

## Curriculum Vitae

**Date:** January 2009

**Name:** Morag Lennox DONALDSON

**Current post:** Senior Lecturer

**Subject area:** Psychology

**School:** Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

**Date of birth:** 23.11.58

### **Education:**

- 1976-1980** University of Edinburgh  
M.A. (Honours) in Psychology and Linguistics: First Class  
Awarded Drever Prize (Psychology)
- 1980-1983** University of Edinburgh  
Ph.D (Psychology): awarded July 1984  
Thesis title: *A psycholinguistic study of children's explanations.*

### **Career:**

- 1983-1987** Lecturer in Psychology, Plymouth Polytechnic
- 1987-1988** Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Plymouth Polytechnic.
- 1989-1995** Lecturer in Psychology, University of Edinburgh
- 1995-** Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Edinburgh
- 1997-2000** Head of Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh
- 2006-2008** Head of Psychology, University of Edinburgh

### **Honorary Appointment:**

- 2001 (Sept-Dec)** Visiting Scholar, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

Donaldson, M.L. (1986). *Children's explanations: a psycholinguistic study*. Cambridge University Press. (Reprinted in paperback, 2006)

Hyland, M.E. and Donaldson, M.L. (1989). *Psychological care in Nursing Practice*. Harrow: Scutari Press/Royal College of Nursing.

Donaldson, M.L. (1995). *Children with language impairments: an introduction*. London: Jessica Kingsley.

### Journal articles (peer reviewed):

Oakhill, J., Yuill, N. and Donaldson, M.L. (1990). Understanding of causal expressions in skilled and less-skilled text comprehenders. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, **8**, 401-410.

Donaldson, M.L. (1996). Contextual influences on children's spoken and written explanations. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, **17**, 355-75.

Nash, M. and Donaldson, M.L. (2005). Word learning in children with vocabulary deficits. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, **48**, 439-458.

Donaldson, M.L., Reid, J. and Murray, C. (2007). Causal sentence production in children with language impairments. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*. **42**, 155-186.

Donaldson, M.L. and Cooper, L.S.M. (2009). Children's production of verb-phrase anaphora in a spoken task. *Journal of Child Language*, **36**, 449-470.

### Book chapters:

Donaldson, M.L. and Elliot, A.J. (1990). Children's explanations. In R. Grieve and M. Hughes (eds.) *Understanding Children*. Oxford: Blackwell. Pp. 26-50. (Main contributor.)

Donaldson, M.L. and Laing, K. (1993). Children's comprehension and production of locative expressions. In D. Messer and G. Turner (eds.) *Critical Influences on Child Language Acquisition and Development*. London: Macmillan. Pp 159-178. (Main contributor.)

Reid, J. and Donaldson, M.L. (1993). Specific language impairment: explanations and implications. In G. Reid (Ed.) *Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia): Perspectives on Practice*. Edinburgh: Moray House Institute of Education. Pp. 318-337.

Donaldson, M L and Reid, J. (1994). Strategies for intervention: goals, techniques and settings, in J Watson (Ed.) *Meeting Special Educational Needs. Vol. 5: Working with Communication Difficulties*. Edinburgh: Moray House Institute of Education. Pp. 55-69. (Main contributor.)

Donaldson, M.L. (1994). Jean Piaget. In R.E. Asher (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Oxford: Pergamon Press. (Reprinted in *Concise Encyclopedia of Educational Linguistics*, 1999)

Reid, J., Donaldson, M. L., Howell, J., Dean, E. C. and Grieve, R. (1996). The effectiveness of therapy for child phonological disorder: the Metaphon approach. In M. Aldridge (ed.) *Child Language*. Clevedon, Avon: Multilingual Matters. (pp 165-175) (ISBN: 1-85359-316-8).

Reid, J. and Donaldson, M.L. (1996). Specific language impairment: explanations and implications. In G. Reid (ed.) *Dimensions of Dyslexia, Volume 2: Literacy, Language and Learning*. Edinburgh: Moray House Publications. (pp. 133-151.) (ISBN: 0-901580-80-5). (Revised edition of Reid & Donaldson, 1993)

Dean, E C, Howell, J, Reid, J, Grieve, R and Donaldson, M L (1996) Evaluating therapy for child phonological disorder: A group study of Metaphon therapy. In T W Powell (Ed.) *Pathologies of Speech & Language: Contributions of Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics*. New Orleans: ICPLA.

