

# Cheng Xiao

PhD Candidate, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

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<https://chengxiaocx.github.io>

[Curriculum Vitae, updated March 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.

## 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 (summer), 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., Shinkareva, S., Yang, X., Desai, R.H. (*in preparation*). Knowing is feeling: The role of semantic valence in emotional prosody perception for L2 Chinese learners.
- Xiao, C.**, & Liu, J. (*in revision*). Semantic effects on the perception of emotional prosody in native and non-native Chinese speakers.
- Xiao, C.**, & Liu, J. (*in revision*). The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences.
- Wang, B. X., Chen, S., Zhou, F., Liu, J., **Xiao, C.**, Chan, A., & Tang, T. (2024). English prosodic focus marking by Cantonese trilingual children with and without autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 67(3), 782-801.  
[https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_JSLHR-23-00508](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_JSLHR-23-00508)
- 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)

## 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)
- Xiao, C.** (2017). The language acquisition strategy for children with ASD. *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction*, 10, 35-37. (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 the University of Georgia* (LCUGA 2024), Athens, GA, February 17.

## Presentations

- 2024 The perception of emotional prosody in novice and advanced L2 Chinese learners, *37<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Sentence Processing Conference* (HSP 37), Ann Arbor, MI, May 16-18.

- 2024 Knowing is feeling: The role of semantic valence in emotional prosody perception for L2 Chinese learners, *2024 GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, April 13.
- 2023 Semantic effects on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese: facilitation for L1 speakers versus interference for L2 learners, *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* (FPM 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

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 Chines

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

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

## Awards and Fellowships

03/2024	<b>Dr. Richard Walker Memorial Endowed Fellowship</b> , Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina, USD 5,000.
01/2024	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina Linguistics Program, USD 250.
10/2023	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina USD 250.
09/2023	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina, USD 400.
09/2023	Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina, USD 500.
07/2023	<b>Paula Menyuk Travel Award</b> for the 48 <sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48), USD 385.
05/2023	<b>Discover USC Graduate Student Poster Award Winner</b> , University of South Carolina.
02/2023	<b>Society for Human Sentence Processing Student Travel Award</b> (HSP 36), USD 400.
02/2023	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina, USD 500.
01/2022	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, University of South Carolina, USD 400.
05/2021	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Summer Research Award, University of South Carolina, 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

2023-present	Serve as a graduate fellowship peer mentor for the National Fellowship office at the University of South Carolina.
2024	Serve as a Graduate Enrichment committee member for Linguistics Program at the University of South Carolina.
2023	Lead a professional development workshop on <i>Creating Research Posters 101</i> 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 a series of Chinese calligraphy textbooks (12 books) for primary school students, all authorized by the Guangdong province, and each book sells more than 20,000 copies annually in China.

## Research Skills

<b>Tools</b>	AFNI, Audacity, E-Prime, FSL, Praat, Python, Qualtrics, R, RStudio, Unix shell
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**Methods** Behavioral measures, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), high-definition transcranial direct current simulation (HD-tDCS)

**Languages** English, Mandarin Chinese (native), Xiang Chinese

### **Memberships**

Society for the Neurobiology of Language  
Society for Human Sentence Processing  
Linguistic Society of America