

Prof. Chris Sinha: Career Resumé

[Christopher Sinha - University of East Anglia](#)

[Chris Sinha Official Website](#)

[Chris Sinha \(0000-0002-7306-2400\) - ORCID](#)

Chris Sinha is Honorary Professor in the School of Psychology, University of East Anglia. He gained his BA in Developmental Psychology at the University of Sussex and his doctorate *cum laude* at the University of Utrecht. Chris has taught in Departments of Psychology, Education and Language and Communication, in Brazil, China, Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, India, and Sweden, including three positions at Faculty full professor rank. He held the position of Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth, 2002-2005. He is an experienced lecturer at international conferences and workshops (including 50+ keynote and plenary lectures at international conferences), and he has taught at many graduate and research schools. He is Past President of the UK Cognitive Linguistics Association and of the International Cognitive Linguistics Association; Founding General Editor (2009-2016) of the journal *Language and Cognition*; Series Co-Editor for the *Bloomsbury Studies in Cognitive Linguistics*; and member of four international journal editorial boards and four book series editorial boards. He was organizer in 2004 of the First International Conference on Language Culture and Mind, and again the 7th edition in 2016, and continues as a member of the scientific committee of this biannual conference. Chris Sinha's central research interest is in the relations between language, cognition and culture in human development and evolution.

Chris Sinha's research fields include comparative studies of the conceptualization of space and time, cultural practices in cognitive and language development, and the evolution in the human species of communication, language and symbolization. His empirical research spans experimental and field-based studies. He has held numerous research grants, including from ESRC (UK), Danish Research Council for the Humanities, European Union and European Science Foundation. He has authored 3 monographs and more than 150 articles, and edited 6 volumes (including the [Oxford Handbook of Human Symbolic Evolution - Nathalie Gontier, Andy Lock, Chris Sinha - Oxford University Press \(oup.com\)](#) published in 2024; in disciplines including anthropology, linguistics, education, evolutionary biology, connection science, as well as developmental and cultural psychology).

Full-time Career Appointments (since 2000)

- 2014 - 2022 Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science, School of Foreign Languages, Hunan University (p/t from 2019)
- 2011 - 2014 Visiting Professor, School of Languages and Literature (Linguistics), Lund University
- 2002 - 2011 Professor of Psychology of Language, University of Portsmouth.
(September 2002-February 2005 Head of Department of Psychology).
- 2000 - 2002 Professor in Language and Cognition, University of Southern Denmark, Institute of Language and Communication.

Honorary and Visiting Positions (since 2005)

- August 2019 - Honorary Professor, School of Psychology, University of East Anglia.
- May 2020 - Senior Research Fellow, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Laboratory of Cultural Health.
- 2020 - 2022 Visiting Professor, School of Foreign Languages, Southwest University, Chongqing.
- August 2019 - July 2024 Honorary Professor, School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies, University of East Anglia.
- July 2011 – June 2013 President, International Cognitive Linguistics Association.
- September 2010 Centre Visiting Professor, Lund University, Centre for Cognitive Semiotics.
- June 2009 University Visiting Professor (Catedrático), Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.
- October 2005 – September 2007 First President, UK Cognitive Linguistics Association.

Journal Editorship

2009-2016 Founding General Editor, *Language and Cognition* (Cambridge University Press)

Book Series Editorship

2024 onwards (jointly with Prof Wen Xu, Southwest University)

[Bloomsbury Studies in Language and Cognition: Bloomsbury Publishing \(UK\) - Bloomsbury](#)

Current Journal Editorial Boards

2010 onwards *Frontiers in Cultural Psychology*. Review Editorial Board (Nature Publications).

2014 onwards *International Journal of Language and Culture*. Founding member, editorial board

2014 onwards *Cognitive Linguistic Studies*. Founding member, editorial board (John Benjamins).

2016 onwards *Language and Cognition* (Cambridge University Press)

Current Book Series Editorial Boards

2005 onwards *Advances in Cognitive Linguistics*. Equinox Publishers: New York.