Donaldson, M.L. (1999). Learning to speak. In M. Porter, B. Alder and C. Abraham (Eds.) *Psychology and Sociology Applied to Medicine*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. (pp. 32-33).

Donaldson, M.L. (1999). How does thinking develop? In M. Porter, B. Alder and C. Abraham (Eds.) *Psychology and Sociology Applied to Medicine*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. (pp. 34-35).

Donaldson, M.L. (2004). Development of thinking. In B. Alder, M. Porter, C. Abraham and E. van Teijlingen (Eds.) *Psychology and Sociology Applied to Medicine*. (Second Edition). Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. (pp. 34-35).

Donaldson, M.L. (2005). Clinical and non-clinical interview methods. In B. Hopkins (Ed.) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Child Development*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pp.106-110).

#### **Non-refereed articles:**

Arnold, J., Newstead, S.E., Donaldson, M.L., Reid, F.J.M. and Dennis, I. (1987). Skills development in undergraduate psychology courses. *Bulletin of the British Psychology Society*, 40, 469-472.

Nash, M. and Donaldson, M. (2008). Vocabulary intervention – putting it in context. *Afasic Abstract*, Spring issue, 2-3.

#### **Published conference papers:**

Donaldson, M.L. (1985). Young children's production of causal connectives. In *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar*, University of Reading, pp. 23-39.

Donaldson, M. L. (1986). Children's explanations: the interplay between language and context. In *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar*, University of Durham, pp. 52-63

Donaldson, M.L. (1989). Children's comprehension and production of locative expressions. In *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar*, Hatfield Polytechnic, pp. 93-103.

Donaldson, M.L. (1990). Explaining with a purpose. In M. Forrester, L.A. Smith and B. Shire (eds.) *Proceedings of the 1990 Child Language Seminar*, University of Kent, pp. 12-28.

Donaldson, M L and Cooper, L (1993) Can children produce verb-phrase anaphora? They can but they don't always do it. In J Clibbens and B Pendleton (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar 1993*. Plymouth: University of Plymouth, pp. 135-146. (Main contributor)

Howell, J, Dean, E C, Donaldson, M L, Grieve, R and Reid, J, (1993) Metaphon therapy and phonological change. In J Clibbens and B Pendleton (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar 1993*. Plymouth: University of Plymouth, pp. 239-253.

Reid, J, Grieve, R, Dean, E C, Donaldson, M L and Howell, J (1993) Linguistic awareness in young children. In J Clibbens and B Pendleton (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar 1993*. Plymouth: University of Plymouth, pp. 255-273.

Reid, J, Miller, S, Donaldson, M L, Grieve, R, Tait, L, Thomson, G O B and Dean, E C (1996) The role of the speech & language therapist in the education of pupils with special educational needs. *Caring to Communicate: Proceedings of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists' Golden Jubilee Conference*, York, October 1995. London: RCSLT, pp. 534-545, ISBN 0947589058

Dean, E. C., Howell, J., Grieve, R., Donaldson, M. L., & Reid, J. (1996). Harnessing language awareness in a communicative context: a group study of Metaphon. *Caring to Communicate: Proceedings of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists' Golden Jubilee Conference*, York, October 1995. London: RCSLT, pp. 281-6, ISBN 0947589058

Donaldson, M.L., Reid, J. and Murray, C. (2002). Production of causal explanations by children with language impairments: What is difficult and why? In B. Skarabela, S. Fish and A. Do (eds.) *Proceedings of the 26th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. pp. 154-165. ISBN 1-57473-072-X

### **Official reports:**

Donaldson, M.L. (1991) *Children with language and communication disorders*. Report commissioned by the Scottish Office Education Department. (68 pages).

Donaldson, M.L. and Cooper, L.S.M. (1993). *The development of verb-phrase anaphora in children's language*. End of award report to Economic and Social Research Council on project grant R000233191.

Grieve, R. Donaldson, M.L. and Dean, E.C. (1994). *The role of phonological awareness in children's speech difficulties*. End of award report to Medical Research Council on project grant G9026990.

Donaldson, M.L. and Cooper, L.S.M. (1995). *Children's production and comprehension of verb-phrase ellipsis*. End of award report to Economic and Social Research Council on project grant R000221211.

Reid, J., Millar, S., Tait, L., Donaldson, M.L., Dean, E.C., Thomson, G.O.B and Grieve, R. (1996). *The role of speech and language therapists in the education of pupils with special educational*

*needs*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh Centre for Research in Child Development. (ISBN 0-9520667-42)  
[Final report to Scottish Office Education and Industry Department: 126 pages + appendices.]

