



## Dr Sean Roberts

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## Summary

I'm an evolutionary linguist. I use a range of quantitative methods and approaches to understand how languages emerged and how they change. I'm interested in how languages adapt to individual cognition, interaction and their wider ecology. I'm currently working on new statistical techniques to discover causal links in cross-cultural observational databases.

## Memberships

### Organisations

[Department of Archaeology and Anthropology](#)

## Recent publications

- Monaghan, P & Roberts, S, 2019, '[Cognitive influences in language evolution: Psycholinguistic predictors of loan word borrowing](#)'. *Cognition*, vol 186., pp. 147-158
- Rojas-Berscia, LM & Roberts, S, 2019, '[Exploring the history of pronouns in South America with computer-assisted methods](#)'. *Journal of Language Evolution*, vol 4.
- Cuskley, C, Roberts, SG, Politzer-Ahles, S & Verhoef, T, 2019, '[Double-blind reviewing and gender biases at EvoLang conferences: an update](#)'. *Journal of Language Evolution*.
- Tamariz, M, Roberts, SG, Martínez, JI & Santiago, J, 2018, '[The Interactive Origin of Iconicity](#)'. *Cognitive Science*, vol 42., pp. 334-349
- Majid, A, Roberts, S, Cilissen, L, Emmorey, K, Nicodemus, B, O'Grady, L, Woll, B, LeLan, B, Sousa, Hd, Cansler, BL, Shayan, S, Vos, Cd, Senft, G, Enfield, NJ, Razak, R, Fedden, S, Tufvesson, S, Dingemans, M, Ozturk, O, Brown, P, Hill, C, Le Guen, O, Hirtzel, V, van Gijn, R, Sicoli, M & Levinson, SC, 2018, '[Differential coding of perception in the world's languages](#)'. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*.
- Thompson, B, Roberts, SG & Lupyan, G, 2018, '[Quantifying Semantic Similarity Across Languages](#)'. in: *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society : CogSci 2018*. Cognitive Science Society, pp. 2554?2559
- Byun, K-S, Roberts, S, Vos, Cd, Zeshan, U & Levinson, SC, 2018, '[Interactive sequences modulate the selection of expressive forms in cross-signing](#)'. in: *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 12th International Conference (EVO LANG XII)*. EvoLang Scientific Committee, pp. 67-69
- Roberts, S, 2018, '[Chield: causal hypotheses in evolutionary linguistics database](#)'. in: C Cuskley, M Flaherty, H Little, L McCrohon, A Ravnigani, T Verhoef (eds) *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 12th International Conference (EVO LANG XII)*. EVO LANG
- Roberts, S, Micklos, A, Sulik, J & Little, H, 2018, '[Innovation, selection and the emergence of transparent signals in interaction](#)'. in: C Cuskley, M Flaherty, H Little, L McCrohon, A Ravnigani, T Verhoef (eds) *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 12th International Conference (EVO LANG XII)*. EvoLang Scientific Committee
- Roberts, S, 2018, '[What are the social, economic and ecological conditions for the evolution of complex communication systems? Comment on "Rethinking foundations of language from a multidisciplinary perspective" by T. Gong et al.](#)'. *Physics of Life Reviews*.

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