

# Curriculum Vitae

Xiaotong Xi

郗晓彤



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## Research interests

Second Language Pronunciation Acquisition, Phonetic Training, Hand Gestures

## Accreditations and degrees

PhD in Translation and Language Sciences (2023). Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Thesis title: “Multimodal phonetic training: the benefits of hand gestures on learning L2 sounds”. Supervisor: Pilar Prieto.

MA in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (2019). Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Thesis title: “The effects of visuospatial gestures on the acquisition of L2 Mandarin aspirated consonants”. Supervisor: Pilar Prieto.

BA in Spanish Philology (2018). Xi'an International Studies University. Thesis title: “Comparación de la oración simple del español con la del chino desde el punto de vista semántico”. Supervisor: Wei Cao.

## Peer-reviewed journal articles

Gao, S., **Xi, X.**, & Li, P. (2026). Multimodal phonetic training with hand gestures enhances Mandarin pronunciation learning and promotes greater generalization to untrained items. *Language and Speech*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00238309251399140>

Yao, T., **Xi, X.**, & Prieto, P. (2025). The Effects of Oral Narrative Interventions on Second Language Learning: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *System*: 103835. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2025.103835>

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2024). Nuclear contours of Spanish statements and questions produced by Mandarin speakers with advanced Spanish proficiency. *Phonica*, 20, 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1344/phonica2024.20.3>

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2024). Improving L2 vowel production with hand gestures encoding visible articulation: Evidence from picture-naming and paragraph-reading tasks. *Language Learning*, 74(4), 884–916. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lang.12647>

Ozakin, A., **Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2023). Thanks or tanks: Training with tactile cues improves learners' accuracy of English interdental consonants in an oral reading task. *Language Learning and Development*, 19(4), 404–419. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2022.2107522>

Li, P., **Xi, X.**, Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2021). Training non-native aspirated plosives with hand gestures: learners' gesture performance matters. *Language Cognition and Neuroscience*, 36(10), 1313–1328. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2021.1937663>

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2020). Hand gestures facilitate the acquisition of novel phonemic contrasts when they appropriately mimic target phonetic features. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 63(11), 3571–3585. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2020\\_JSLHR-20-00084](https://doi.org/10.1044/2020_JSLHR-20-00084)

## Conference proceedings

**Xi, X.**, Zhou, S., & Li, P. (2024). Exploring the role of duration as a prosodic marker for contextual factors in the production of Mandarin positive polar questions. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2024*. doi: 10.21437/SpeechProsody.2024-139

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2024). The perception of Spanish lexical stress by proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2024*. doi: 10.21437/SpeechProsody.2024-72

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2023). Reducing acoustic overlap of L2 English vowels through gestures encoding lip aperture. In A. Henderson & A. Kirkova-Naskova (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on English Pronunciation: Issues and Practices* (pp. 261–270). Université Grenoble-Alpes. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.8225191

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2023). Effects of stress and prominence on Spanish stops and lenition in L2 speech of proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2740–2744). Guarant International.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2023). Does visuospatial working memory predict L2 perceptual learning from phonetic training with hand gestures? In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2670–2674). Guarant International.

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2023). Nuclear contours of Spanish echo questions produced by proficient Chinese learners of Spanish: A dynamic analysis. In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2491–2495). Guarant International.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2022). Spanish stops and their allophones produced by proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. In L. C. Mai, N. T. M. Huyen, N. T. T. Trang, & D. V. Hai (Eds.), *Proceeding of the 25th Conference of the Oriental COCOSDA*. doi: 10.1109/O-COCOSDA202257103.2022.9997932

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2022). Spanish lexical stress produced by proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. *Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium on Applied Phonetics (ISAPh 2022)*. doi: 10.21437/ISAPh.2022-8

## Book chapters

**Xi, X.**, Li, P, Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2026). Observing versus producing gesture for the learning of L2 sounds: What gesture performance tells us. In L. M. Morett, & S. Inceoglu (Eds.) *Gesture in Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy*. De Gruyter.

Yao, T., **Xi, X.**, & Prieto, P. (2026). Narrative interventions in teaching second language speaking. In H. Nassaji (Ed.). *TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*. John Wiley & Sons.

Li, P., Baills, F., **Xi, X.**, & Prieto, P. (2024). Gesture shape and gesture-speech alignment are important during embodied L2 pronunciation training. In A. Brown, & S. W. Eskildsen (Eds.). *Multimodality and Multilingual Interaction Across Epistemologies*. Routledge.

## Presentations at conferences

### Invited talks

**Xi, X.** (2024, July). Eye-Tracking Technology in Second Language Acquisition Research. Eye-Tracking Technology Workshop. Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing (China): July 2-3.

### Oral presentations

Li, P., Martin, C., & **Xi, X.** (2025, June). Mandarin speakers' development of L2 Spanish lexical stress perception and production in a one-year study abroad program. The 6th Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (PaPE 2025). Balearic Islands (Spain): June 25-27.