2008 onwards *China International Forum on Cognitive Linguistics*. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press: Beijing.

2010 onwards *Studies In Applied Philosophy, Epistemology And Rational Ethics (SAPERE)*. Springer: Heidelberg, Berlin.

2011 onwards *Cognitive Linguistic Studies in Cultural Contexts*. John Benjamins: Amsterdam.

Lecture Invitations last 10 years

19 Keynote and Plenary lectures at international conferences (of a career total of more than 50)

12 invited symposium / workshop lectures (of a career total of more than 75)

34 invited summer school lectures (of a career total of about 100)

PUBLICATIONS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

Peer-reviewed journal articles in the last 10 years (15 of a career total of 50)

Arbib, M., d'Errico, F., Gärdenfors, P., Heine, B., Kuteva, T., Nair, R.B., Sinha, C. (in press) Human origins and language origins 2: from symbols via pantomime to language and narrative. *PaleoAnthropology*

D'Errico, F., Sinha, C., Arbib, M., Gärdenfors, P., Heine, B., Kuteva, T., Nair, R.B. (in press) Human origins and language origins 1: a polycentric scenario for biocultural niche expansion. *PaleoAnthropology*.

Yang, Y., Sinha, C., Filipovic, L. (2023) Sequential time construal is primary in temporal uses of Mandarin Chinese *qian* 'front' and *hou* 'back'. *Language Sciences* 95, 101511. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langsci.2022.101511>

Yang, Y. C. and Sinha, C. (2023) A cognitive semantics analysis of the directional motion verbs *wang* 往 and *lai* 来 in the *YiChing*. *Circulo de Linguística Aplicada a la Comunicación* 94, 303-316 doi: 10.5209/clac.71496

Sinha, C. (2022) Twists and turns: Ahead of or behind the curve? Open peer commentary on the article "The Maturanian Turn: Good Prospects for the Language Sciences" by Alexander V. Kravchenko. *Constructivist Foundations* 18(1): 43-46.

Sinha, C. G. (2020). Language, culture and mind: Independence or interdependence? *Revista da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais*, 27(1), 78-105. [Language, Culture and Mind: Independence or Interdependence? | Revista da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais](#)

Lu, M., van de Weijer, J., Sinha, C. and Liu, Z. (2019) Optional ergative marking in Tujia. *Lingua* 223, 46-66. doi: 10.1016/j.lingua.2019.02.011

Sinha, C. (2018) Praxis, symbol and language: developmental, ecological and linguistic issues. *Interaction Studies* 19: 1-2, 239-255. doi: 10.1075/is.17025.sin

Arbib, M.A. & 19 others including C. Sinha (2018). The Comparative Neuroprimatology 2017 (CNP-2017) road map for research on how the brain got language. *Interaction Studies* 19: 1-2, 370-387. doi: 10.1075/is.18013.arb

Sampaio, W., Sinha, C., Silva Sinha, V. da, and Zinken, J. (2017). A noção de tempo: uma construção social e linguística. *Revista Brasileira de Linguística Antropológica* 8.1: 47-60.

