

*Professor Sam Wolfe · Director of Studies in Linguistics
St. Catherine's College · Oxford · OX1 3UJ
Telephone (01865) 271700
Fax (01865) 271730
Email: sam.wolfe@stcatz.ox.ac.uk*

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Dear Incoming Students,

My colleagues at St Catz and I are really looking forward to welcoming you here to begin your degree in linguistics.

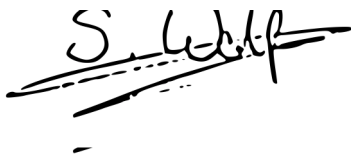
We're very proud of the linguistics community you'll hopefully be part of here in College; we have around twenty undergraduate and graduate students in linguistics at any given time, an amazing collection of linguistics resources in the College library, and regular social events as a subject throughout term.

Many of you may find that you have more time than you'd originally thought over the summer, so I've put together a brief list of books (enclosed) that you might like to consider reading. Please feel under no obligation to buy all of these. If a couple take your interest, check online to see if you can pick up cheap second-hand copies or PDFs. I would also strongly encourage you to explore the wealth of linguistics resources that are on YouTube; many of the authors of these books have online talks covering some of the same material.

I hope very much that you enjoy your preparation and look forward to seeing you in October.

Best wishes,

Sam Wolfe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wolfe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linguistics Reading

Campbell, Lyle. 2013. [Historical Linguistics: an introduction](#). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. (You can also use the Kindle edition).

Adger, David. 2019. [Language Unlimited: The science behind our most creative power](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Berwick, Robert C. and Noam Chomsky. 2016. [Why Only Us? Language and Evolution](#). Cambridge: MIT Press.

Roberts, Ian. 2017. [The wonders of language: or How to make noises and influence people](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (You can also use the Kindle edition).

Baker, Mark. 2002. [The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar](#). New York: Basic Books.

Bauer, Laurie and Peter Trudgill. 1998. [Language Myths](#). London: Penguin.