

## Yu'an YANG

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### Research interest

- BROAD      Language Acquisition, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics
- NARROW     Interrogative syntax and semantics and question pragmatics, and their acquisition

### Education

- 2017-2022    Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, USA  
                  Dissertation: *The acquisition of speech acts and clause types*  
                  Supervisors: Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz  
                  Expected in 2022
- 2016          Visiting Student, Linguistic Department, UMass Amherst, USA
- 2010          Visiting Student, Linguistic Department, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2008-2012    B.A. in English Language and Literature, Tsinghua University, China  
                  Thesis: *The acquisition of Mandarin sentence final particle ba : a corpus study*  
                  Supervisor: Yang Xiaolu

### Employment

- 2012-2015    Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages,  
                  Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Publications

- to appear    [Yu'an Yang, Daniel Goodhue, Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz. "Do children know \*whanything\*? 3-year-olds know the ambiguity of \*wh\*-phrases in Mandarin." \*Language Acquisition\*.](#)

- to appear [Yu'an Yang, Daniel Goodhue, Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz. "Are you asking me or telling me? Learning to identify questions in speech to infants."](#) Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA).
- to appear [Nick Huang\\*, Yu'an Yang\\*, Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz. "Learning attitude verbs in wh-in situ languages."](#) Proceedings of Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 46. (\* made equal contribution to the project)
- 2021 [Yang, Yu'an. "Representing an issue as open: Mandarin discourse particle \*ba\*."](#) Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 30.
- 2021 [Liu, Mingming, Yang, Yu'an. "Modal \*wh\*-indefinites in Mandarin".](#) Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 25.
- 2021 [Hacquard, Valentine, Yu'an Yang, Jeffery Lidz. "Acquisition of belief reports by Mandarin-speaking children."](#) Proceedings of Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 45.
- 2021 [Liu Ying, Yu'an Yang. "An Experimental Study of the Presupposed Exhaustivity of Mandarin \*shi\* Clefts."](#) Modern Foreign Languages [*Xiandai Waiyu*] 44(5): 669-680.
- 2017 [Yang, Yu'an and Ying Liu. "Acquisition of exhaustivity: Evidence from Mandarin."](#) Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 47), vol. 3: 275-284. Edited by Andrew Lamont and Katerina Tetzloff.
- 2017 [Liu, Ying and Yu'an Yang. "To Exhaust, or not to Exhaust: An experimental study on Mandarin \*shi\*-clefts."](#) Proceedings of Glow-in-Asia XI.

#### Refereed Presentations

- 2022 [Yu'an Yang, Daniel Goodhue, Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz. "Are you asking me or telling me? Learning to identify questions in speech to infants."](#) The Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA).
- 2022 [Yu'an Yang, Nick Huang. "Know what vs. think what: Learning verb sub-categorization and wh-in situ."](#) The Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA).
- 2021 [Nick Huang\\*, Yu'an Yang\\*, Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz. "Learning attitude verbs in wh-in situ languages."](#) Boston University Conference

on Language Development (BUCLD) 46. (\* made equal contribution to the project)

- 2020 Yang, Yu'an. "Representing an issue as open: Mandarin discourse particle *ba*" Poster at the 30th Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT).
- 2020 Liu, Mingming, Yang, Yu'an. "Modal *wh*-indefinites in Mandarin" Talk at Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 25.
- 2020 Hacquard, Valentine, Yu'an Yang, Jeffery Lidz. "Acquisition of belief reports by Mandarin-speaking children." Talk at Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 45.
- 2020 Yang, Yu'an. "No commitments: questioning and asserting with the Mandarin discourse particle *ba*" Talk at the 56th Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS). [canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2020 Liu Mingming, Yang, Yu'an. "Modal *wh*-indefinites in Mandarin" Poster at the 56th Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS). [canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2020 Yang, Yu'an. "Commitment issues: a unified analysis of the Mandarin discourse particle *ba*" Talk at the 44th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC).[canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2019 Yang, Yu'an, Daniel Goodhue, Valentine Hacquard, Jeffery Lidz. "Do children know *whanything*? Acquisition of *wh*-ambiguity in Mandarin." Talk at West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 38.
- 2016 Yang, Yu'an and Ying Liu. 2016. "Acquisition of exhaustivity: Evidence from Mandarin." Poster presented at the 47th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 47).
- 2016 Liu, Ying and Yu'an Yang. 2016. "Exhaustivity of *shi ... (de)* in Mandarin: Experimental evidence." Poster presented at the Student Session at the 2016 European Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI).
- 2016 Liu, Ying and Yu'an Yang. 2016. "Exhaustivity in Mandarin Chinese: Experimental evidence with three types of sentences". Presentation at the Student Session at the 2016 North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI 2016).