- Silva Sinha, V. da, Sampaio, W. Sinha, C. (2017) The many ways to count the world: counting terms in indigenous languages and cultures of Rondônia, Brazil. *Brief Encounters* 1.1 doi: 10.24134/be.v1i1
- Sinha, C. (2015) Language and other artifacts: socio-cultural dynamics of niche construction. *Frontiers in Psychology (Cognitive Science)* 6: 1601. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01601
- Sinha, C. (2015) Ontogenesis, semiosis and the epigenetic dynamics of biocultural niche construction. *Cognitive Development* 36: 202-209. doi: 10.1016/j.cogdev.2015.09.006
- Sinha, C., & Bernárdez, E. (2015) Espaço, tempo e espaço-tempo: metáforas, mapas e fusões. *Revista Brasileira de Linguística Antropológica* 7: 53-77.
- Sinha, C. and Gärdenfors, P. (2014) Time, space and events in language and cognition: a comparative view. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 1326: 72-81. doi: 10.1111/nyas.12491
- Research and Overview Chapters in Edited Volumes in the last 10 years (18 of a career total of 59)**
- Sinha, C. and Bernárdez, E. (2015) Language, culture, and space-time mapping. In [Hans-Georg Wolf](#), [Frank Polzenhagen](#) (Ed.) *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Culture*. New York: Routledge, pp. 309-324.
- Silva Sinha, V. da, and Sinha, C. (2026) Time and Its cultural conceptualization in language. In Hilary Nesi and Petar Milin (Eds.) *International Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics (3rd Edition)*, [Volume 6](#), Elsevier, 272-276. Doi: [10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.00622-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.00622-0)
- Sinha, C. (2026) Metaphor, myth, and symbol in the grain of time. In Rita Brdar-Szabó and Mario Brdar (eds.) *Thinking and Speaking about Time*. Amsterdam (John Benjamins). (Reprint). <https://doi.org/10.1075/hcp.81.01sin>
- Silva Sinha, V. da, and Sinha, C. (2025) Time and Its cultural conceptualization in language. *Reference Module in Social Sciences*. Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.00622-0>
- Sinha, C. (2025) Biocultural evolution and human language diversity. In Antonio Benítez-Burraco, Olga Ivanova, Isabel Fernández López and Milagros Fernández Pérez (Eds.) *Biolinguistics at the cutting edge: promises, achievements, and challenges*, pp. 359-379. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. https://www.degruyter.com/document/isbn/9783111294247/html?lang=en&srsliid=AfmBOorNWdqvuac8pK3ytUypTbFDgq8ig_klXI224MdDUWvCOGXi4fi
- Sinha, C. and Silva Sinha, V. da (2024) Learning about, learning from, learning with – Towards a critical practice and theory of situated language sciences. In Steffensen, S., Döring, M. and Cowley, S. (eds.) *Language as an Ecological Phenomenon: Language and Bioecologies in human-environment relationships*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, pp. 221-253. DOI: 10.5040/9781350304512.ch-010 <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/language-as-an-ecological-phenomenon-9781350304482/>
- Sinha, C. (2024) Metaphor, myth and symbol in the grain of time. In Nathalie Gontier, Andrew Lock, and Chris Sinha (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Human Symbolic Evolution*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1053-1074.
- Sinha, C. (2024) Artefacts, symbols, and the socio-cultural dynamics of niche construction. In Nathalie Gontier, Andy Lock, and Chris Sinha (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Human Symbolic Evolution*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 217-238.
- Sinha, C. (2023) Semiosis in human development: Psychology, sign, artefact. In Amir Biglari (Ed.) *Open Semiotics. Vol 4 Life and its Extensions*. Paris, L'Harmattan, pp. 185-200.
- Sinha, C. (2021) Culture in language and cognition. In Wen, X., & Taylor, J.R. (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics*. New York, Routledge, pp. 387-407.
- Sinha, C. (2020) Praxis, symbol and language: developmental, ecological and linguistic issues. In Michael Arbib (ed.) *How the Brain Got Language – Towards a New Road Map*. Amsterdam, John Benjamins. *Benjamins Current Topics* 112, pp. 239-255. DOI 10.1075/bct.112.16sin (Reprinted).
- Arbib, M.A. & 20 others including C. Sinha (2020). The Comparative Neuroprimatology 2017 (CNP-2017) road map for research on how the brain got language. In Michael Arbib (ed.) *How the Brain Got Language – Towards a New Road Map*. Amsterdam, John Benjamins. Benjamins

