

Jon Reid Oberlander

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Employment history

2005– Professor of Epistemics, University of Edinburgh

2000–2005 Reader in Informatics, University of Edinburgh

1998–2000 Lecturer in Informatics, University of Edinburgh.

1998 Visiting Research Fellow, Macquarie University, Sydney.

1993–1999 EPSRC Advanced Fellow, ESRC Human Communication Research Centre.

1990–1993 Research Associate, SERC Project Grant, Centre for Cognitive Science, University of Edinburgh.

1987–1990 British Academy Postdoc Fellow, Centre for Cognitive Science, University of Edinburgh.

Academic history

1983–1987 School of Epistemics, University of Edinburgh. PhD in Cognitive Science.

1980–1983 Pembroke College Cambridge. Awarded Foundation Scholarship. BA (Hons) 1st Class in Philosophy.

Research

Research programme in cognition and interaction focusses on individual differences in communication, both human-human and human-computer. Extensive work on exploiting natural language generation (NLG) in personalisation technology—software which explicitly adapts itself to individuals—and study of related issues in discourse and dialogue theory. A growing focus is on linking large-scale text analytics into the language processing pipeline. A second strand of work addresses multimodal communication—using diagrams or talking heads to supplement linguistic channels. Modelling individual differences in computer-mediated communication has led into work on human-robot communication, which complements a long standing interest in communication in cultural heritage. In recent years, his goal has been to synthesise methods from design and informatics, to explore new ways of “designing with data” and to help reach this goal, he co-founded, and secured initial funding for, the Centre for Design Informatics. H-index 38, ~130 research papers.

Refereed publications since 2012

Alex, B., Llewellyn, C.A., Grover, C., Oberlander, J. and Tobin, R. [2016] Homing in on Twitter users: Evaluating an enhanced geoparser for user profile locations. To appear in Proceedings of 10th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, 23-28 May 2016, Portoroz, Slovenia.

Damro, C., Kaarbo, J. and Oberlander, J. [in press] Perceptions of the EU and the EU power debate: Role theory as conceptual framework and informatics as method. Paper to be presented at the 57th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, 16-19 March, Atlanta, Ga.

Oberlander, J. [in press] Who is really in control? Pitfalls on the path to personalisation and personality. Chapter to appear in Design for Personalisation, Fisher, T. and Kuksa, I. (eds.).

Speed, C. and Oberlander, J. [2016] Designing from, with and by data: Introducing the ablative framework. To appear in Proceedings of the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Design Research Society, Brighton, UK, 27-30 June 2016.

Wilson, S. Black, A.W. and Oberlander, J. [2016] This table is different: A WordNet-based approach to identifying references to document entities. In Proceedings of The 8th International Global WordNet Conference, Bucharest, Romania, January.

Alex, B., Grover, C., Oberlander, J., Zhou, K. and Hinrichs, U. [2015] Palimpsest: Improving Assisted Curation of Loco-specific Literature. In *Proc. Digital Humanities 2015*, 2-3 July, Sydney, Australia.

Llewellyn, C.A., Grover, C., Alex, B., Oberlander, J. and Tobin, R. [2015] Extracting a topic specific dataset from a Twitter archive. In *Proc. of the 19th Int'l Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries*, September, Poznan, Poland.

Llewellyn, C., Grover, C., and Oberlander, J. [2014] Summarizing newspaper comments. In *Proc. of the 8th Int'l AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media*, pp599–602. 2-4 June, Ann Arbor, MI.

- Llewellyn, C., Grover, C., Oberlander, J. and Klein, E. [2014] Re-using an argument corpus to aid in the curation of social media collections. In *Proc. of the 9th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference*, pp462–468. 26-31 May, Reykjavik.
- Wilson, S. and Oberlander, J. [2014] Determiner-established deixis to communicative artifacts in pedagogical text. In *Proc. of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pp409–414. June 22-27, Baltimore, MD.
- Maxwell, K.T., Oberlander, J. and Croft, W.B. [2013] Feature-based selection of dependency paths in ad hoc information retrieval. In *Proc. of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pp507–516. Sofia, Bulgaria, August 4–9, 2013.
- Gill, A.J., Brockmann, C. and Oberlander, J. [2012] Perceptions of Alignment and Personality in Generated Dialogue. In *Proc. of the Seventh Int'l Natural Language Generation Conference (INLG 2012)*, pp40-48. Starved Rock, IL, May 30 - June 1, 2012.
- Henderson, M., Matheson, C. and Oberlander, J. [2012] Recovering from non-understanding errors in a conversational system. In *Proc. of the Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue (SemDial)*. Paris.
- Llewellyn, C., Grover, C., Oberlander, J. and Haston, E. [2012] Enhancing the curation of botanical data using text analysis tools. In *Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science Volume 7489, pp480–485. Berlin: Springer.

Research funding

Since 1992, I have served as a principal or co-principal investigator on 25 research grants; approximate value to University is over £4 million. Since 2000, these are:

1. 2000–2003 PI ESPRIT Basic Research Action in human language technology: M-PIRO: multilingual personalised information objects.
2. 2000–2003 Co-I ESRC/EPSC People at the centre of communications and information technology: MAGIC: multi-modality and graphics in interactive communication.
3. 2002–2005 Co-I ESPRIT Basic Research Action: COMIC: Conversational multimodal interaction with computers.
4. 2002 PI Edinburgh-Stanford Link small grant: Silhouette: Sketching personalities.
5. 2002–2005 PI Edinburgh-Stanford Link project: Crag: Critical agent dialogues.
6. 2004 PI Edinburgh-Stanford Link small grant: A corpus-based study of on-line commentary.
7. 2004–2008 Co-I EU Framework 6 Cognitive Systems: JAST (Joint Action Science and Technology).
8. 2007–2009 Co-I EU Framework 6 Cognitive Systems: Indigo (Interaction with Personality and Dialogue Enabled Robots).
9. 2009–2010 PI RAEng Ingenious Grant: Robotics at Inspace (public engagement).
10. 2011–2014 Co-I EU Framework 7 Cognitive Systems JAMES (Joint Action Multimodal Embodied Social Systems).
11. 2014–2015 Co-I AHRC Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities: Big Data Projects: Palimpsest: an Edinburgh Literary Cityscape (joint with EDINA and St Andrews).
12. 2013–2014 Co-I SICSA Future Cities workshops (joint with Glasgow).
13. 2014 PI British Council project on social media and transnational engagement: UK Connectivity.
14. 2016–2018 Co-I ESRC After Money (with RBS and the New Economics Foundation).

Teaching

In AY2015–16, lecturing Case Studies in Design Informatics 1 and 2, interdisciplinary MSc courses, with 30 students per annum. Supervising 4 PhDs, 6 MSc projects.

Leadership

In AY2015–16, Director of the Data Technology Institute. Director of the Institute for Language Cognition and Computation. Co-Director of the Centre for Design Informatics.