Reid, J., Millar, S., Tait, L., Donaldson, M.L., Dean, E.C., Thomson, G.O.B and Grieve, R. (1996). *Pupils with special educational needs: the role of speech and language therapists*.. Published by Scottish Council for Research in Education (on behalf of SOEID). Interchange, no. 43; ISBN 0969-613X.

Donaldson, M. L., Gillies, W., & Reid, J. (1997). *Children's acquisition of Scottish Gaelic grammar: a preliminary investigation*. End of award report to Economic and Social Research Council on project grant R000221466.

Donaldson, M.L. and Reid, J. (2000). *Comprehension and production of explanations in children with language impairment*. Final report to Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Executive on project grant K/RED/4/C254.

### **Book reviews:**

Donaldson, M.L. (1988). Review of D. Muller (ed.) (1987) *Teaching Psychological Skills to Nurses*. In *Group of Teachers of Psychology Occasional Paper No. 3*, British Psychological Society.

Donaldson, M. L. (1997). [Review of the book *The handbook of child language* ]. *Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics*, 11, 423-428.

Donaldson, M. L. (1997). [Review of the book *Psychology of language: A critical introduction*]. *British Journal of Psychology*, 88, 718-20.

## **RESEARCH**

### **Research interests**

My main research interests lie in the areas of language development and language impairment in children. In particular, my research focuses on children's explanations and on their acquisition of cohesive devices (e.g. causal connectives and verb-phrase anaphora). This is fertile ground for investigating relationships between language and (causal) reasoning, between language comprehension and production, between spoken and written language and between typical and atypical language development. Other areas of interest include vocabulary difficulties in children with language impairments and children's acquisition of Scottish Gaelic. As well as addressing key theoretical issues, my research has practical implications (e.g. for teachers and speech & language therapists).

### **Research grants**

1. From the Economic and Social Research Council, a grant of £47,000 to support research on 'The development of verb-phrase anaphora in children's language'; in collaboration with Dr L Cooper; October 1991 to September 1993.

2. From the Medical Research Council, a grant of £71,000 to support research on 'The role of phonological awareness in children's speech and reading difficulties'; in collaboration with Professor R Grieve and Ms E Dean (Queen Margaret College); January 1992 to June 1994.
3. From the Scottish Office Education Department, a grant of £2,000 to support research on 'Children with language and communication disorders'; in collaboration with the Edinburgh Centre for Research in Child Development; June to August 1991.
4. From the Scottish Office Education Department, a grant of £127,000 to support research on 'The role of speech and language therapists in the education of pupils with special educational needs'; in collaboration with Professor R Grieve, Dr G.O.B. Thomson (Department of Education) and Ms E Dean (Queen Margaret College); October 1993 to September 1995.
5. From the Economic and Social Research Council, a grant of £30,000 to support research on 'Children's production and comprehension of verb-phrase ellipsis'; in collaboration with Dr L Cooper; February 1994 to October 1994.
6. From the Scottish Office Home and Health Department, a grant of £94,000 to support research on 'Comprehension and production of explanations in children with language impairment', in collaboration with Ms J. Reid; November 1994 to November 1996.
7. From the Economic and Social Research Council, a grant of £30,000 to support research on 'Children's acquisition of Scottish Gaelic Grammar: a preliminary study', in collaboration with Professor W. Gillies and Ms J. Reid; October 1995 to September 1996.

### **Selected conference papers and invited research talks**

- 1990: Causal connectives in speech and writing. Fifth International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Budapest. (Poster presentation)
- 1991: Contextual influences on children's use of causal sentences in speech and writing. Child Language Seminar, University of Manchester.
- Children's comprehension and production of verb-phrase anaphora. Child Language Seminar, University of Manchester. (Poster presentation with L. Cooper.)
- When do children explain? Invited research talk. Department of Psychology, University of Glasgow.
- 1993: Can children produce verb-phrase anaphora? - They can but they don't always do it. Child Language Seminar, University of Plymouth. (With L. Cooper.)
- Metaphon therapy and phonological change. Child Language Seminar, University of Plymouth. (With J. Howell, E. Dean, R. Grieve and J. Reid.)
- Linguistic awareness in young children. Child Language Seminar, University of Plymouth. (With J. Reid, R. Grieve, E. Dean and J. Howell.)
- Children's comprehension and production of verb-phrase anaphora in speech and writing. Sixth International Congress for the Study of Child Language, University of Trieste, Italy. (With L. Cooper.)

