

# Sophie Holmes-Elliott

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of English Language  
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### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Holmes-Elliott, Sophie  
Citizenship: British  
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I am a trained sociolinguist interested in the relationship between people and language. More specifically, how do social and linguistic systems interact to constrain and propel language change? My thesis looked at dialect levelling, where regional accents lose their more unusual features and people over broad areas start to sound the same as each other.

Currently, I am interested in the relationship between language variation & change and the youngest members of the speech community – children. I am particularly interested in the *acquisition of variation* - how children make sense of the complex patterns of variation they are surrounded by and go on to acquire highly systematic native dialects. I am also interested in the process of *incrementation* - where children, as they mature into adolescents, increment changes in progress on a stage further. Essentially, both areas investigate how children evolve from language learners and into language leaders.

**Research interests:** language change; sociolinguistics; sociophonetics; regional dialect levelling; acquisition of variation; incrementation; bidialectalism

### • EDUCATION

- 2010 - 2014 **Ph.D.** London calling: assessing the spread of metropolitan features in the southeast (**ESRC funded**)  
Department of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
Examiners: Prof Jennifer Cheshire (QMUL), Dr Rachel Smith (Glasgow)  
Supervisors: Prof Jennifer Smith (1<sup>st</sup>) and Prof Jane Stuart-Smith (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 2012 Visiting student, **University of Pennsylvania** (Sociolinguistics), Spring 2012
- 2009 – 2010 **M.Litt (with distinction):** Sociolinguistics and Phonetics (**ESRC funded**)  
Thesis title: Yoof culture: a sociolinguistic study of TH-fronting in adolescents from Hastings, East Sussex, UK  
Department of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK
- 2002 – 06 **M.A. (first class)** English Language  
Department of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK

### • CURRENT POSITION(S)

- 2013-2016 **Primary Research Assistant:** *One speaker, two dialects: bidialectalism across three generations in Scotland* (ESRC funded: ES/K000861/1)  
Department of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
**Duties:** I lead the fieldwork; data collection, processing & analysis (including statistical analysis). I am responsible for the training and management of a team of junior research assistants. I am also jointly

responsible for the output of the project with regards to presentations and publications and I run and manage the project website: [thevariationist.com](http://thevariationist.com)

- 2011- **The only way is /s/: Gender and social class in the southeast of England**  
Dep. of Linguistics, Queen Mary, Univ. of London; Dep. of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
Together with Dr Erez Levon, I have been investigating the sociophonetic profile of /s/ within the southeast. We are particularly interested in how this variation may pattern in terms of the interaction of class and gender. Our work so far has taken its data from the reality television shows *The Only Way is Essex* and *Made in Chelsea*. We are currently extending our analysis to other linguistic features.

- **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

- 2011-12 **Timing in accents of English**  
Dr Rachel Smith and Dr Tamara Rathcke: Dep. of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
**Duties:** I was responsible for the recruitment and recording of participants and processed data in preparation for analysis.
- 2009 – 10 **Bidialectalism and dialect attrition in the Shetland Isles**  
Dr Jennifer Smith: Dep. of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
**Duties:** I was responsible for the analysis of spoken data and devised a number of coding schedules, aided with the interpretation of the results and trained other researchers on the project's methodology.
- 2008 **Mediated perception project**  
Dr Jane Stuart-Smith and Dr Rachel Smith: Dep. of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
**Duties:** recruiting participants, conducting of experiment, collecting and coding of data and contribution to its analysis and interpretation.
- 2007 – 08 **Language acquisition and dialectal variation project**  
Dr Jennifer Smith: Dep. of English Language, Univ. of Glasgow, UK  
**Duties:** data coding and analysis

- **FELLOWSHIPS, PRIZES AND AWARDS**

- 2011 **David Fleming-Brown travel scholarship:** in 2011 I was awarded a travel scholarship to support my visit to the Sociolinguistic Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania during the spring semester of 2012. The department provided me with office space, access to classes, and supervision by the lab directors (Prof. William Labov and Prof. Gillian Sankoff)  
Dep. Of Linguistics, Univ. of Pennsylvania; Univ. of Glasgow, UK
- 2011 **Nominated for Prize for Excellent Teaching (PET) Award**  
Student nominated category: *Best Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
Univ. of Glasgow, UK

- **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

- Supervision** (Univ. of Glasgow)  
2015 **Undergraduate dissertation:** I have supervised a number of undergraduate dissertations in sociolinguistics (details available upon request)

## LECTURING

### Undergraduate

- 2010 - 14 Senior Honours, Sociolinguistics (Univ. of Glasgow)  
2013, 2014 Level 2, Language and the Internet (Univ. of Glasgow)

### Postgraduate

- 2015 – 16 MA module: Investigating spoken English (Univ. of Lancaster)

## INSTRUCTION AND TUTORING

### Undergraduate

- 2009 - 2013 Senior Honours: Grammars of English (Univ. of Glasgow)  
Level 2: Modern Elements of English Language (Univ. of Glasgow)  
Level 1: Intro to English Language & Linguistics (Univ. of Glasgow)

### Postgraduate

- 2009 – 2011 MA Module: Methods in Sociolinguistics (Univ. of Glasgow)  
MA Module: Methods in Phonetics (Univ. of Glasgow)

## • PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### Publications

- 2015 **Holmes-Elliott, S.** & Smith, J. DRESS-down: /ε/-lowering in apparent time in a rural Scottish community *Proceedings from the XVIII International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Glasgow
- 2013 Levon, E. & **Holmes-Elliott, S.** East end boys and west end girls: /s/-fronting in southeast England *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics volume 19.2., Selected Papers from NWAV 41*
- 2013 Smith, R., **Holmes-Elliott, S.**, Pettinato, P. & Knight, R. Cross accent intelligibility of speech in noise: Long-term familiarity and short-term familiarisation *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology* 67:3
- 2011 Stuart-Smith, J., Smith, R., Rathke, T., Li Santi, F., and **Holmes, S.** Responding to accents after experiencing interactive or mediated speech, *Proceedings of the XVII International Congress of the Phonetic Sciences*, Hong Kong

### To Appear

- 2016 **Holmes-Elliott, S.** Ladies first? Adolescent peaks in a male-led change: TH-fronting in southeast England *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics volume 22.2., Selected Papers from NWAV 44*

### Work in progress

- (Submitted) **Holmes-Elliott, S.** & Levon, E. The substance of style: Gender, social class and interactional stance in southeast England. (Submitted to *Linguistics*)
- (Submitted) **Holmes-Elliott, S.** & Smith, J. Dressing down up north: a sociophonetic investigation into the relationship between DRESS-lowering and changes in /l/ quality in north east Scotland (submitted to *Language Variation and Change*)

- (Submitted) Smith, J. & **Holmes-Elliott, S.** The unstoppable glottal: tracking rapid change in an iconic British variable (submitted to *English Language and Linguistics*)
- (In prep.) Smith, J., & **Holmes-Elliott, S.** Pulling out the stops: the acquisition of an iconic British variable (for submission to *Journal of Sociolinguistics*)
- (In prep.) **Holmes-Elliott, S.** Peaks and patterns: the linguistic and the social incrementation of language change, GOOSE-fronting in southeast England (for submission to *Journal of English Linguistics*)

### Invited talks

- 2015 University of Edinburgh Language Variation and Change Research Group, November 24<sup>th</sup>: Patterns and progress: linguistic reorganisation through incrementation
- University of York Linguistics Colloquium, November 18<sup>th</sup>: Peaks and patterns: incrementation of language change
- 2014 University of Sheffield: Workshop “The study of social meaning in the era of ‘big data’”, January 24<sup>th</sup>: A group of individuals, tracking style shifting from local to standard forms (with Jennifer Smith)
- 2013 University of Manchester Linguistics Research Seminar Series, October 15<sup>th</sup>: Exogenous versus endogenous change: how well does this distinction hold within a levelling variety?

### Presentations

- 2015 Ladies first? Adolescent peaks in a male-led change, TH-fronting in southeast England, NWAV 44, University of Toronto, 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October
- Dressing down up north: a sociophonetic investigation of DRESS lowering in rural Scotland (with J. Smith), NWAV 44, University of Toronto, 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October
- The gender-gap: adolescent peaks in a male-led change, 2<sup>nd</sup> Southern Englishes Workshop, University of Cambridge, 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March
- 2014 Glottal replacement on the move, Sixth Northern Englishes Workshop, University of Lancaster, 16-17<sup>th</sup> April
- Parents or peers? Incrementation in a levelling variety, First Southern Englishes Workshop, University of Brighton, 8-9<sup>th</sup> March
- 2013 Blame the parents! Transmission and diffusion in a levelling variety, UK Language Variation and Change (UK LVC) 8, Sheffield University, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September
- Endogenous and exogenous change within a levelling variety, ICLaVE 7, Trondheim, June 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>
- Stance and sensibility: gender, class and affect in /s/ production in southeast England, ICLaVE 7, Trondheim, 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June

Style and error: Intra-speaker /s/ variation in southeast England, ExAPP, Copenhagen, 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> March

2012 East end boys and west end girls: /s/-fronting in southeast England (with E. Levon) NAW 41, Indiana University Bloomington, 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October

Apparent time, real time and an “off the shelf change” - TH-fronting in southeast England, Sociolinguistics Symposium 19, Freie Universität Berlin, 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August

The only way is /s/ - The only way is /s/: Doing gender and constructing class in the southeast of England (with E. Levon) Sociolinguistics Symposium 19, Freie Universität Berlin, 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August

2011 Do you say *ken* or *know* or both? Bidialectalism and dialect attrition in the Shetland Islands, Scotland (with M. Durham) UK Language Variation and Change (UK LVC) 8, Edge Hill University, 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September

Bidialectalism or dialect attrition? Explaining generational change in the Shetland Islands, Scotland, (with J. Smith and M. Durham) International Conference on Language and Variation in Europe (ICLaVE) 6, University of Freiburg, 29<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July

#### **ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

2012- **R for Linguists:** I started this group for linguists, with a working knowledge of statistics, to begin or develop their use of statistical software R. The group is now a core resource offered by Glasgow University Laboratory of Phonetics.

**SoPho: Sociophonetics Reading Group:** I run a reading group during term-time which focuses on recent research in Sociophonetics. The group is open to postgraduate students and staff and meets every fortnight.

2011 **SSS3: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer school of Sociolinguistics**, University of Glasgow. I was the principal organiser of week-long summer school that took place in July 2011, funded by The Chancellor’s fund and Collaborative Research Training Initiative Awards.

#### **MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

2014 – 15 Member: *International Phonetic Association*

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

I am a regular contributor for linguistic-based items for BBC Scotland. I have also contributed in the BBC Radio 4 show: *Word of Mouth*, with Michael Rosen, talking about new and emergent Scottish varieties.