



**Professor Nick Scott-Samuel**  
**B.A.(Bristol), MSc, Ph.D.(Birm.)**

Professor of Experimental Psychology

**Area of research**

Visual Perception

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**Summary**

My research was initially concerned with the visual perception of motion by humans, but I've become sidetracked over time by various other things, including the perception of food and drink, camouflage, visual search and the estimation of numerosity.

For more on my camouflage research, please go to [www.camolab.com](http://www.camolab.com).

**Recent and current grants**

- BBSRC studentship (2007-11). Now you see it, now you don't: camouflage, movement and ecology. Scott-Samuel, Cuthill.
- EPSRC/QinetiQ CASE studentship (2007-11). Animal camouflage. Baddeley, Cuthill, Scott-Samuel, Shohet.
- Alcohol Education and Research Council (2010-2011). Effect of glass shape on drinking rate and drinking topography in social alcohol drinkers. Attwood, Scott-Samuel, Munafo
- DSTL DTC CDE (2012-2013). The effect if standard and adaptive camouflage on perceived speed in neutral and stressful situations. Scott-Samuel, Cuthill, Baddeley, Munafo.

**Biography**

After degrees in Philosophy (BA) at the University of Bristol and Cognitive Science (MSc) at the University of Birmingham, my PhD (supervised by Mark Georgeson at the University of Birmingham) addressed human visual motion processing. I was a postdoc for four years, working first with Andy Smith (at Royal Holloway, University of London) and then with Robert Hess (at McGill University). I was appointed Lecturer in Psychology here in 2001.

**Teaching**

Experimental Psychology:

I teach on the Year 2 unit "Cognitive Psychology" and the Year 3 unit "Contemporary Issues in Psychology". I am the Unit Director for "Cognitive Psychology".

**PHD students supervised**

- Joanna Hall (awarded 2012). Supervisor. Joint supervisors: Roland Baddeley (Experimental Psychology), Innes Cuthill (Biological Sciences), Adam Shohet (QinetiQ).
- Will Allen (awarded 2012). Supervisor. Joint supervisor: Innes Cuthill (Biological Sciences).
- Scott Watkins (awarded 2012). Second supervisor. First supervisor: Roland Baddeley (Experimental Psychology).

- Martin Thirkettle (awarded 2009). Supervisor. Joint supervisor: Chris Benton (Experimental Psychology).
- Jian Li (awarded 2008). Supervisor. Joint supervisors: Chris Benton (Experimental Psychology), Stavri Nikolov (Electrical and Electronic Engineering).
- Tim Jones (awarded 2004). Second supervisor. First supervisor: Tom Troscianko (Experimental Psychology).
- Gillian Porter (awarded 2004). Second supervisor. First supervisor: Tom Troscianko (Experimental Psychology).

## Keywords

- Psychophysics
- Behavioural studies
- Perception

## Expertise

Vision, camouflage.

- visual perception
- camouflage
- estimation of number

## Memberships

### Organisations

[School of Experimental Psychology](#)

### Other sites

- [Neuroscience](#)

### Psychological Science staff

- [Psychological Science academic staff](#)



### Research themes

- [Cognitive science](#)

### Research groups

- [Cognitive science > Visual perception group](#)

## Links

-  [Camo Lab homepage](#)
-  [home page](#)

## Recent publications

- Talas, L, Fennell, J, Kjærsmo, K, Cuthill, I, Scott-Samuel, N & Baddeley, R, 2019, '[CamoGAN: Evolving optimum camouflage with Generative Adversarial Networks](#)'. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*.
- Cuthill, IC, Matchette, SR & Scott-Samuel, NE, 2019, '[Camouflage in a dynamic world](#)'. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, vol 30., pp. 109-115
- Matchette, S, Cuthill, I & Scott-Samuel, N, 2019, '[Dappled light disrupts prey detection by masking movement](#)'. *Animal Behaviour*, vol 155., pp. 89-95
- Fennell, J, Talas, L, Baddeley, R, Cuthill, I & Scott-Samuel, N, 2019, '[Optimizing colour for camouflage and visibility using deep learning: the effects of the environment and the observer's visual system](#)'. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, vol 16., pp. 20190183
- James, Barnett, B, Cuthill, I & Scott-Samuel, N, 2018, '[Distance-dependent aposematism and camouflage in the cinnabar moth caterpillar \(\*Tyria jacobaeae\*, \*Erebidae\*\)](#)'. *Royal Society Open Science*, vol 5.
- Barnett, JB, Michalis, C, Scott-Samuel, NE & Cuthill, IC, 2018, '[Distance-dependent defensive coloration in the poison frog \*Dendrobates tinctorius\*, \*Dendrobatidae\*](#)'. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol 115., pp. 6416-6421
- Kjærsmo, K, Hall, J, Doyle, C, Khuzayim, N, Cuthill, I, Scott-Samuel, N & Whitney, H, 2018, '[Iridescence impairs object recognition in bumblebees](#)'. *Scientific Reports*, vol 8.
- Volonakis, T, Matthews, O, Liggins, E, Baddeley, R, Scott-Samuel, N & Cuthill, I, 2018, '[Camouflage assessment: Machine and human](#)'. *Computers in Industry*, vol 99., pp. 173-182
- Scott-Samuel, NE, Ashida, H, Lovell, PG, Meese, TS & Schwarzkopf, DS, 2018, '[Stacking Chairs: Local Sense and Global Nonsense](#)'. *i-Perception*, vol 9.
- Troy, DM, Attwood, AS, Maynard, OM, Scott-Samuel, NE, Hickman, M, Woods, A & Munafò, MR, 2018, '[Effect of glass shape on the pouring accuracy of liquid volume](#)'. *PLoS ONE*, vol 13.

[View complete publications list](#) in the University of Bristol publications system