

# Rósa Signý Gísladóttir

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## Education

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2010-2015	PhD in Psycholinguistics, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and Radboud University, Netherlands
2007-2008	MSc in Computational Linguistics and Formal Grammar, King's College London, UK ( <i>distinction</i> )
2003-2006	BA in Linguistics, Macalester College, USA ( <i>magna cum laude</i> )
2003	Final exam, Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík (Reykjavík Junior College), Iceland (first grade with distinction; <i>áætiseinkunn</i> )

## Employment

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2023 – present	Tenured Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor in Linguistics, University of Iceland
2015 – 2025	Research Scientist, deCODE Genetics, Iceland
2021 – 2023	Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor in Linguistics, University of Iceland
2019 – 2021	Lecturer / Assistant Professor in Linguistics, University of Iceland
2008 – 2010	Marketing Director, Innovation Center Iceland

## Awards and Honors

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2010 – 2013	IMPRS for Language Sciences Fellowship, Max Planck Society
2011	LSA Linguistic Institute Fellowship, Linguistic Society of America
2006 – 2007	Chevening Scholarship, British Council
2006	Phi Beta Kappa honor society
2003 – 2006	Kofi Annan International Student Scholarship Award, Macalester College

## Publications

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Einarsson, G., Arnason, H. K., **Gísladóttir, R. S.**, Björnsdóttir, G., Þorgeirsson, T. E., Skuladóttir, A., ... & Stefansson, K. (2025). Variant in a taste receptor locus tied to changes in the use of insomnia medication. *Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science*, 100652.

**Gísladóttir, R. S.** (2025). Advancing GWAS of human communication. *Trends in Genetics*, 41(8), 643 – 646. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tig.2025.05.009>

Þorgeirsson, T. E., Tragante, V., Sveinbjörnsson, G., Jónsdóttir, G. A., Walters, G. B., Ivarsdóttir, E. V., Arnadóttir, G. A., Sturluson, A., Jónsson, B. O., Fridriksdóttir, R., Skuladóttir, A. T., Einarsson, G., Björnsdóttir, G., Gunnarsson, A. F., **Gísladóttir, R. S.**, Sigurdsson, A., Oddsson, A., Jónsson, H., Magnusson, O. T., ... Stefansson, K. (2025). Rare loss-of-function variants in HECTD2 and AKAP11 confer risk of bipolar disorder. *Nature Genetics*, 57(4), 851–855. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-025-02141-1>

C., Nissen, J., Christoffersen, L. A. N., Kjerulff, B. D., Hansen, T. F., Burgdorf, K. S., DBDS Genomic Consortium, Pedersen, O.B.V., Erikstrup, C., **Gísladóttir, R. S.** ... Werge, T. (2024). Developmental

language disorder – heritability and genetic correlations with other disorders affecting language. *Psychiatry Research*, 342, 116212. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2024.116212>

Skuladottir, A. T., Tragante, V., Sveinbjornsson, G., Helgason, H., Sturluson, A., Bjornsdottir, A., Jonsson, P., Palmadottir, V., Sveinsson, O. A., Jensson, B. O., Gudjonsson, S. A., Ivarsdottir, E. V., **Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Gunnarsson, A. F., Walters, G. B., Jonsdottir, G. A., Thorgeirsson, T. E., Bjornsdottir, G., Holm, H., ... Stefansson, K. (2024). Loss-of-function variants in ITSN1 confer high risk of Parkinson's disease. *Npj Parkinson's Disease*, 10(1), 140. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41531-024-00752-9>

Stefansson, H., Walters, G. B., Sveinbjornsson, G., Tragante, V., Einarsson, G., Helgason, H., Sigurdsson, A., Beyter, D., Snaebjarnarson, A. S., Ivarsdottir, E. V., Thorleifsson, G., Halldorsson, B. V., Norddahl, G., Styrkarsdottir, U., Sturluson, A., Holm, H., Helgason, A., Moore, K., Eggertsson, H. P., Oddsson, A. H., Jonsdottir, G.A., Gunnarsson, A.F., Bjornsdottir, G., **Gisladdottir, R. S.** ... Stefansson, K. (2024). Homozygosity for R47H in TREM2 and the Risk of Alzheimer's Disease. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 390(23), 2217–2219. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMc2314334>

Skuladottir, A. T., Stefansdottir, L., Halldorsson, G. H., Stefansson, O. A., Bjornsdottir, A., Jonsson, P., Palmadottir, V., Thorgeirsson, T. E., Walters, G. B., **Gisladdottir, R. S.** ... Stefansson, K. (2024). GWAS meta-analysis reveals key risk loci in essential tremor pathogenesis. *Communications Biology*, 7(1), 504. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-024-06207-4>

**Gisladdottir, R. S.** & Stefansson, K. (2024). Using genetics to investigate the evolution of language and speech: New findings on musicality and vocal acoustics. In Nölle, J., Raviv, L., Graham, K. E., Hartmann, S., Jadoul, Y., Josserand, M., Matzinger, T., Mudd, K., Pleyer, M., Slonimska, A., Waciewicz, S. & Watson, S. (Eds.): *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 15th International Conference (Evolang XV)*. doi:10.17617/2.3587960.

