



Gareth Roberts, PhD in historical and evolutionary linguistics (2010)

Who is your current employer and what do they do?

Psychology Department, Yeshiva University

Yeshiva University is a private Jewish university in New York City.

What is your job title and what does the job entail?

Postdoctoral research associate

I work closely with Dr Bruno Galantucci on research (specifically using experimental methods to investigate how language and communication work). I also do a small amount of teaching (for my first two semesters here I assisted in teaching an experimental psychology class; last semester I taught the class).

How did you achieve your current position?

An advertisement for the position was circulated by email and I applied. It may have helped that Dr Galantucci was already familiar with my work, as he'd been the editor for a special issue in which I'd had a paper published. I also knew my predecessor in the job, as she'd done her PhD in the same research group as me at Edinburgh. My PhD had involved using experimental methods to investigate why languages diverge into dialects, so the relevance of that research to this position was obvious. For six months following my PhD, I'd also worked as a research assistant on a project applying experimental methods to cultural change. I imagine all this experience made me a good candidate.

How do you feel you have used the skills and/or knowledge developed during your research degree in your career to date?

A great deal. The work I do now is clearly related to the research I did for my PhD, and the academic and presentation skills I acquired during my postgraduate degrees have obviously been highly applicable.

Other qualifications

MSc in Evolution of Language and Cognition, 2006, University of Edinburgh

BA in German and Russian, 2003, University of Nottingham