

## Cheng Xiao

PhD Candidate, Linguistics Program

University of South Carolina

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<https://chengxiaocx.github.io>

[Curriculum Vitae, updated Jan 2024]

## Education

- 2019-present    **Ph.D. in Linguistics**  
University of South Carolina, United States.  
Dissertation: *The processing of emotional prosody and semantics in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences*  
Committee: Jiang Liu, Rutvik Desai (co-chairs), Amit Almor, Svetlana Shinkareva
- 2013-2016    **M.A. in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics**  
Wuhan University, China.  
Thesis: *The noun acquisition disorders and rehabilitation of children with autism spectrum disorder in Mandarin Chinese*
- 2009-2013    **B.A. in Humanities**  
2010-2013    **B.Ec. in Finance**  
Wuhan University, China.  
Project: *The Chinese characters in the eyes of non-native Chinese speakers*

## Academic Appointments

- 2023-present    Graduate Research Assistant, Desai Lab, Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina
- 2022-2023    Graduate Teaching Assistant (*Instructor of Record*), Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
- 2021, 2022    Graduate Research Assistant, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
- 2019-2022    Graduate Teaching Assistant (*Instructor of Record*), Chinese Program, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina

## Grants

- 2023-2025    **National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (Ling-DDRIG)**, BCS-2234914 (“*Doctoral Dissertation Research: The semantic effect on the processing of emotional prosody in a tone language: A neurolinguistic study*”, co-PI; PI: Jiang Liu; co-PI: Rutvik Desai), National Science Foundation, USD 17,780.
- 2022-2023    **University of South Carolina SPARC Graduate Research Grant**, Proposal # 120700-22-59283 (“*Bridging meaning and sound: The effects of semantics on emotional prosody processing in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences*”, PI; mentors: Jiang Liu, Rutvik Desai), University of South Carolina, USD 4,938.
- 2020-2021    Graduate Teaching Resource Development Grant (for course enrichment of CHIN121: Elementary Mandarin Chinese), University of South Carolina, USD 400.
- 2020-2021    Graduate Teaching Resource Development Grant (for course enrichment of CHIN321: Advance Mandarin Chinese), University of South Carolina, USD 400.

## Publications

- Xiao, C., & Liu, J.** (*submitted*). Semantic effects on the perception of emotional prosody in native and non-native speakers.
- Xiao, C., & Liu, J.** (*in revision*). The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences.
- Liu, J., & **Xiao, C.** (2021). Tone category learning should serve tone word learning: an experiment of integrating pronunciation teaching in L2 Chinese curriculum. In Edited Volume *The acquisition of Chinese as a second language pronunciation: Segments and prosody*. Edited by Yang, Chunsheng: Springer. [http://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3809-4\\_6](http://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3809-4_6)
- Xiao, C.** (2017). The language acquisition strategy for children with ASD. *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction*, 10, 35-37. (in Chinese)

## Other Publications

- Wang, B. X., Chen, S., Zhou, F., Liu, J., **Xiao, C.**, & Chan, A. (2023). Declarative or declarative question? —On the acoustics of English prosody of Hong Kong trilingual children with autism spectrum disorder. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 153(3\_supplement), A289-A289. <https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0018879>
- Luo, H., Zhao, S., Luo, J., Tan, Xin., Ruan, G., Chen, Y., ..., **Xiao, C.**, ..., & Zhu, Y. (2018). *Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Poetry Rhythms*. Zhonghua Book Company. ISBN 978-7101129779. (in Chinese)
- Tang, C., Luo, X., Zhan, Y., Li, H., Mo, Y., Zhang, Wen., Sun, D., Zhang, Xue., Liu, Y., **Xiao, C.**, Yuan, Yu., & Xin, Wen. (2017). *Chinese Characters and Calligraphy* (Guangdong province calligraphy textbook series for primary school, Book 3). Guangdong Education Publishing House. ISBN 978-7554815625. (in Chinese)
- Tang, C., Luo, X., Zhan, Y., Li, H., Mo, Y., Zhang, Wen., Sun, D., Zhang, Xue., Liu, Y., **Xiao, C.**, Yuan, Yu., & Xin, Wen. (2017). *Chinese Characters and Calligraphy* (Guangdong province calligraphy textbook series for primary school, Book 4). Guangdong Education Publishing House. ISBN 978-7554815632. (in Chinese).

