

# Zheng SHEN

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## AREAS OF INTEREST

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### BROAD INTERESTS

- Theoretical and experimental syntax
- Psycholinguistics

### SPECIFIC TOPICS

- Syntactic island
- Agreement
- Right node raising
- Ellipsis

## EMPLOYMENT

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2020.1 – Assistant Professor  
**Department of English, Linguistics and Theatre Studies**  
**National University of Singapore**

2018.5 – 2019.12 Postdoctoral Researcher  
**A General Theory of Multivaluation** (PIs: Katharina Hartmann, Peter W. Smith)  
Institut für Linguistik, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

2017.10 – 2018.5 Postdoctoral Researcher  
**Graduate School on Nominal Modification** (Spokesperson: Caroline Féry)  
Institut für Linguistik, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

## EDUCATION

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2011–2018 **University of Connecticut**, Storrs, CT, USA  
Department of Linguistics  
Ph.D. in Linguistics  
Dissertation title: *Feature Arithmetic in the Nominal Domain*

2009–2010 **University College London**, London, UK  
Department of Linguistics  
M.A. in Linguistics  
Thesis title: *On Focus and Topic Interaction in Mandarin Chinese*

2005–2009 **Beijing Normal University at Zhuhai**, China  
Department of Foreign Languages  
B.A. in English Language and Literature

## GRANTS

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MOE=Singapore Ministry of Education; AcRF = Academic Research Fund grant program

2022 - MOE AcRF Tier 2 - 'History and syntax of the languages of Borneo' (as co-PI; PI: Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine) (516,000 SGD)

2022 - 2025	MOE AcRF Tier 1 - 'Closest Agreement and Memory' (as PI)	(150,944 SGD)
2020 - 2024	Faculty Start-up grant, National University of Singapore	(39,893 SGD)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL PAPERS

- Marušič, Franc Lanko and **Zheng Shen**. 2021. "Gender Agreement with Exclusive Disjunction in Slovenian." *Acta Linguistica Academica*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1556/2062.2021.00443> [\[link\]](#)
- Shen, Zheng**. 2019. "The multi-valuation agreement hierarchy." *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 4(1), 46. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.585>. [\[link\]](#).
- Shen, Zheng**. 2018. "Fragment answers and movement." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 36(1), pp 309-321. DOI: 10.1007/s11049-017-9372-1. [\[link\]](#).

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- Shen, Zheng**. 2021. "Some notes on MaxShare." *The size of things*. Open Generative Syntax. Language Science Press.

### EDITED WORKS

- Shen, Zheng**, Johannes Mursell, Anke Himmelreich, and Katharina Hartmann. 2022. *Glossa special collection: Multivaluation in agreement*.
- Sabine Laszakovits and **Zheng Shen**. 2021. *The size of things*. Open Generative Syntax series. Language Science Press.

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDING PAPERS

- Shen, Zheng** and Meghan Lim. in prep. "Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative DPs: An experimental approach." *Proceedings of NELS 52*.
- Tieu, Lyn and **Zheng Shen**. 2022. "Children's Interpretation of Superlatives in Full and Fragment Answers." *Proceedings of BUCLD 46*. [\[lingbuzz link\]](#)
- Shen, Zheng**. 2021. "Agreement in Nominal Right Node Raising: An experimental approach." *Proceedings of SICOOG 23*.
- Shen, Zheng** and Peter W. Smith. 2020. "Morphological and semantic agreement beyond hybrid nouns." *Proceedings of NELS 49*.
- Smith, Peter W., Beata Moskal, Katharina Hartmann, and **Zheng Shen**. 2019. "Feature resolution, feature conflicts and the structure of *either ... or*." *Proceedings of SinFonIJA 10*.
- Shen, Zheng**. 2017. "On multi-valued Ns and Ts in number concord and agreement." *Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*. (extended version of Shen 2017)
- Shen, Zheng**. 2017. "Multi-value asymmetry in number agreement and concord." *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 23. Proceedings of the 40th Penn Linguistics Conference*.
- Shen, Zheng**. 2016. "No Clash Constraint in nominal RNR number agreement." *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 22. Proceedings of the 39th Penn Linguistics Conference, Article 27*.