Holm, H., Ivarsdottir, E., Olafsdottir, T., Thorolfsdottir, R., Eythorsson, E., Norland, K., **Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Jonsdottir, G., Unnsteinsdottir, U., Sveinsdottir, K., Jonsson, B., Andresdottir, M., Arnar, D., Arnthorsson, Á., Birgisdottir, K., Bjarnadottir, K., Bjarnadottir, S., Bjornsdottir, G., Einarsson, G., ... Stefansson, K. (2023). Physical and cognitive impact following SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large population-based case-control study. *Communications Medicine*, 3(1), 94.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.** Helgason A., Halldorsson, B.V., Helgason, H., Borsky, M., Chien, Y-R., Gudnason, J., Gudjonsson, S., Moisiuk, S., Dediu, D., Thorleifsson, G., Tragante, V., Bustamante, M., Jonsdottir, G. A., Stefansdottir, L., Rutsdottir, G., Magnusson, S. H., Hardarson, M., Ferkingstad, E., Halldorsson, G., Rognvaldsson, S., Skuladottir, A., Ivarsdottir, E. V., Norddahl, G., Thorgeirsson, G., Jonsdottir, I., Ulfarsson, M. O., Holm, H., Stefansson, H., Thorsteinsdottir, U., Gudbjartsson, D., Sulem, P., Stefansson, K. (2023). Sequence variants affecting voice pitch in humans. *Science Advances*, 9(23), eabq2969.

Nawaz, M. S., Stefansson, H., Einarsson, G., Bustamante, M., **Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Walters, G. B., Jonsdottir, G., Skuladottir, A., Bjornsdottir, G., Magnusson, S. H., Asbjornsdottir, B., Unnsteinsdottir, U., Sigurdsson, E., Jonsson, P. V., Palmadottir, V. K., Gudjonsson, S. A., Halldorsson, G. H., Ferkingstad, E., Jonsdottir, I., Thorleifsson, G., Holm, H., Thorsteinsdottir, U., Sulem, P.,

Gudbjartsson, D., Thorgeirsson, T. E., Ulfarsson, M. O., Stefansson, Kari. (2022). Thirty novel sequence variants impacting human intracranial volume. *Brain Communications*, 4(6), fcac271.

Jonsdottir, G. A., Einarsson, G., Thorleifsson, G., Magnusson, S. H., Gunnarsson, A. F., Frigge, M. L., **Gisladdottir, R. S.** ... & Stefansson, K. (2021). Genetic propensities for verbal and spatial ability have opposite effects on body mass index and risk of schizophrenia. *Intelligence*, 88, 101565.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Ivarsdottir, E. V., Helgason, A., Jonsson, L., Hannesdottir, N. K., Rutsdottir, G., Arnadottir, G. A., Skuladottir, A., Jonsson, B. A., Norddahl, G. L., Ulfarsson, M. O., Helgason, H., Halldorsson, B. V., Nawaz, M. S., Tragante, V., Sveinbjornsson, G., Thorgeirsson, T., Oddsson, A., Kristjansson, R. P., ... Stefansson, K. (2020). Sequence Variants in TAAR5 and Other Loci Affect Human Odor Perception and Naming. *Current Biology*, 30: 1-11.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Bögels, S. & Levinson, S. C. (2018). Oscillatory Brain Responses Reflect Anticipation during Comprehension of Speech Acts in Spoken Dialog. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 12, 34.

Ulfarsson, M. O., Walters, G. B., Gustafsson, O., Steinberg, S., Silva, A., Doyle, O. M., Brammer, M., Gudbjartsson D. F., Arnarsdottir, S., Jonsdottir, G. A., **Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Bjornsdottir, G., Helgason, H., Ellingsen, L. M., Halldorsson, J. G., Saemundsen, E., Stefansdottir, B., Jonsson, L., Eiriksdottir, V. K., Eiriksdottir, G. R., Johannesdottir, G. H., Unnsteinsdottir, U., Jonsdottir, B., Magnusdottir, B. B., Sulem, P., Thorsteinsdottir, U., Sigurdsson, E., Brandeis, D., Meyer-Lindenberg A., Stefansson, H. & Stefansson, K. (2017). 15q11. 2 CNV affects cognitive, structural and functional correlates of dyslexia and dyscalculia. *Translational Psychiatry*, 7(4), e1109.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Chwilla, D., & Levinson, S. C. (2015). Conversation electrified: ERP correlates of speech act recognition in underspecified utterances. *PLoS ONE*, 10(3): e0120068.

