

Fae Hicks

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Education

Linguistics PhD, University of Edinburgh, October 2023 – September 2026 (expected submission)

Thesis title: *How (not) to cause change: syntax, phonology, et cetera*

Supervisors: Prof. Patrick Honeybone and Prof. Rob Truswell

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

Thesis title: *A Parametric Study of Classical and Late Latin*

Supervisor: Prof. Giuseppe Longobordi. Thesis committee chair: Dr Joel Wallenberg

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

Linguistics Research Experience

Visiting Doctoral Researcher, Centre for Cognitive Science and Linguistics, Concordia University, April – May 2025

Visiting researcher working with Prof. Charles Reiss at Concordia University, developing my understanding of Logical Phonology, and using the framework to analyse the Scottish Vowel Length Rule.

Research Assistant, ERC project PARTHICO, University of Modena and 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 of the Parametric Comparative Method as a tool for historical linguistic analysis. Focus on development of the DP between Old and Late Latin.

Other Research Experience

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

Analysing current trends in interdisciplinary research at Scottish higher education institutions developing strategies to maximise the impact of the training offer. Designing a doctoral training programme that prioritises active cross-disciplinary engagement and facilitates innovative thinking.

Research Consultant, Make_Sense, June 2020 – September 2020

Working within a team consulting with schools to develop educational strategy to aid the transition to online learning models during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Teaching Experience

Guest Lecturer, Concordia University, January 2026

- Introduction to Phonology

Guest Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, January 2025 –

Producing and delivering lecture material highlighting innovative research as part a comprehensive curriculum for 3rd and 4th year bachelors’ students and masters’ students.

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

Tutor, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 –

Leading small group classes, teaching to a range of abilities. Marking essays and problem sets.

- 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

Publications

Hicks, F. (In press). All data is bad data. *The Naxos Papers, Volume II*.

Hicks, F. (Under review). Is phonetic erosion a phonological process? Submitted

Hicks, F. & Guardiano, C (In prep). Parameter systems and diachronic change in nominal structures: the case of Latin.

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

Invited Talks

Hicks, F. (2026). What historical patterns can(not) tell us about cognitive biases in grammar acquisition. *Concordia University, Centre for Cognitive Science and Linguistics*. 29th January.

Hicks, F. (2026). Exploring the utility of algebraic lattices in modelling syllable structure. *Workshop on Logical Phonology*, City University of New York. 23rd January.

Hicks, F. (2025) What is language 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 Papers

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

Hardie-Lawrence, N. and **Hicks, F.** (2025). It’s not historical: A Logical Phonological analysis of the Scottish Vowel Length Rule. *The Edinburgh Symposium in Historical Phonology*. 1st – 2nd December. 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., Guardiano, 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. (2026). Addressing the problem of referring to absence in open syllables. *Phonetics/Phonology Workshop*, University of Edinburgh, 6th February.

Hicks, F. (2025). Syntactic inertia and its issues: a case study in grammaticalisation. *Meaning and Grammar Research Group*, University of Edinburgh, 11th November.

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. *Phonetics/Phonology Workshop*, University of Edinburgh, 4th April.

Hicks, F. (2025). Grammaticalisation, reduction, and erosion: a case study in causality. *Angus McIntosh Centre Catchup Session*, University of Edinburgh, 5th March.

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

Reviewer, Journal of the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain, May 2025 –

Reviewer, Edinburgh Symposium of Historical Phonology, August 2025 -

Secretary, Linguistics Association of Great Britain Postgraduate Student Committee, February 2025 – February 2026

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 2025 –

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.

Reviewer, University of Edinburgh Linguistics Postgraduate Conference, January 2024 -

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, Edinburgh Symposium of Historical Phonology, November 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 The Edinburgh Theoretical Historical Linguistics Summer School, £6860, 2026

- Van Riemsdijk Foundation Summer School Grant, ~£6500 (€7500), 2025
- The Philological Society Event Grant, £360, 2026

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

- The Philological Society Event Grant, £700

Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences Research Support Grant, £850, 2025

Funding to support attendance at the Eastern Generative Grammar summer school.

Associate Fellowship of AdvanceHE, 2025

Awarded for commitment to professional standards and effective teaching practise in higher education.

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

Awarded for excellence in leadership and management of large projects in a professional environment.

York Futures Grant, £1000, 2021

Grant to support study of Classical Greek.

Laidlaw Scholarship, £10,000, 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. Global Scholarship awarded to only 25 students at each member university.

Professional Memberships

AdvanceHE, 2025 -

Linguistics Association of Great Britain, 2024 -

The Philological Society, 2024 -

The Chartered Management Institute, 2021 -

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)

Research Interests

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