- 2015 Yang, Yu'an and Thomas H-T Lee. 2015. "Acquisition of verb argument structure in Mandarin: against the verb island hypothesis". Presentation at the 9th International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL-9).
- 2014 Yang, Yu'an. 2014. "Non-canonical object in Mandarin Chinese: a corpus study", Presentation at the Annual Linguistic Forum of Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK).
- 2012 Yang, Yu'an and Xiaolu Yang. 2012. "First language acquisition and prosodic structures: A case study of the acquisition of sentence final particle *ba*", Presentation at the annual conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-20), Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.

### Honors & Awards

- 2022 Finalist of [Linguistic Society of America's fifth annual Five-Minute Linguist \(5ML\) Event](#)
- 2019 Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland
- 2018 NASSLLI Scholarship, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017-  
2017 University of Maryland Graduate Fellowship  
ESSLLI Student Grant, Toulouse, France
- 2012-2014 Hong Kong Postgraduate Research Studentship, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2013-2014 The Commercial Press Scholarship, The Chinese Linguistic Institute (LINC), Beijing, China
- 2012 Student Travel Grant, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
- 2009-2012 Academic Excellency Scholarship, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
- 2010 Student Research Training Grant (SRT), Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Teaching

- 2020 Fall Main Instructor [online] *Questions: Meaning, Use, Learning (LING449E)*  
Undergraduate Seminar, University of Maryland.
- Designed and taught a seminar of 7 student
  - Created and graded the assignments and held office hours
- 2021 Spring Teaching Assistant, Language Acquisition (LING444), University of Maryland.
- 2020 Spring Teaching Assistant, Philosophy of Language (PHIL360/LING350), University of Maryland.
- 2019 Fall Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Linguistics (LING 200), University of Maryland.
- 2019 Spring Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Linguistics (LING 200), University of Maryland.
- 2015 Fall Teaching Assistant, Chinese syntax and semantics (LING 5502) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2015 Spring Teaching Assistant, First Language Acquisition (LING 3201) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2014 Fall Teaching Assistant, Chinese Language Acquisition (LING 5203) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2014 Spring Teaching Assistant, Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics (LING 5102) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2013 Fall Teaching Assistant, Approaches to English Grammar (LING 5302) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2013 Spring Teaching Assistant, Topics in Second Language Acquisition (LING 5201) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2012 Fall Teaching Assistant, Foundations in Language Acquisition (LING 5103) The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2009 Summer Instructor and Curriculum Coordinator, Speaking and Writing in English, Tsinghua University Summer Program, Chongqing, China.
- 2009 Summer

Instructor, Speaking and Writing in English, Tsinghua University Summer Educational Support Program, Fujian, China.

2008 Summer Instructor, Chinese Immersion Program, International student division, The Second High School affiliated with Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China.

### Further Trainings

2018-2021 Teaching Certificate, University Teaching and Learning Program, University of Maryland.

2018 North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI 2018), Carnegie Mellon University, USA

2017 European Summer School of Logic, Linguistics and Information (ESSLLI 2017), University of Toulouse, France

2016 North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI 2016), Rutgers University, USA

2015 European Summer School of Logic, Linguistics and Information (ESSLLI 2015), UPF, Spain

2014 Summer School of Linguistics, Linguistic Institute of China (LINC), Capital Normal University, China

2013 Summer School of Linguistics, Linguistic Institute of China (LINC), Beijing Language and Culture University, China

2011 Linguistic Institute 2011, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

### Advising experience

2021 Mentoring undergraduate researchers: James Burns, Ziqing Ji, Yang Xiaoyu

- Project: Acquisition of Questions and interrogatives

2018 Mentor in **PULSAR** undergraduate program, Language Science Center, University of Maryland

- Work with undergraduate students to explore different career options

- For those interested in research, help connect them with faculty members and labs
- Organize seminars for undergraduates to learn about different topics and methodologies in language science
- Lead outreach events with undergraduates

### Service

- Reviewer for *Natural Language Semantics*
- Reviewer for the student session for North American Society of Language, Logic, and Information (NASLLI)
- Co-chair of the Linguistic Graduate Student Association at University of Maryland
- Co-chair of the Colloquium Committee, University of Maryland
- Co-organizer of workshop for PCIBex, University of Maryland
- Language Science Fellow, University of Maryland
- Outreach volunteer at Maryland Day, University of Maryland
- Volunteer note-taker and tutor for students with special needs, Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Professional Affiliation

Society for Research in Child Development  
International Congress of Infant Studies  
Linguistic Society of America (LSA)  
Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK)  
Linguistic Society of China (LINC)

### Skills

#### COMPUTING SKILLS

- Languages: Python R, Bash, SQL, MATLAB, CLAN, Javascript, Jekyll
- Toolkits: Praat, RoBERTa, Kaldi toolkit for automatic speech recognition

NATURAL LANGUAGES

- Native: Mandarin
- Near-native: English
- Basic: German, Cantonese

Last update: Dec, 2021