Dingemans, M., Roberts, S. G., Baranova, J., Blythe, J., Drew, P., Floyd, S., **Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Kendrick, K. H., Levinson, S. C., Manrique, E., Rossi, G., & Enfield, N. J. (2015). Universal principles in the repair of communication problems. *PLoS One*, 10(9): e0136100.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.** (2015a). *Conversation electrified: The electrophysiology of spoken speech act comprehension* (PhD thesis). Radboud University, Nijmegen.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.** (2015b). Other-initiated repair in Icelandic. *Open Linguistics*, 1(1), 309-328.

Enfield, N. J., Dingemans, M., Baranova, J., Blythe, J., Brown, P., Dirksmeyer, T., Drew, P., Floyd, S., Gipper, S., **Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Hoymann, G., Kendrick, K., Levinson, S. C., Magyari, L., Manrique, E., Rossi, G., San Roque, L., og Torreira, F. (2013). Huh? What? – A first survey in 21 languages. In M. Hayashi, G. Raymond, & J. Sidnell (Eds.), *Conversational repair and human understanding* (pp. 343-380). New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Gisladdottir, R. S.**, Chwilla, D., Schriefers, H., & Levinson, S. C. (2012). Speech act recognition in conversation: Experimental evidence. In N. Miyake, D. Peebles, & R. P. Cooper (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1596-1601). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

## Conferences, Meetings and Other Talks

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Gísladóttir, R.S. (2025, November). *Evolution of Human Communication: From GWAS to ancient genomes*. Poster presented at Ancient Genomes: Perspectives on Human Biology and Medicine conference in London, UK.

Participation in the Musicality Genomics Consortium meeting in Sitges, Spain, September 2025.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2025, February). *Málnotkunarfræði og samskipti*. [Pragmatics and interaction]. Talk for University of Reykjavík (Háskólagrunnur).

Jónsdóttir, Á. and Gísladóttir, R.S. (2025, January). *Heyrðu: notkun og blutverk* [Use and function of *heyrdur* in Icelandic]. Talk, Rask conference of the Icelandic Linguistics Society.

Participation in the Musicality Genomics Consortium meeting in Trento, Italy, September 2024.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2024, August). *Heyrðu, af hverju málnotkunarfræði?* [Hey, why Pragmatics?]. Talk for the association of teachers of Icelandic (Samtök móðurmálskennara).

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2024, June). *Genetics of language and pragmatics: Why and How?* Talk presented in EvLab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA.

Gísladóttir, R.S., Stefánsson, K. (2024, June). *Using genetics to investigate the evolution of language and speech: New findings on musicality and vocal acoustics*. Talk presented at Evolang XV, Madison, Netherlands.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2024, March). *Genetics of language and pragmatics: Why and how?* Talk presented in the 2024 IUSS Linguistics Seminars, Pavia, Italy.

Gísladóttir, R.S., Skúladóttir, Á., Jónsdóttir, G., Stefánsson, H., Sulem, P. and Stefánsson, K. (2023, September). *Musicality traits in 20,000 individuals show genetic and phenotypic links to language, intelligence, and personality*. Poster presented at MusicGens meeting in Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Gísladóttir, R.S. and Stefánsson, K. (2023, July). *Musicality traits in 20,000 individuals show behavioural and genetic links to language*. Talk presented at Musical Minds workshop at University of Konstanz, Germany.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2023, March). *Hvað getur erfðafræðin sagt okkur um þróun tungumáls?* [What can genetics tell us about the evolution of language?]. Talk presented at Humanities conference (Hugvísindaping), University of Iceland.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2022, November). *A GWAS of Speech Acoustics Identifies Variants Associated with Voice Pitch and Cardiovascular Traits* [poster presentation]. NSHG-PM 2022 Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Participation in the Musicality Genomics Consortium inaugural meeting in Trento, Italy, September 2022.

Participation in the CoMorMent meeting in Grímborgir, Iceland, April 2022.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2020, September). *Framlag samskiptarannsóknna til almennra málvísinda og sálfræði tungumáls* [Contribution of interaction research to general linguistics and psychology of language]. Talk presented at Hugvísindafing [Humanities conference], University of Iceland.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2020, February). *Með opnum huga: Heimur tækni, texta og vísinda* [With an open mind: The world of technology, text and science]. Talk presented at the *Future of Humanities* symposium of the board of humanities students at University of Iceland.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2020, January). *Samskiptabylling í almennum málvísindum?* [Interaction revolution in linguistics?]. Talk, Rask conference of the Icelandic Linguistics Society.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2019, November). „Pepp“ fyrir íslensku: Um heyrðu, ha og almenn málvísindi [„Pep“ for Icelandic: On *hey*, *hub* and general linguistics]. Talk presented at a symposium of Mímir, the student association for Icelandic and linguistics at the University of Iceland.

