Muxuan He

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EDUCATION

Fall 2021- Expected March 2026	**University of Southern California** Ph.D. program in Linguistics Dissertation: *Resource-rational Language Comprehension* Committee: Elsi Kaiser (Chair), Deniz Rudin, Khalil Iskarous, Canaan Breiss, Toby Mintz
Fall 2023	**University of Southern California** M.A. in Linguistics, *specialized in* Psycholinguistics Thesis: *"Just right" is not always right: Asymmetrical effects of informativity in affirmative and negative sentences* Committee: Elsi Kaiser (Chair), Deniz Rudin, Zuzanna Fuchs
2017-2020	**Shanghai Jiao Tong University** Shanghai, China M.A. in Linguistics (with honors), *specialized in* Second Language Acquisition
2013-2017	**Central South University** Changsha, China B.A. in English Language (with honors), *specialized in* Corpus Linguistics

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2024 **He, Muxuan**, Zheng, L., & Chang, H. L2 Chinese Acquisition of the Scope of Negation by Korean-speaking Learners. *Chinese Teaching in the World 38(1)*, 111-125.

Manuscripts in Submission

2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser (*under revision*). "Just-Right" is (not) Always Right: Joint Effects of Typicality and Informativity during Real-Time Sentence Processing. Invited resubmission to *Cognitive Science*.

Conference Proceedings

2026 **He, Muxuan**, Deniz Rudin, & Elsi Kaiser. Revisiting the context-update potential of negation at the level of speaker rationality. To appear in *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 30*.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. Affirmatives vs. Negatives: A complementary relation in probabilistic sentence processing. *To appear in Proceedings of Chicago Linguistic Society 58*.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. Communication form modulates sentence interpretation: (A)typicality inferences from descriptions vs. direct speech. *Proceedings of the*

Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 47.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. Modeling sentence polarity asymmetries: Fuzzy interpretations in a possibly wonky world. *Society for Computation in Linguistics* 8(1): 22.

2024 Hao, Hailin, **Muxuan He**, & Zuzanna Fuchs. Greta is a female director: When gender stereotypes interact with informativity expectations. *In Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (Vol. 46).*

2023 Hao, Hailin, & **Muxuan He.** *Can Large Language Model Surprisal Capture the Informativity Bias in Human Language Processing?*. In International Symposium on Distributed Computing and Artificial Intelligence (pp. 178-185). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

PRESENTATIONS

2025 **He, Muxuan**, Deniz Rudin & Elsi Kaiser. Sinn und Bedeutung 30. *Revisiting the context-update potential of negation at the level of speaker rationality.* Talk at Special session on negation, 2025, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. CogSci. *Communication form modulates sentence interpretation: (A)typicality inferences from descriptions vs. direct speech.* Talk at Cognitive Science Society, 2025, San Francisco, USA.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. CogSci. *Irrational Speaker or Wonky World: Modeling Prior Revision and Prior Update.* Poster presented at Cognitive Science Society, 2025, San Francisco, USA.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. SCiL 8. *Modeling sentence polarity asymmetries: Fuzzy interpretations in a possibly wonky world.* Talk presented at Society for Computation in Linguistics 8, 2025, University of Oregon, USA.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. HSP 38. *What's described vs. what's uttered: Communication form modulates effects of typicality.* Poster presented at Human Sentence Processing 38, 2025, University of Maryland, USA.

2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. NAACL 2025. *Modeling Pragmatic Accommodation: A [Rational, Irrational] Speaker in a [Wonky, Normal] World.* Virtual poster presented at Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics (CMCL), NAACL, 2025, New Mexico, USA.

2024 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. CLS 58. *Affirmatives vs. Negatives: A complementary relation in probabilistic sentence processing.* Talk presented at Chicago Linguistic Society 58, 2024, University of Chicago, USA.

2024 Hao, Hailin, **Muxuan He**, & Zuzanna Fuchs. CogSci. *Greta is a female director: When gender stereotypes interact with informativity expectations.* Poster presented at Cognitive Science Society, 2024, Netherlands.