Li, P., **Xi, X.**, & Gao, S. (2024, November). Multimodal phonetic training in CFL classroom: using pitch gestures for teaching Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi. 中国语音教学研究国际研讨会. Chongqing (China): November 1-3.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2024, August). Exploring the influence of study abroad on L2 perception of segmental and prosodic contrasts: A focus on Chinese learners studying in Spain. The 21st AILA World Congress (AILA 2024). Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia): August 11-16.

Yao, T., **Xi, X.**, & Prieto, P. (2024, July). A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Storytelling Interventions in Second Language Learning. The 33rd Conference of the European Second Language Association (EuroSLA 33). Montpellier (France): July 3-6.

**Xi, X.**, Zhou, S., & Li, P. (2024, July). Exploring the role of duration as a prosodic marker for contextual factors in the production of Mandarin positive polar questions. Speech Prosody 2024 (SP2024). Leiden (the Netherlands): July 2-5.

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2024, July). The perception of Spanish lexical stress by proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. Speech Prosody 2024 (SP2024). Leiden (the Netherlands): July 2-5.

Yao, T., **Xi, X.**, & Prieto, P. (2024, March). The effects of oral narrative interventions on second language learning: a meta-analysis. The 2024 Conference of American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL 2024). Houston (USA): March 16-19.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2023, November). Spanish imperatives produced by proficient Chinese learners of Spanish: The differences in prenuclear pitch accent and boundary tones. The 2nd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI 2023). Singapore: November 18-20.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2023, October). The effects of study abroad on the perception of L2 Spanish stops and lexical stress by L1 Chinese learners. The 10th International Conference on Second Language Acquisition Research in China. Jinan (China): October 27-29.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2023, August). Does visuospatial working memory predict L2 perceptual learning from phonetic training with hand gestures? The 20th International Conference of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2023). Prague (Czech Republic): August 7-11.

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2023, August). Nuclear contours of Spanish echo questions produced by proficient Chinese learners of Spanish: A dynamic analysis. The 20th International Conference of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2023). Prague (Czech Republic): August 7-11.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2023, March). Hand gestures encoding articulatory features and the learning of L2 vowels: the effects of visual accessibility. The 2023 Conference of American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL 2023). Portland (USA): March 18-21.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2022, November). Spanish stops and their allophones produced by proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. The 25th Conference of the Oriental COCOSDA (O-COCOSDA 2022). On-line event: November 24-26.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2022, July). Hand gestures encoding articulatory features and the learning of L2 vowels: the effects of visual accessibility. The 9th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS 9). Loyola University Chicago: Chicago (USA): July 13-15.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2022, May). Hand gestures cueing visible lip shape help the pronunciation of L2 English vowel pair. The 7th International Conference on English Pronunciation: Issues & Practices (EPIP 7). Université Grenoble-Alpes: Grenoble (France): May 18-20.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2022, April). Training English vowels with hand gestures: the effects of encoding articulatory movements to different degrees of visual accessibility. The 10th International Symposium on the Acquisition Second Language Speech (New Sounds 2022). University of Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain): April 20-22.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2021, July). Hand gestures facilitate the acquisition of novel phonemic contrasts when adequately encoding target articulatory features. The 30th Conference of the European Second Language Association (EuroSLA 30). On-line event: June 30 - July 3.

Li, P., **Xi, X.**, Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2021, July). Actively producing hand gestures mimicking articulatory features favors the long-term acquisition of novel words containing those features. The 30th Conference of the European Second Language Association (EuroSLA 30). On-line event: June 30 - July 3.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2020, September). Training the pronunciation of L2 novel phonetic features: a comparison of observing versus producing hand gestures. The 7th Gesture and Speech in Interaction (GeSpIn 2020). On-line event: September 7-9.

Li, P., **Xi, X.**, Baills, F., & Prieto, P. (2020, September). Appropriately performing hand gestures cueing phonetic features facilitates simultaneous speech imitation in an L2. The 7th Gesture and Speech in Interaction Conference (GeSpIn 2020). On-line event: September 7-9.

#### Poster presentations

**Xi, X.**, Shea, C., & Li, P. (2025, June). A longitudinal study of perception and production of L2 Spanish stops and the role of individual differences. The 6th Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (PaPE 2025). Balearic Islands (Spain): June 25-27.

Li, P., Martin, C., & **Xi, X.** (2025, June). The effects of study abroad on L2 lexical stress learning: a longitudinal study. The 15th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB15). Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain): June 9-13.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2024, June). Exploring perceptual development of L2 phonological contrasts during a study abroad program. The 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon 19). Seoul (South Korea): June 27-29.

**Xi, X.** & Li, P. (2023, August). Effects of stress and prominence on Spanish stops and lenition in L2 speech of proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. The 20th International Conference of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2023). Prague (Czech Republic): August 7-11.

**Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2023, June). In L2 phonetic training, learners benefit more with hand gestures cuing visually salient articulatory information. The 5th Conference of the Phonetics and Phonology in Europe 2023 (PaPE 2023). Nijmegen (the Netherlands): June 2-4.

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2023, June). The prosodic realization of Spanish focus in nuclear positions by proficient Chinese learners of Spanish: The case of broad, corrective and contrastive foci. The 5th Conference of the Phonetics and Phonology in Europe 2023 (PaPE 2023). Nijmegen (the Netherlands): June 2-4.

Li, P. & **Xi, X.** (2022, September). Spanish lexical stress produced by proficient Mandarin learners of Spanish. The 4th International Symposium on Applied Phonetics (ISAPh 2022). Lund University: Lund (Sweden): September 14-16.

Ozakin, A. S., **Xi, X.**, Li, P., & Prieto, P. (2021, June). Thanks or tanks: training with tactile cues facilitates the pronunciation of English interdental consonants. The 12th Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference (PSLLT 2021). On-line event: June 18-19.

## Research projects

“The Effects and Mechanisms of Multimodal Training in Second Language Pronunciation Acquisition [二语语音习得中多模态训练的效应与机制研究]” (24CYY082). National Office for Philosophy and Social Sciences. 15/10/2024 - 31/12/2028. Principal Investigator: **Xiaotong Xi**. Amount: ¥200,000

“Multimodal Communication (MCOM): The integration of prosody and gesture in human communication and in language learning” (PID2021-123823NB-I00). Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation. 01/09/2022 - 01/09/2025. Principal Investigator: Pilar Prieto. Amount: €85,305

“Grup de Recerca Consolidat (GRC) Grup d’Estudis de Prosòdia i Gestualitat (GrEPG)” (2021 SGR \_ 922). Pla de recerca de Catalunya. 01/03/2023 - 01/03/2025. Principal Investigator: Pilar Prieto. Amount: €60,000

“Multimodal Language Learning (MLL): Prosodic and Gestural Integration in Pragmatic and Phonological Development” (PGC2018-097007-B-I00). Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades. 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2021. Principal Investigator: Pilar Prieto. Amount: €44,770

“Grup de Recerca Consolidat (GRC) Grup d’Estudis de Prosòdia (GrEP)” (2017 SGR \_ 971). Pla de Recerca de Catalunya. 01/04/18 - 01/04/21. Principal Investigator: Pilar Prieto. Amount: €26,029.25

## Grants

Haidai Scholars Support Program. Jan, 2025 – Dec, 2027. Funded by Shandong University of Finance and Economics. Amount: ¥300,000

Research Start-Up Fund. Dec, 2023 – Dec, 2028. Funded by Shandong University of Finance and Economics. Amount: ¥100,000

Grants for the recruitment of new research staff (FI). May, 2020 – April, 2023. Funded by Agència de Gestió d’Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca (AGAUR) and European Social Fund. Amount: €66,888.71

Merit Awards for International Students. September, 2016 – June, 2017. Funded by Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) and Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID). Amount: \$132,021.2

## Study and research stay abroad

Universidad de Colima (Mexico). September, 2016 – June, 2017.

## **Formal teaching experience**

School of Foreign Studies, Shandong University of Finance and Economics.

Year 2025-26, MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

- Data Analysis Methods in Language Studies

Year 2023-26, BA in English Language and Literature:

- Introduction to Second Language Acquisition
- Linguistic Analysis and Data Processing with SPSS
- Comprehensive English IV
- Comprehensive English III

Department of Translation and Language Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Year 2021-23, MA in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics.

- Phonetics and Phonology.

## **Academic service**

### Ad-hoc reviewer

- Journals: *Applied Linguistics* (2025), *Language Learning* (2025), *Journal of Phonetics* (2025), *International Journal of Applied Linguistics* (2025), *Language Teaching Research* (2020/2022/2024/2026)
- Book chapters: *Gesture in Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy* (2025)
- Conferences: Laboratory Phonology (2026), International Symposium on Bilingualism (2025), Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (2025), Speech Prosody (2024), International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (2023), International Multimodal Communication Symposium (2023/2024)

### Workshop or Conference organizer

- Seminar on the Coordination of International Business and Language Services in Shandong Province (China, 2024)
- International Multimodal Communication Symposium (Spain, 2023)
- Linguistics Research Unit Workshop (Spain, 2021)

## **Academic training**

Provincial Teacher Training Program: Enhancing the Teaching Competence of Novice University Teachers – Beijing Foreign Studies University, Oct 13-19 and Nov 6-13, 2025

National Advanced Training Program on Eye-Tracking Technology Applications – Tianjin Normal University, Nov 25-29, 2024

Statistics for Language Studies – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, May 7-28, 2021

From Draft to Submission: Publishing an Article or Book Chapter in English – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Feb 9-23, 2021

FIDU Programme: Initial Training for University Teachers – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Sep 21, 2020-Jun 30, 2021

## **Languages**

- Mandarin (Native)
- English (C1)
- Spanish (B2)
- Catalan (A2)