

RUOQING YAO

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EDUCATION

- 2023 - **Ph.D. student** in Linguistics, University of California, Santa Cruz
- 2019 - 2023 **B.S.** (*summa cum laude*) in Computer Science and Linguistics (double major), with Departmental Honors in Linguistics, William & Mary
Thesis: *Referential resolution for resumptive pronouns in island-violating sentences*
Advisor: Anya Hogboom
- 2025 The Ninth Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology, University of Potsdam
- 2022 Stanford CSLI Summer Internship Program, Stanford University
- 2020 Semester exchange student, Beijing Normal University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sentence processing, Ambiguity resolution, Reference processing, Psycholinguistics, Computational linguistics, Experimental syntax

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 **Yao, R.**, Wagers, M. (2025). Who and when gets the race? Two processing routes for the advantages and penalties of pronominal ambiguity resolution. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 47.

PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

- 2024 **Yao, R.**, Lu, J., Degen, J. Perceived interpretability predicts satiability for CNPC islands but not WH islands. California Meeting on Psycholinguistics[6]. Stanford University, Stanford, CA. January 14.
- Yao, R.**, Hogboom, A. Resumptive Pronouns in Islands Show Confusability Advantage Effect. 2024 Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting. New York City, NY. January 7.
- 2023 **Yao, R.** The Processing of Resumptive Pronouns in Islands. Graduate and Honors Research Symposium. William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA. March 30.

Posters

- 2025 **Yao, R.**, Wagers, M. Who and when gets the race? Two processing routes for the advantages and penalties of pronominal ambiguity resolution. Poster at The 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA. July 30-Aug 2.
- Yao, R.**, Wagers, M. Who Gets to Race? The Effect of Initial Bias on Pronominal Ambiguity Advantage. Poster at the 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Maryland, College Park, MD. March 27-29.

- 2022 Parker, D., Glauser, C., Rust, G., Wright, N., **Yao, R.**, Antecedent reactivation leads to faster retrieval: Evidence from ellipsis. Poster at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of California, Santa Cruz, CA. March 24.
Yao, R., Satiability and Interpretability. Poster at the W&M 2022 Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium. William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA . September 30.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

At UC Santa Cruz

- 2025 - Graduate Research Assistant, THINK at UCSC: Technology + Humanities Integrated Knowledge (NEH AC-303525-25)
PI: Benjamin Breen; Co-PIs: Pranav Anand, Zac Zimmer
- 2024 - Graduate Research Assistant, Writing With ChatGPT: The Learning Promises and Perils of Co-Writing with Generative Models in College Linguistics Classes (sponsored by the Spencer Foundation)
PI: Pranav Anand; Co-PIs: Matt Wagers, Hannah Hausman

At Stanford

- 2022 Research Intern, ALPS
Supervisor: Judith Degen, Jiayi Lu

At William & Mary

- 2021 - 2022 Research Assistant, The Cognitive Basis of Linguistic Illusions (NSF-BCS1843309),
CELL Lab
PI: Dan Parker
- 2021 - 2022 Research Assistant, LabPhon Lab
PI: Anya Hogoboom

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At UC Santa Cruz

- 2025 Teaching Assistant, LING50 Introduction to Linguistics
- 2024 Teaching Assistant, LING171 Psycholinguistics 1
Reader, LING50 Introduction to Linguistics

At William & Mary

- 2022 Grader, MATH 211 Linear Algebra

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2024 - 2025 Coordinator, Speech and Sentence Processing Lab (s/lab), UCSC
- 2024 Spring Co-coordinator, Speech and Sentence Processing Lab (s/lab), UCSC
- 2024 - Reviewer, CogSci 2024, 2025
- 2023 - Reviewer, California Meeting on Psycholinguistics[6, 7, 8]

WORK AND MENTOR EXPERIENCE

- 2024 - 2025 GradPath Mentor, UCSC
- 2021 Linguistics specialist intern, NetEase Youdao Co. Ltd
- 2020 - 2022 Peer advisor, William & Mary Academic Advising
- 2019-2020 Research Assistant, William & Mary Global Research Institute

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2025 - Captain, UCSC Table Tennis Club
- 2021 - 2023 President, William & Mary Club Table Tennis

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 Graduate Dean's Research Travel Grant (\$300), UC Santa Cruz
- 2023 Phi Beta Kappa, William & Mary
- 2019-2023 Dean's List (for all semesters enrolled), William & Mary
- 2020 Ranked (Top 20%), 2020 ICPC Mid-Atlantic North America Regional Programming Contest

SKILLS

Languages | Mandarin Chinese (Native); English (Proficient); French (research ability); Korean (research ability); Japanese (research ability)

Programming Languages | Python; R; Java; JavaScript; HTML; SQL; C++

Software and Tools | Ibex; Praat; L^AT_EX; Prolific & Proliferate