Yaqing Hu

Ph.D. in Linguistics (4th year), Department of Linguistics
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Research Overview

Interests   Semantics, Semantics-Syntax Interface, Comparative Syntax

Themes   Gradable Adjectives, Definiteness, Specificity, Evidentiality, Imperatives

Education

2024 – Present   **University of Southern California** – Los Angeles, the United States
Ph.D. in Linguistics
Advisor: Alexis Wellwood

2022 – 2023   **University of Southern California** – Los Angeles, the United States
M.A. in Linguistics
Thesis: *Measure Phrases in Chinese Comparatives*
Chair: Alexis Wellwood

2016 – 2017   **University of Oxford** – Oxford, the United Kingdom
Master of Studies in General Linguistics

2010 – 2014   **China Youth University of Political Studies** – Beijing, P.R.China
B.A. in English (outstanding graduate)

Non-degree Studies

2025 Summer   The North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI). University of Washington, Seattle, June 23-27, 2025

2024 Summer   DGfS Summer School 2024 *Form-Meaning Mismatches in Spoken and Visual Communicaiton.* University of Göttingen, August 12-23, 2024.

2022 Summer   The North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI). University of Southern California, June 18-24, 2022.

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2024   (with Andrew Simpson)
Floating quantifiers, specificity, and focus in Lalo Yi
Journal of East Asian Linguistics, 33, 71-113.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-023-09272-8

2024	(with Andrew Simpson)
	Specificity Contrasts in Lalo Yi: Structure and Interpretation
	Studies in Language
	DOI: https://doi.org/10.1075/sl.23038.hu

to appear	**Encoding Domain Restrictions via an Overt Situation Pronoun**
	Proceedings of 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 43)

to appear	**Degrees are Accessed Indirectly? A New Look at Chinese Adjectival *bi*-Comparatives**
	Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29

2024	**Same Type of Comparatives, But with Different Syntax and Semantics**
	Proceedings of the 24th Amsterdam Colloquium

Peer-reviewed Conference Presentations

2025	**Separating Existence Presupposition from Definite Articles**
	Poster Presentation at The 56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS56). New York University, October 17-19, 2025.

2025	(with Ariela Ye)
	When evidentiality meets deonticity
	Talk at Sinn und Bedeutung 30 (SuB30). Geothe University Frankfurt, September 23-27, 2025.

2025	**Marking Definiteness and Universal Quantification via an Overt Situation Pronoun**
	Talk (virtual) at Referential Expressions in Discourse (RED 2025) *Mismatches in anaphoric relations.* University of Graz, May 29-30, 2025.

2025	**An Overt Situation Pronoun for Definiteness and Universal Quantification**
	Poster Presentation at The 61st Annual Meeting of The Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 61). University of Chicago, May 9-11, 2025.

2025	**Encoding Domain Restrictions via an Overt Situation Pronoun**
	Poster Presentation at The 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 43). University of Washington, April 25-27, 2025.

2025	**Encoding Domain Restrictions via an Overt Situation Pronoun**
	Talk at The Penn Linguistics Conference 49 (PLC 49). University of Pennsylvania, April 5-6, 2025.

2025	**Achieving Definiteness by Binding a Situation Pronoun**
	Poster Presentation at The Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 14 (TEAL-14). University of Southern California, March 18-20, 2025.

2024	**Same Type of Comparatives, But with Different Syntax and Semantics**
	Poster Presentation at Amsterdam Colloquium 2024. The University of Amsterdam, December 18-20, 2024.

2024   **Degrees are Accessed Indirectly? A New Look at Chinese Adjectival *bi*-Comparatives**
Poster Presentation at Sinn und Bedeutung 29 (SuB29). Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale (C.U.M.O), September 17-19, 2024.

2024   **Same Type of Comparatives, But with Different Semantics**
Poster Presentation at DGfS Summer School 2024. University of Göttingen, August 12-23, 2024.

2024   **Measure Phrases in Chinese *bi*-Comparatives**
Talk at The 36th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL). Pomona College, March 22-24, 2024.

2023   (with Andrew Simpson)
The syntax and semantics of specificity in Lalo Yi
Talk (virtual) at The 56th International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics. Chulalongkorn University, October 10-12, 2023.