The effectiveness of therapy for child phonological disorder: the Metaphon approach. Sixth International Congress for the Study of Child Language, University of Trieste, Italy. (With J. Reid, R. Grieve, J. Howell and E. Dean.)

The development of verb-phrase anaphora in children's language. International Conference on the Psychology of Language and Communication, University of Glasgow. (With L. Cooper.)

Exploring young children's language awareness. British Psychological Society, Developmental Psychology Section Annual Conference, University of Birmingham. (With R. Grieve, J. Reid, E. Dean and J. Howell.)

1994: The effectiveness of therapy for child phonological disorder: the Metaphon approach. Child Language Seminar, University of Wales, Bangor. (With J. Reid, J. Howell, E. Dean and R. Grieve.)

The nature of early linguistic awareness. British Psychological Society, Developmental Psychology Section Annual Conference, University of Portsmouth. (With R. Grieve, J. Reid, J. Howell and E. Dean.)

Children's comprehension and production of linguistic links. Invited research talk. Department of Psychology, University of Dundee.

1995: Comprehension and production of explanations in children with language impairment. BPS Developmental Psychology Section Conference, University of Strathclyde, September 1995. (Poster presentation with C Murray and J. Reid).

Evaluating the efficacy of Metaphon therapy for children with phonological disorder. BPS Developmental Psychology Section Conference, University of Strathclyde, September 1995. (With J. Reid, J. Howell, R. Grieve and E. Dean.)

The Role of the speech and language therapist in the education of children with special educational needs. Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' Golden Jubilee Conference, York, October 1995. (With J. Reid, S. Millar, R. Grieve, L. Tait, G.O.B. Thomson and E. Dean.)

The role of phonological awareness in children's speech difficulties. Invited research talk. Department of Psychology, University of Strathclyde.

1997: Acquiring Scottish Gaelic in a bilingual context. International Symposium on Bilingualism, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, April 1997. (With J. Reid, C. Macleod and W. Gillies).

Why did frog pop up? Language-impaired children talking and thinking about causality. Child Language Seminar, Garderen, The Netherlands, September, 1997. (With J. Reid and C. Murray).

1998: Explaining people's actions: causal reasoning in children with specific language impairment. Child Language Seminar, University of Sheffield, September 1998. (With J. Reid and C. Murray).

What's in an explanation? Evidence from children with specific language impairment. BPS Developmental Psychology Section Conference, University of Lancaster, September 1998. (With J. Reid and C. Murray).

1999: What's the problem? Phonological and semantic learning in children with vocabulary deficits. AFASIC Conference. University of York, March 1999. (Poster presentation with Marysia Nash).

Talking and thinking about causality: evidence from children with language impairments. Invited research talk. Department of Psychology, University of Hull.

2001: Production of causal explanations by children with language impairments: What is difficult and why? Boston University Conference on Language Development, November 2001. (With J. Reid and C. Murray).

Causal talk in children with language impairments. Invited research talk. Linguistic Circle, Department of Linguistics, University of Edinburgh.

Production of causal explanations by children with language impairments. Invited research talk. Early Childhood Development Group, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University.

2002: Towards a model of explanatory skills in children with language impairments. Ninth International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Madison, Wisconsin, July 2002. (With J. Reid).

2005: Probing the nature of word-learning difficulties in children with vocabulary deficits. Tenth International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Berlin, July 2002. (With M. Nash).

Talking and reasoning about intentions in children with language impairments. Developmental Psychology Section Conference, British Psychological Society, University of Edinburgh, September 2005. (With J. Reid and C. Murray).

2007: Whys and wherefores: causal sentence production in children with language impairments. Invited research talk. Language and Communication Science, City University, London.