- Current Topics 112, pp. 370-387. DOI 10.1075/bct.112.23arb (Reprinted).
- Grinevald, C. and Sinha, C. (2020) North-South relations in linguistic science: Collaboration or colonialism? In Vera da Silva Sinha, Ana Moreno Núñez and Zhen Tian (eds.) *Language, Culture and Identity: Signs of Life*. Cognitive Linguistics Studies in Cultural Contexts Series 13. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 43-62. (Reprinted).
- Sampaio, W., Silva Sinha, V. da and Sinha, C. (2020). Embodiment, personification, identity: Metaphor and world view in a Brazilian Tupian culture and language. In Vera da Silva Sinha, Ana Moreno Núñez and Zhen Tian (eds.) *Language, Culture and Identity: Signs of Life*. Cognitive Linguistics Studies in Cultural Contexts Series 13. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 179-200.
- Sinha, C. (2019) Appealing rhetorics: Ideology and argumentation. In Maier, R. (Ed.) *Norms in Argumentation. Proceedings of the Conference on Norms 1988*. Studies of Argumentation in Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis, 8. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton. (Reprinted).
- Sinha, C. (2018) Significado y materialidad. El lenguaje como fundamento de los artefactos. In Moro, C. & Muller Mirza, N. (Eds.) *Semiótica, cultura y desarrollo psicológico*, Machado Nuevo Aprendizaje 11. Madrid: Machado Libros.
- Sinha, C. (2017) Getting the measure of meaning. In Barbara Dancygier (Ed.) *The Cambridge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 493-497.
- Sinha, C., Silva Sinha, V. da, Zinken, J. and Sampaio, W. (2016). When time is not space: The social and linguistic construction of time intervals and temporal event relations in an Amazonian culture. In Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, B. (Ed.) *Conceptualizations of Time*. Human Cognitive Processing Series 52. Amsterdam, John Benjamins, pp. 151-186.
- Grinevald, C. and Sinha, C. (2016) North-South relations in linguistic science: Collaboration or colonialism? In Luna Filipovic and Martin Pütz (eds.) *Endangered Languages and Languages in Danger: Issues of documentation, policy and language rights*. IMPACT Series 42: Studies in Language and Society. Amsterdam, John Benjamins, pp. 27-43.

Monographs published in the last 10 years (1 of a career total of 3)

- Sinha C. (2017) *Ten Lectures on Language, Culture and Mind. Cultural, developmental and evolutionary perspectives in cognitive linguistics*. Boston and Leiden, Brill. x + 180 pp.
<http://www.brill.com/products/book/language-culture-and-mind>

Edited Volumes and Journal Special Issues in the last 10 years (3 of a career total of 6)

- Wen, X. and Sinha, C. (eds.) (in press) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Cognitive Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gontier, N., Lock, A. and Sinha, C. (eds.) (2024) *The Oxford Handbook of Human Symbolic Evolution*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Online edition published 2021).
[Oxford Handbook of Human Symbolic Evolution - Nathalie Gontier, Andy Lock, Chris Sinha - Oxford University Press \(oup.com\)](https://www.oup.com/academic/product/oxford-handbook-of-human-symbolic-evolution)

- Lenninger, S., Sinha, C. and Sonesson, G. (eds.) (2015). Special issue of *Cognitive Development* on cognitive and semiotic development. *Cognitive Development* 36: 127-209.

Non-print media

Research into the language and cultural conceptualization of time in an indigenous Amazonian language was prominently featured in 2012 in an episode of the Discovery Science TV series *Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman* and was presented in a podcast in 2019 by the Norwegian App company *Timely*: 06/2019. **Podcast: The Language of Time** <https://memory.ai/timely/abouttime>

Citations (as of 20/06/2026)

| | | |
|---|------|------------|
| Google Scholar (199 listed publications) | All | Since 2021 |
| Citations | 5966 | 1239 |
| h-index | 36 | 18 |

ResearchGate Citations: 2689, h-index: 26 (135 listed publications)

Listed No. 1 in Elsevier/Scopus list of highly cited researchers in China 2022/3

(language and linguistics) <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/7-LBwZIP5wNp1OJnHKZ7rQ>