in Syntax and Phonology. *Naxos Summer School on Diachronic Linguistics*, Naxos, 25th - 31st July

Academic service

Organising Committee, 7th Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology, April 2025 –

Secretary, Linguistics Association of Great Britain Postgraduate Student Committee, February 2025 –

Ensuring equal access to training and development opportunities in Linguistics for postgraduate students across the UK. Advertising events and managing social media. Representing student interests at the Linguistics Association of Great Britain.

Organising Committee, Phonetics and Phonology Workshop University of Edinburgh, February 2024 –

Member of team hosting talks on Phonetics and Phonology at the University of Edinburgh, chairing talks.

Co-Founder and Chair, Edinburgh Theoretical Historical Linguistics Seminar, September 2024 –

Orchestrated workshop addressing work at the intersection between subfields within Linguistics. Promoting interdisciplinary research and encouraging continued learning in new domains.

Organising Committee, Linguistics Circle, September 2024 – June 2025

Technical and operational assistance in General Linguistics speaker series

Organising Committee, 4th Angus McIntosh Symposium, November – December 2024

Operational assistance, facilitating the smooth running of events.

Chair, University of Edinburgh Linguistics Postgraduate Conference, October 2023 –

Liaising with plenary speakers and coordinating workshops. Managing budgets, transactions, and grant applications for the conference.

Organising Committee, 6th Edinburgh Symposium of Historical Phonology, November – December 2023

General administrative management and chairing speaker sessions.

Assistant Editor, York Papers in Linguistics, October 2022 – October 2023

I assisted with the development of an updated website to showcase the journals released by York Papers in Linguistics from 1971 onward.

Grants and Awards

Funding to support Edinburgh Symposium in Historical Phonology, £700, 2025

- The Philological Society Event Grant, £700

Philological Society Travel Bursary, £1000, 2025

Funds to support attendance at International Conference of Historical Linguistics.

Travel bursary, Conference of Diachronic Generative Syntax, £50, 2025

Go Abroad Fund, University of Edinburgh, £500, 2025

Funds to support attendance at International Conference of Historical Linguistics.

Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences Research Support Grant, £600, 2025

Funding to support research visit to Concordia University.

Funding to support the Edinburgh Theoretical Historical Linguistics Seminar, £2500, 2025

- Angus McIntosh Centre Conference Grant, £400
- Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences Training and Development Fund Grant, £1150
- The Philological Society Event Grant, £725
- Linguistics Association of Great Britain Postgraduate Student Committee Grant, £225

Funding to support the 30th and 31st Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference, £9350, 2023 - 2025

- The Philological Society Event Grant, £200, 2025
- Linguistics Association of Great Britain Postgraduate Student Committee Grant, £150, 2025
- Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences Training and Development Fund Grant, £4500, 2024
- Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences Training and Development Fund Grant, £4500, 2023

Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences Research Support Grant, £1100, 2024

Funding to support attendance at Naxos Summer School in Diachronic Linguistics and Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain.

Chartered Management Institute Diploma in Leadership and Management, level 5, 2021

Qualification to certify capability to manage and lead individuals in large projects and achieve results.

York Futures Grant, £1000, 2021

Grant to support study of Ancient Greek.

Laidlaw Scholarship, £10,0000, 2020 - 2022

Research and leadership scholarship funding two summer research projects on prestige effects in semantic variability and on the use of gender pronouns Cantonese native second language learners of English

Skills

Data Analysis: Proficient in R and MS Excel.

Ancient Languages: Latin (A-level and advanced philological competence), Old English (intermediate philological competence), Classical Greek (basic philological competence)

Modern Languages: German (CEFR level A2 May 2020), French (CEFR A1 June 2017)

Debating: Competing at international varsity competitions, 2019 – 2023

Research Interests

Theoretical Historical Linguistics, theories of change, Syntax, Phonology, Syntax-Phonology interface, Philosophy of (Historical) Linguistics