

Max Taylor-Davies

<https://maxtaylor-davies.es>

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SUMMARY

I am a fourth-year PhD student in **computational cognitive science** and **AI**, researching **social cognition and learning** in humans and artificial agents.

EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh

PhD, Centre for Doctoral Training in Robotics and Autonomous Systems

Edinburgh, UK

Sep 2022 – ongoing

Imperial College London

MEng Molecular Bioengineering; 1st class honours

London, UK

Oct 2017 – Jul 2021

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

INRIA Flowers Lab

Visiting researcher (mentored by Clément Moulin-Frier)

Bordeaux, France

June 2024 – Sep 2024

UCL Visual Plasticity Lab

Research Assistant

London, UK

Mar 2022 – Sep 2022

EMPLOYMENT

PolyAI

Intern → Software engineer (part-time)

London, UK

June 2020 – June 2021

MedEngine

Intern → Research engineer (part-time)

Berlin, Germany

June 2018 – Oct 2019

TEACHING

Seminar in Cognitive Modelling

Teaching assistant + marker

University of Edinburgh

2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

SELECTED PAPERS

Taylor-Davies, M., Bramley, N., & Lucas, C.G. *A rational framework for group-based selective social learning* (Open Mind)

Taylor-Davies, M. & Quillien, T. *An information bottleneck view of social stereotype use* (CogSci 2025)

Taylor-Davies, M., Hamon, G., Boulet, T., & Moulin-Frier, C. *Emergent kin selection of altruistic feeding via non-episodic neuroevolution* (EvoApps 2025)

INVITED TALKS

Using the information bottleneck to study social cognition @ Causality in Cognition Lab, Stanford University (February 2026)

Capacity, complexity, and the value of social information @ Computational Cognitive Science Lab, UC Berkeley (October 2025)

Evolving altruism between neural networks @ University of Stirling (May 2025)

Learning about and from other agents, guest lecture in *computational cognitive science* class @ University of Edinburgh (November 2024)

Social learning and social groups @ Human Decision-making Lab, University of Edinburgh (November 2023)

Imitation, preferences and group identity @ Computational Cognitive Development Lab, Brown University (November 2023)

AWARDS

SPECIES Scholarship 2025

Best paper, EvoApps 2025

Best student paper, EvoStar 2025

3rd place, IBM prize for best project, UoE *Machine Learning Practical* course (2023)

SERVICE

Reviewer for *Cognition*, *CogSci* (2023, 2024, 2025), *AAAI* (2026)

Co-organiser of UoE Computational Cognitive Science Reading/discussion group, 2025-26