## Invited Talks

- 2024 The perception of emotional prosody in L2 Chinese learners, special session on second language acquisition at *the Linguistics Conference at University of Georgia* (LCUGA 2024), Athens, GA, February 17.

## Presentations

- 2023 Semantic effects on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese: facilitation for L1 speakers versus interference for L2 learners, *the 48<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development* (BUCLD 48), Boston, MA, November 4.
- 2023 The emotional prosody perception of native speakers and L2 learners: an examination of semantic congruence effect, *Florida Psycholinguistics Meeting 2023*, Gainesville, FL, Oct 21.
- 2023 ‘What you say’ vs. ‘How you say it’: The semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentence, *Discover USC 2023 at the University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, April 21.
- 2023 The semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *2023 GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, April 8.

- 2023 The semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences, *Conference of the Institute for Mind and Brain at the University of South Carolina 2023*, Columbia, SC, March 17.
- 2023 Bridging sound and meaning: The semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *36<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Sentence Processing Conference (HSP 36)*, Pittsburgh, PA, March 10.
- 2022 The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences, *2022 GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, March 18.
- 2022 The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 96)*, Washington, DC, January 8.
- 2021 The effect of language experience on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Tone and Intonation*, Sonderborg, Denmark, December 8.
- 2018 The mini-corpus analysis of the language of the autistic children, *4<sup>th</sup> Corpus Linguistics Conference in China*, Wuhan, China, June 2.
- 2018 Inquiry into the language acquisition of the autistic children, *1<sup>st</sup> Neurolinguistics Conference in China*, Xuzhou, China, July 1.

## Teaching Experience

**Instructor of Record**, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Spring 2023 | LING 301/ENGL 389: The English Language |
| Fall 2022   | LING 101: Introduction to Language      |

**Instructor of Record**, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina

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| Spring 2020 | CHIN 322: Advance Mandarin Chinese II        |
| Fall 2019   | CHIN 321: Advance Mandarin Chinese I         |
| Spring 2022 | CHIN 222: Intermediate Mandarin Chinese II   |
| Fall 2022   | CHIN 221: Intermediate Mandarin Chinese I    |
| Spring 2021 | CHIN 122: Basic Proficiency Mandarin Chinese |
| Fall 2020   | CHIN 121: Elementary Mandarin Chinese        |

**Guest Lecturer**, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

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| Spring 2023 | LING 300: Introduction to Language Sciences |
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**Tutor**, International Accelerator Program, University of South Carolina

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| Fall 2019–Spring 2020 | English as a second language (ESL) Tutor |
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## Awards and Fellowships

- 01/2024 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 250.
- 10/2023 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 250.
- 09/2023 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 400.
- 09/2023 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina, USD 500.
- 07/2023 Paula Menyuk Travel Award for the 48<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48), USD 385.
- 05/2023 Discover USC Graduate Student Poster Award Winner, University of South Carolina.
- 02/2023 Society for Human Sentence Processing Student Travel Award (HSP 36), USD 400.
- 02/2023 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 500.

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| 01/2022   | Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 400.         |
| 05/2021   | Graduate Student Summer Research Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 600.           |
| 2013-2016 | Outstanding Graduate Student Fellowship, Wuhan University, tuition & living expenses.                        |
| 2011      | Undergraduate Student Best Paper Award Winner, College of Chinese Language and Literature, Wuhan University. |
| 2009-2013 | Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, Wuhan University, RMB 3,200.  |

### **Service**

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| 2023-2024 | Serve as a graduate fellowship peer mentor for the National Fellowship office at the University of South Carolina.                                       |
| 2023      | Lead a professional development workshop on ‘Creating Research Posters 101’ for GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina.   |
| 2020-2021 | Design the Chinese prosodic-enhanced course module for the Chinese Program and Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) at the University of South Carolina. |
| 2016-2017 | Compile and edit calligraphy textbooks for primary school students, all authorized by Guangdong Province, China.   |

### **Research Skills**

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| Tools     | AFNI, Audacity, E-Prime, FSL, Linux, Praat, Python, Qualtrics, R  |
| Methods   | Behavioral measures, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), high-definition transcranial direct current simulation (HD-tDCS) |
| Languages | English, Mandarin Chinese, Xiang Chinese  |

### **Memberships**

The Association for Laboratory Phonology  
Society for Human Sentence Processing  
Linguistic Society of America