

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Simon J Makin

Personal Information

Nationality: British
DOB: 19/03/1968

Media Experience

Aug 2012 - Currently

Freelance Science Journalist

- See: <http://simonmakin.me.uk> (plus a news featurette due to appear in the next issue of Scientific American MIND). Also reporter and assistant editor for [Guru magazine](#).

2003 – 2012

- June 2012: One week work experience placement at Southwark News.
- Feb 2012: One week work experience placement at The Independent.
- Press liaison role for Reading club night. Writing previews for local what's on magazine, advertising in local press and dealing with local and national listings.
- Unpaid freelance music journalism for Sheffield music magazine, Sandman.

2001 - 2002

Network Of the World (NOW Gamer) London

Staff Writer

- Researching and writing news, reviews and features on the computer games industry, to multiple daily deadlines. Including page layout, image processing and publishing on the internet using proprietary software. Also acting editor duties.

Media Training

Feb 2012 - July 2012 Lambeth College, Clapham London

NCTJ Fast-track Diploma in Newspaper Journalism

- Core modules: shorthand, news reporting, media law, court reporting, public affairs, sub-editing, portfolio. Included two one-week work placements (see above).

1999 - 2000

Sheffield Independent Film

Sheffield

Skill Training for Film and TV Production

- OCNL2 credits in: scriptwriting, the role of the director, production sound, non-linear post-production, digital imaging, and computer animation.

Education

1997 – 2004

University of Sheffield, Dept. Comp. Sci.

PhD

- Speech and Hearing; Computational Auditory Scene Analysis. Including perceptual experiments and computer modelling. Thesis titled: "The role of static and dynamic f_0 cues in concurrent vowel segregation".

1993 - 1994

University College London, Dept. Phonetics and Linguistics

M.Sc. Speech and Hearing Sciences

- Phonetics and phonology, linguistics, psychology of speech and hearing, speech signal processing, speech perception, speech production, research project.

1986 - 1989

University of Reading

B.Eng. (Hons) Electronic Engineering

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Memberships

[Association of British Science Writers](#), British Society of Audiology, Acoustical Society of America.

Research Experience

2004 - 2011 Reading Uni, School of Psych & CLS Reading

Research Fellow

- Postdoctoral research post. Responsible for leading my own research strand as well as assisting in the management of a collaborative project with partners at Sheffield Uni. (see the [project website](#)). Skills included measuring room impulse responses. Findings published in international peer-reviewed journals and presented at international conferences. See [my staff webpage](#).

1990 - 1993 Reading Uni, Dept. of Psychology Reading

Research Officer

- Research in auditory perception. Responsible for creating and processing stimuli files, setting up and conducting experiments, analysing data, writing software, preparing poster-papers and assisting in presenting research results.

1989 - 1990 Fulmer Research Ltd. Slough

Research Investigator

- Development of smart-sensor interface circuitry.

Reviewing

- BBSRC, Speech Communication, Journal of Phonetics.

Skills

- **Scientific:** Statistics (SPSS, Matlab, SAS), Psychophysical methods, Signal processing, Programming in MATLAB et al.
- **Web/IT:** HTML, JavaScript, Dreamweaver, et al.; Windows, UNIX and Mac environments; MS Office, Framemaker, Photoshop, et al.
- **Communication:** I have written scientific papers and presentations, which I have presented at national and international meetings. I have also written journalism, reviews, fiction, poetry and a screenplay.
- **Journalism:** Shorthand - Teeline (passed at 60wpm), Subediting - Quark Express.

Publications

Journalism:

- Published on [scientificamerican.com](#): [The Story of a Lonely Brain](#); [Sleep On It](#)
- Published in Guru magazine: [News Roundup](#); [In the News](#); [Your Guts for Glory](#)
- Clippings from The Lambeth Weekender, NOW Gamer, [Notes from Mount Pleasant, 24n.biz](#), and Sandman available on request. Or see: <http://simonmakin.me.uk>

Selected scientific (more available on request):

- Watkins, A.J., and Makin, S.J. (1994). "Perceptual compensation for speaker differences and for spectral-envelope distortion," Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. 96(3), p1263-1282.
- Makin, S.J., and Brown, G.J. (1998). "Patterns of confusion made by a model of double-vowel identification: A comparison with human data," Proceedings of the Institute of Acoustics. 20, Pt. 6, 335-342.
- Makin, S.J., Watkins, A.J. and Raimond, A.P. (2006). "Perceptual compensation for reverberation: Effects of noise-context bandwidth," Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 120, 3358.
- Watkins, A.J. and Makin, S.J. (2007). "Perceptual compensation for reverberation: Effects of 'noise-like' and 'tonal' contexts," In: Hearing - from basic research to applications, B. Kollmeier, G. Klump, V. Hohmann, U Langemann, M Mauermann, S. Uppenkamp, and J. Verhey. Springer Verlag, New York, pp. 533-540.
- Beeston, A.V., Brown, G.J., Watkins, A.J. and Makin, S.J. (2010). "Perceptual compensation for reverberation: human identification of stop consonants in reverberated speech contexts," Poster presented at BSA short papers meeting, Manchester, Sept. 8-10th.
- Makin, S.J., Watkins, A.J. and Raimond, A.P. (2011). "[The dominance of ILD cues when tracking talkers in real-room reverberation](#)," Poster presented at First Int. Conference on Cognitive Hearing Science, Linkoping, Sweden, June 19-22.

References:

Roz McKenzie (NCTJ course tutor)

Head of Journalism

Lambeth College,

Clapham Common Southside,

London, SW4 9BL,

UK.

RMckenzie@lambethcollege.ac.uk

Megan Welford (work placement supervisor)

Deputy Editor

Southwark Newspaper Ltd.,

Unit A302,

Tower Bridge Business Complex,

Clements Road,

London, SE16 4DG,

UK.

020 7231 5258

megan@southwarknews.co.uk

Prof. Guy J. Brown (PhD supervisor)

Senior Lecturer

Department of Computer Science,

University of Sheffield,

Regent Court,

211 Portobello Street,

Sheffield, S1 4DP,

UK.

0114 222 1821

g.brown@dcs.shef.ac.uk

Timothy Clark (web editor at NOW Gamer)

Editor in Chief (Games)

Future Publishing,

Bath,

Somerset,

UK.

timothydclark@gmail.com