

Will Thurlwell

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

DPhil Research, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford (2021-2026)

- Demonstrated that OHG/OS instrumental loss was gradual and systematically conditioned, not a sudden collapse.
- Close philological analysis, corpus-building, and statistical modelling to explain patterns of case loss and retention.
- Built the first comprehensive dataset of OHG/OS instrumental forms and phrases.
- Identified frequency, animacy, and phrasal structure as key predictors of instrumental replacement.

Research Assistant, ReadOxford, Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford (2020-2021)

- Morphemic tagger of 15000+ most frequently occurring lemmata in children's literature.

PUBLICATIONS

- THURLWELL, WILL (2026), 'Remnant Case Forms and Patterns of Syncretism in Early West Germanic', *Transactions of the Philological Society*. (doi.org/10.1111/1467-968x.70020)
- THURLWELL, WILL (under review), 'Case Reanalysis after *mit* in Old High German and Old Saxon', *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*.
- JONES, HOWARD, WILL THURLWELL & LUISE MORAWETZ (under contract with OUP), *Oxford Guide to Old High German and Old Saxon*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Oxford (2023-present)

- Re-designed Old High German paper and lecturer to second- and final-year undergraduates.
- Organiser and convenor of fortnightly Old High German & Old Saxon reading group.

Tutor, University of Oxford (2022 - present)

- German Paper IV *History of German*, second-year and final-year undergraduates.
- German Paper V *Old High German*, second-year and final-year undergraduates.
- Prelims *General Linguistics* (psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics), first-year undergraduates.
- B6 *Historical Linguistics*, second-year undergraduates.

Guest Translator & Lecturer, University of Oxford (2022-2023)

- *Middle High German Graphemics and Phonology*, for Nikolaus Ruge [November 2023].
- *rûna, scrīban, rûna and their word families in Old High German – a cultural history of writing based on Old High German material*, for Aletta Leipold [March 2023]

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, Wolfson College (2021-2026)

DPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

Thesis: 'Instrumentality and the Instrumental Case in Old High German and Old Saxon'

University of Oxford, Jesus College (2019-2020)

MSt in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics — DISTINCTION

inc. 'The History of Old High German' (72) and 'Linguistic Comment on Texts in Old High German' (74)

University of Cambridge, Jesus College (2014-2018)

MA (Hons), Modern & Medieval Languages (German & Classical Latin) — DOUBLE FIRST CLASS

inc. GE1 (77), GE7 (72), Germanic Philology (70), and 'Special Distinction' in German Oral (76)

Colchester Royal Grammar School (2007-2014)

5 A-Levels: German, Latin, General Studies: A*; Maths, History: A & EPQ (*Writing a Latin Textbook*): A
14 GCSEs: 11 A* (inc. Maths and English), 2 A, 1 B

FUNDING, AWARDS & GRANTS

- Marriott-Wolfson Linguistics Scholarship, full DPhil funding and stipend (2021) **£85000**
- PGT Jesus College (Oxford) Humanities Scholar in Linguistics (2020) **£10000**
- Recurrent college prize-holder across undergraduate and postgraduate study: Jesus College (Oxford) book prize for MSt Distinction (2020, **£180**); Jesus College (Cambridge) College Prize for highest Part IB MML result (2016, **£120**); Scholar (2016, 2018; **£150 each**); Exhibitioner (2015, **£90**).

- Additional competitive funding (**£6,300**) from the Philological Society, Oxford Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics, Wolfson College, and Jesus College (Oxford) for research travel and conference organisation (GLAC 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024; FGLS 16; LingO 2023).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

PRESENTATIONS

- THURLWELL, WILL (forthcoming, April 2026), *Remnant Case Forms and Patterns of Syncretism in Early West Germanic*, 17th Forum for Germanic Language Studies, University of Leeds, UK.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2024), *Remnant Case Forms and Patterns of Syncretism in Early West Germanic*, 30th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2024), *Old High German & Old Saxon: A Grammar and Reader*, 30th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2024), *Case Reanalysis after mit in Old High German and Old Saxon*, 16th Forum for Germanic Language Studies, University of Cambridge, UK.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2023), *Instrumentality and the Instrumental Case in Old High German and Old Saxon*, 29th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, Banff, Alberta, Canada.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2022), *Instrumentality and the Instrumental Case in Old High German and Old Saxon*, 28th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA.

POSTERS

- THURLWELL, WILL (2022), *Instrumentality and the Instrumental Case in Old High German and Old Saxon*, 25th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Oxford, UK.

INVITED TALKS

- THURLWELL, WILL (2024), *Case Reanalysis after mit in Old High German and Old Saxon*, Oxford Historical Syntax Seminar, University of Oxford, UK.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2023), *Old High German & Old Saxon: Inflectional Morphology*, Comparative Philology Seminar, University of Oxford, UK.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2023), *Old High German & Old Saxon: Lexis*, Comparative Philology Seminar, University of Oxford, UK.
- THURLWELL, WILL (2023), *Exploring Arjen Versloot's 'Mith Frethe to Wasana'*, Germanic Linguistics Circle, University of Oxford, UK.

ACADEMIC SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Higher Education Academy (2024-present) — *Associate Fellowship*

Social & Cultural/Domestic & Premises Committees, Wolfson College (2021-present) — *Student Representative*

Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics ('LingO') (2022-2023) — *Organising Committee Member*

Wolfson College Summer Ball (2022) — *Chair*

Oxford University Linguistics Society (2020) — *Secretary*

Jesus College May Ball (2018) — *President*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (INC. TRANSLATION)

Cabinet Office, London (2024-present)

Project Manager and Community Specialist, Leadership College for Government

Cabinet Office, London (2021-2022)

Civil Service Fast Streamer (HR Stream) - Assistant Manager of Future Leaders Scheme

Freelance German Translator (2017)

Allianz Deutschland AG, Munich (2016-2017) — *Translation Intern*

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- The Philological Society (2022-present)
- Society for Germanic Linguistics (2022-present)