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2019, March). *Rauntími samskipta (enchrony): Heilinn, „ha“ og HÍ* [Enchrony of interaction: The brain, *hub* and University of Iceland]. Talk presented at a meeting of Félag íslenskra fræða [the Icelandic Studies Association].

Gísladóttir, R.S. (2015, February). *Um málgjörðir og heilalínurit* [On speech acts and EEG]. Invited talk, lunch symposium of the Icelandic Linguistics Society and University of Iceland Linguistics Centre.

Gísladóttir, R. S., Chwilla, D., & Levinson, S. C. (2014, June). *Neuropragmatics and conversation: Experimental findings on action ascription*. Talk presented at ICCA 2014, the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Conversation Analysis, Los Angeles, USA.

Gísladóttir, R. S. (2014, January). *Comprehension of speech acts in spoken dialogues: An EEG study*. Talk, Semantics and Pragmatics Colloquium, Radboud University, the Netherlands.

Gísladóttir, R. S. (2014, January). *The timing of speech act comprehension*. Invited talk, Center for Analysis and Design of Intelligent Agents (CADIA), Reykjavik University, Iceland.

Gísladóttir, R. S., Chwilla, D., & Levinson, S. C. (2013, September). *Early speech act comprehension in spoken dialogue: Evidence from ERPs*. Poster presented at XPRAG-2013, the 5th Biennial Conference of Experimental Pragmatics, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Gísladóttir, R. S., Chwilla, D., & Levinson, S. C. (2013, April). *Speech act comprehension in spoken dialogue: An ERP study*. Poster presented at 20th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, USA.

Gísladóttir, R. S., Chwilla, D., Schriefers, H., & Levinson, S. C. (2012, August). *Speech act recognition in conversation: Experimental evidence*. Poster presented at 34th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sapporo, Japan.

## Service

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2023 – present	Member of the advisory board for the Icelandic Centre for Research Infrastructure Fund
2019 – present	Chair of the Linguistics Program at University of Iceland
2022 – 2025	Chair of the International Vigdís Prize committee
2021 – 2024	Chair of the Linguistics Institute, University of Iceland
2020 – 2022	Elected representative of the humanities at the University of Iceland „parliament“ (Háskólaþing)
2020 – 2021	Member of the graduate studies committee of the Faculty of Icelandic and Comparative Cultural Studies
2016	Member of the preparation group for the establishment of the Icelandic Women in Science association
2010 – 2013	Representative of PhD students in the web committee of Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

## Media Coverage

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### International media

- Nature: [Have a high-pitched voice? It might be in your genes](#). June 9, 2023.
- Various media: [Coverage of voice pitch findings \(Altmetric overview\)](#). June, 2023.
- New York Times: [People With This Mutation Can't Smell Stinky Fish](#). October 8, 2020.
- Nature: [Can't smell stinky fish? It might be in your genes](#). October 8, 2020.
- New Scientist: [Rotten fish smell sweeter if you have a specific genetic mutation](#). October 8, 2020.

### Icelandic media

- Icelandic national television (RÚV): Commentator in the Icelandic TV show [Klassíkin okkar](#) [Classical music]. August 30, 2024.
- Icelandic national radio (Rás 1) and Ruv.is: [Dimm rödd eða björt? Genin hafa sitt að segja um það](#). [Deep voice or bright? Genes matter]. June 13, 2023.
- Bylgjan radio and Visir.is: [News interview on research on voice pitch](#). June 11, 2023.
- Morgunblaðið newspaper and Mbl.is: [Samband tónhæðar og líkamlegrar heilsu](#). [Relationship between voice pitch and health]. June 10, 2023.
- Icelandic national radio (Rás 1) and Ruv.is: [4% Íslendinga finna enga fiskifýlu](#) [4% of Icelanders do not smell fish stench]. October 26, 2020.
- Icelandic national television (RÚV): Commentator in the Icelandic documentary [Sporið](#) [The Step] on beat perception and relation to language and evolution. October 5, 2019.
- Fréttablaðið newspaper and Visir.is: [Einstök rannsókn á tóneyra og takvísi](#) [Unique research on tone and beat perception]. March 2, 2019.
- Morgunblaðið newspaper and Mbl.is: [Kanna tónnæmi og taktvísi](#) [Investigate tone and beat sensitivity]. February 26, 2019.
- National radio, Rás 2 (Morgunútvarpið): Commentator on research on [amusia and beat perception](#). February 25, 2019.