### **Refereeing responsibilities:**

I have acted as a referee for the Economic and Social Research Council, the Medical Research Council and for various journals including:

British Journal of Developmental Psychology  
British Journal of Educational Psychology  
International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders  
First Language  
International Journal of Behavioural Development  
Journal of Child Language  
Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

### **Research supervision:**

Supervision of seven successfully completed PhD theses:

Papoudi, Despina (1993). *Interpersonal play and communication between young autistic children and their mothers*. (second supervisor)



Thompson, R. Bruce (1996). *Children's communication in a problem-solving context*. (principal supervisor)

Papaeliou, Christina (1998). *Infant prosodic expressions in mother-infant communication*. (second supervisor)

Nash, Marysia C. (2000). *Vocabulary deficits in children with specific language impairment*. (principal supervisor)

Longhi, Elena (2003). *The temporal structure of mother-infant interactions in musical contexts*. (principal supervisor)

Lakestani, Nelly (2008). *A study of dog bites and their prevention* (principal supervisor)

Powers, Nicola (2008). *Culture and expression in mother-infant vocal play: Do vowels regulate intersubjectivity?* (second supervisor)

### **External examining of research degrees:**

**MPhil:** Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh; University of Kent

**PhD:** Institute of Education, University of London; Open University

## **TEACHING**

### **Teaching in 2008-9:**

#### **Lecture courses:**

Psychology 1, Developmental Psychology

Psychology 3, Developmental Psychology

Psychology 3, Methodology 2

Psychology 4, Children with Language Impairments

MSc Methods of Data Collection

MSc Current Topics in Psychological Research

#### **Tutorials/Seminars:**

Psychology 3 literature review tutorials

Psychology 4 tutorials

#### **Project supervision:**

Psychology 3 group project

Psychology 4 dissertations

#### **External Examining:**

1989-1994: Psychology component of BSc in Speech Pathology, Jordanhill College/University of Strathclyde.

## GENERAL CONTRIBUTION

### Departmental/School

Head of Department of Psychology, 1997-2000 (and Head of Planning Unit, 1997-8)

Head of Psychology, 2006-2008

Other responsibilities include:

- Academic coordinator for Departmental Nursery (1989-1996)
- Postgraduate Adviser and Admissions Officer (1989-1992)
- Vice-Convenor of Final Honours Board of Examiners (1989 and 1996-7)
- Convenor of Departmental Teaching Committee (1995-7 and 2006-7)
- Teaching Quality Assessment coordinator (including responsibility for writing the Self Assessment Document) (1995-7)
- Course Organiser, Psychology 1 (2002-3)
- Course Organiser, Psychology 2 (2002-3)
- Convenor of PPLS Undergraduate Studies Committee and Board of Studies (2003-4) and member (2008-9)
- Curriculum Project Coordinator for PPLS (2003-4)
- Member of School Management Committee (2003-4 and 2006-8)
- Examinations data officer for Psychology (2002-4)
- Convenor of Psychology Staff-Student Liaison Committee (2005-6)
- Convenor of Psychology Boards of Examiners (1997-2000, 2006-9)
- External representative on School of Divinity Board of Studies (2008-9)

### Faculty/College

- Member of Planning and Resources Committee (1997-8)
- Member of Faculty/College Academic Staff Promotions Committee (1995-6, 1997-2000, 2002-4)
- Member of Faculty Research Staff Promotions Committee (1997-2000)
- Member of Faculty Teaching Committee and Board of Studies (1995-7)
- Member of Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee (1989-1993)
- Director of Studies: Faculty of Social Sciences (1989-1990) and Faculty of Science and Engineering (1992-1997 and Jan.–Sept. 2002), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (2005-6, 2008-9)
- Member of College Undergraduate Studies Committee (2003-4)

### **University / other Colleges**

- Member of Senatus Academicus (1997-2000, 2003-6, 2007-present)
- Member of Special Committee for Second Chair in Psychology (1996-7)
- Member of Special Committee for Chair in Computer Systems (1998-9)
- Member of Special Committee for Chair in Parapsychology (2005-6)
- Member of School of Biology Steering Committee (1997-2000)
- Member of Human Communication Research Centre Executive Committee (1997-2000)
- Member of Special Committee for Chair of Theoretical Computer Science (2000-2001)
- Member of Undergraduate Appeals Committee (2003-4)

### **Professional Contribution outside the University**

- University of Edinburgh representative on Board of Governors of the Donaldson Trust / Donaldson's College (2001 - present)
- Member of Scottish Group of Professors and Heads of Psychology Departments (1997-2000 and 2006-8)
- Member of Association of Heads of Psychology Departments (1997-2000, 2006-8)
- Committee member of Developmental Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society (September 1989-September 1993).
- Organiser of BPS Developmental Psychology Section conference, University of Edinburgh, September 1992.
- Secretary of BPS Developmental Psychology section (September 1992-September 1993).
- Member of BPS Scientific Affairs Board (December 1990-April 1992).