2024 Hao, Hailin, **Muxuan He**, & Zuzanna Fuchs. CAMP. *Are Informativity-Based Linguistic*

Predictions Driven by Gender Stereotypes? Poster presented at the California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, 2024, Stanford, USA.

2023 **He, Muxuan, &** Elsi Kaiser. *How informative do we need to be? Asymmetry effects of informativity in the processing of affirmative and negative sentences*. Talk presented at AMLaP 2023, San Sebastián, Spain.

2023 Hao, Hailin, & **Muxuan He**. *Can Large Language Model Surprisal Capture the Informativity Bias in Human Language Processing?*. Poster presented at AMLaP 2023, San Sebastián, Spain.

2023 Hao, Hailin, & **Muxuan He**. *Can Large Language Model Surprisal Capture the Informativity Bias in Human Language Processing?*. Virtual talk presented by Hailin Hao at DACI 2023.

2023 **He, Muxuan, &** Elsi Kaiser. *Not Too Surprising, Not Too Boring? The Goldilocks Effects of Likelihood on Real-time Processing*. Virtual poster presented at HSP 2023, University of Pittsburgh, USA.

2023 **He, Muxuan, &** Elsi Kaiser. *Not Too Surprising, Not Too Boring? The Goldilocks Effects of Likelihood on Real-time Processing in English*. Virtual talk presented at the California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, 2023, UCLA.

2022 **He, Muxuan**. *-men or not -men: It does not seem to be a question*. Talk presented at NWAV Asia-Pacific7, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

2021 **He, Muxuan**. *The Syntax-semantics Interface in L2 acquisition: The scope of Negation in Tagalog-Chinese interlanguage Grammars*. Virtual Poster presented at ICTEAP-3, National Tsing Hua University.

2019 **He, Muxuan**. *Acquiring the Scope of Negation in L2 Chinese: An Interface Approach*. Talk presented at *Acquisition of Chinese: Bilingualism and Multilingualism*, University of Cambridge, UK.

2018 **He, Muxuan**. *The Syntactic Distribution of bu and mei: A Syntax-semantics Interface Approach*. Talk presented at ICFL 8, Zhejiang University, China.

2018 **He, Muxuan**, & Hui Chang. *The Acquisition of the Scope of Negation in L2 Chinese: An Interface Approach*. Talk presented at the 8th International Symposium on Second Language Acquisition Research, Qingdao, China.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018-
2019
Research Assistant at Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Supervisor: Chang Hui
Sentence Processing of L2 Chinese Learners: An Eye-tracking Project
Funded by China's National Social Science Fund

Summer
2016
Lead Investigator at Fuxing, Hunan, China
Field work on the language deficit of left-behind children
Funded by Central South University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022-2025	**Teaching Assistant at** University of Southern California
	LING 115 Language and Society (Fall 2025, Spring 2025)
	LING 285 Human Language and Technology (Spring 2024)
	LING 275 Language and Mind (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
Summer 2016	**Lecturer** at Shanghai Jiaotong University
	English as Second Foreign Language

SERVICE

2022-2025	**Abstract Reviewer** @Cog Sci 2025, @CLS 61, @CAMP 6-8
	Student Organizer @ ESLLI and @ TEAL at USC
	Student Mentor @ SCiL 8

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships

July 2025	Student Travel Award, Society for Computation in Linguistics
May 2025	Dornsife Ph.D. Academy Research Fund, University of Southern California
Mar 2025	EASC Summer Fellowship, University of Southern California
July 2024	Linguistics Department Summer Research Funding, University of Southern California
Sep 2023	GSC Professional Development Fund, University of Southern California
2022-2025	Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California
2021/2026	Ph.D. Student Fellowship, University of Southern California
Jun 2019	Kaiyuan Encouragement Scholarship, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Dec 2015	National Encouragement Scholarship, Central South University

MEMBERSHIPS

Cognitive Science (2025) , ACL (2025)

SKILLS

Languages	Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)
Technical	Python, R, Praat, SQL