Tiānfàng Chén

(+86) 158-9999-6888
tianfang.chen@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk
Jesus College, Turl Street, Oxford, OX1 3DW
http://www.tianfangchen.com

INTERESTS

Broader interests: Cognitive science, semantics & pragmatics, philosophy of language.

Current focus: Computational modeling of communication, coordination and convention formation in language, superlinguistics, pragmatics of LLMs.

EDUCATION

Ling Philology & Phonetics Fac, University of Oxford   2025 - 2027 *(expected)*
MPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

Department of Philosophy, Sun Yat-sen University   2021 - 2025
BPhil in Logic, Minor in Psychology   GPA: 92/100, Ranking: 1/26
Thesis: *The Model and Experimental Study of Rational Speech Acts under Semantic Deviation* (in Chinese, supervised by Liping Tang)

PROJECTS

LLM experiments on linguistic politeness in social networks   2025.06 - Present
Comparing LLM perceptions of social distance and power and their effects on polite requests, and modeling trade-offs between conventional and strategic politeness.

Phonological Survey of the Meixian Hakka   2024.03 - 2024.06
Multimodal perception study of the pre-nuclear glide (/v/ in Hakka vs. /u/ in Mandarin), using homophone-list sampling and Praat for acoustic/perceptual analysis.

Social and Political Philosophy of Language   2023.01 - 2023.03
Essentialism and convention in the Chinese "X-dog" epithet: how essentialist assumptions shape its emergence, conventionalization, and historical-to-modern evolution.

PRESENTATIONS

Chen, T. (2025, September 17-19). *Communicating Under Different Meanings: Reflections from the Literal Listener* [Poster presentation]. 11th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPRAG 2025), Cambridge, UK.

INTERNSHIPS

Tencent Ethereal Audio Lab | Shenzhen, China   2025.02 - 2025.06
World Resources Institute | Beijing, China   2024.07 - 2025.01

AWARDS

Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Sun Yat-sen University   2025
China National Scholarship, Ministry of Education   2023, 2024
Academic Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University   2022, 2023, 2024

SKILLS

Coding: Python, Java, R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Git, PyTorch.
Experiment: jsPsych, OpenSesame, NAODAO, Prolific.
Others: LaTeX, SPSS, Praat, etc.

LANGUAGES

Native: Chinese (Mandarin, Hakka, Cantonese)
Fluent: English (TOEFL 110)
Intermediate: Japanese (N1), French (CEFR B1)
Conlang: Solreso, Esperanto