2023   (with Andrew Simpson)
Numerals, classifiers, and specificity in Lalo Yi: accounting for unusual restrictions on DP structure in a numeral classifier language
Talk (virtual) at The 13th Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL-13). National Taiwan Normal University, May 12-14, 2023.

2023   (with Andrew Simpson)
Syntactic and interpretive constraints on the combination of numerals and nouns in Lalo Yi
Talk (virtual) at Workshop 2 'Divide and count: On the (morpho-)syntax and semantics of division, plurality and countability', DGfS 2023. University of Cologne, March 08-10, 2023.

2019   **Remnant Movement in Chinese 'Clausal' *bi*-Comparatives**
Talk at The 27th Annual Conference of International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL 27). Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, May 10-12, 2019.

2018   **Binding Theory and Chinese *bi*-Comparatives**
Poster Presentation at The 2018 Manchester Forum in Linguistics. The University of Manchester, April 26-27, 2018.

Teaching Experience

Guest Lectures at University of Southern California

Fall 2024   **Syntactic Movement II: *yes-no* Questions and Passives**
Undergraduate course *LING 210 Introduction to Linguistics.*
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Fall 2024   **Syntactic Movement I: *wh*-Questions and Relative Clauses**
Undergraduate course *LING 210 Introduction to Linguistics.*
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Spring 2024   **Syntactic Movement II: *yes-no* Questions and Passives**
Undergraduate course *LING 210 Introduction to Linguistics.*
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Spring 2024   **Syntactic Movement I: *wh*-Questions and Relative Clauses**
Undergraduate course *LING 210 Introduction to Linguistics.*
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

TAships at University of Southern California

Fall 2025   **LING210 Introduction to Linguistics**
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Spring 2025   **LING115 Language and Society**
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Fall 2024   **LING210 Introduction to Linguistics**
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Spring 2024   **LING210 Introduction to Linguistics**
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

Fall 2023   **LING210 Introduction to Linguistics**
Instructor: Professor Deniz Rudin

Spring 2023   **LING210 Introduction to Linguistics**
Instructor: Professor Sandra Disner

TAships at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

Fall 2021   **TRA2510 English for Translators: English Semantics and Lexis**
Instructor: Professor Lan Li

Spring 2021   **TRA3260 Public Relations Translation**
Instructor: Professor Lan Li

Fall 2020   **TRA2130 Language Studies for Translation**
Instructor: Professor Foong Ha Yap

Spring 2020   **TRA3260 Public Relations Translation**
Instructor: Professor Lan Li

Spring 2020   **TRA3510 Bilingual Corporate Communication**
Instructor: Professor Lan Li

Fall 2019   **TRA2130 Language Studies for Translation**
Instructor: Professor Foong Ha Yap

Spring 2019   **TRA3510 Bilingual Corporate Communication**
Instructor: Professor Lan Li

Fall 2018   **TRA2130 Language Studies for Translation: The Structure of English**
Instructor: Professor Yang Gu

Fieldwork

2023 – Present	**Nuosu Yi**, Liangshan, Sichuan Province, China remotely since November 2023
2022 – 2023	**Lalo Yi**, Dali, Yunnan Province, China remotely for 13 months
2022	**Alashan Mongolian** – the United States 4 months weekly in-person elicitation with a native speaker

Awards & Scholarship

2022 – present	**Dornsife/Graduate School Fellowship**, USC	
Summer 2025	**USC Linguistics Research Development Award**, USC	$1300
Summer 2025	**East Asian Studies Center Graduate Fellowship**, USC	$1000
Summer 2024	**Travel Grant**, 2024 DGfS Summer School, University of Göttingen	900€
Summer 2024	**Travel Grant**, Department of Linguistics, USC	$800
2019	**Travel Grant**, 2nd place, Young Scholar Award, 27th IACL	$800
2013	**2nd-class Scholarship**, China Youth University of Political Studies	1000¥
2012	**1st-class Scholarship**, China Youth University of Political Studies	1500¥

Service

Reviewing	Natural Language Semantics (2025 × 2, co-reviewing with Alexis Wellwood)
Organizing	S Side Story (co-organizing with Nelli Marutyan)
	The Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 14 (volunteer)
	10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (volunteer)

Languages

I speak	Lower Yangtze Mandarin (native), Mandarin (native), English (fluent)
Have worked	Lalo Yi, Nuosu Yi, Alashan Mongolian

Software

R(intermediate), Praat(intermediate), ELAN(proficient)