Tieu, Lyn and **Zheng Shen**. 2016. "The littlest linguists and their superlatives: a first experiment." *Proceedings of the 50th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*.

**Shen, Zheng**. 2015. "The third reading of the most expensive photo of Abby." *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 21: Iss. 1, Proceedings of the 38th Penn Linguistics Conference, Article 29*.

Tieu, Lyn and **Zheng Shen**. 2015. "Searching for absolute and relative readings of superlatives: a second experiment." *Proceedings of the 39th Boston University Conference on Language Development*.

Hsieh, I-Ta Chris and **Zheng Shen**. 2015. "The 'Associative Reading' of DPs and the quantity vs. quality distinction." *Proceedings of The Semantics of African, Asian and Austronesian Languages 2*.

**Shen, Zheng**. 2014. "On the relative readings with NP internal focus of superlatives." *Proceedings of the 31st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. Robert E. Santana-LaBarge, 409-418. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

## DISSERTATION

**Shen, Zheng**. 2018. "Feature Arithmetic in the Nominal Domain." Doctoral dissertation, University of Connecticut.

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- MAY. 2022 "The definite DP island in wh-questions and relative clauses" Presentation to be given at the 40th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 40). (with Meghan Lim)
- MAR. 2022 "The definite DP island in wh-questions and relative clauses" Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. (with Meghan Lim)
- Nov. 2021 "Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative NPs: An experimental approach." Paper presented at the 9th International Conference on Formal Linguistics. (with Meghan Lim)
- Nov. 2021 "Coordinate Structure Constraint Violating Movement and Closest Conjunct Agreement." Talk at the 9th International Conference on Formal Linguistics.
- Nov. 2021 "Children's interpretation of superlatives in full and fragment answers." Poster presented at the 46th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD-45). (with Lyn Tieu)
- OCT. 2021 "Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative NPs: An experimental approach." Poster presented at the NELS 52, Rutgers University. (with Meghan Lim)
- SEPT. 2021 "On CSC-violating movement in BCS." Talk at Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS-16), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- AUG. 2021 "Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative NPs: An experimental approach." Talk at the 23rd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 23), Sogang University, South Korea. (with Meghan Lim)
- AUG. 2021 "A couple might not be enough for the internet." Talk at the 23rd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 23), Sogang University, South Korea.
- MAY. 2021 "Coordinate Structure Constraint and Conjunction Agreement." Paper presented at Agreement in Multivaluation Constructions, Frankfurt, Germany.
- JAN. 2021 "Coordinate Structure Constraint and Conjunction Agreement." Poster presented at LSA 2021.

- SEPT. 2020 “Gender Agreement with Exclusive Disjunction in Slovenian.” Paper presented at SinFonIJA 13, Budapest, Hungary. (with Franc Lanko Marušič)
- AUG. 2020 “Person and Number Agreement with Exclusive Disjunction in German.” Paper presented at SICOOG 22, Seoul, South Korea.
- MAY. 2020 “Gender agreement with exclusive disjunction in Slovenian.” Paper presented at the 29 Annual Meeting of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics, University of Washington. (with Franc Lanko Marušič)
- MAR. 2020 “Closest Conjunct Agreement in Right Node Raising as minimized ungrammaticality.” Poster presented at the 33rd Annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, UMass, US.
- AUG. 2019 “Colliding features: two types of closest conjunct agreement.” the Alphabet of Universal Grammar, London, the U.K.
- Nov. 2018 “Morphological and Semantic Agreement with Multiple Values.” Multiple Agreement across Domains 2018 (MAD 2018), Berlin, Germany. (with Peter W. Smith)
- OCT. 2018 “Agreement in Nominal Right Node Raising: an experimental approach.” the 11th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA 11), Kraków, Poland.
- OCT. 2018 “Morphological and Semantic Agreement beyond Hybrid Nouns.” the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 49), Cornell University. (with Peter W. Smith)
- AUG. 2018 “Agreement in Nominal Right Node Raising: an experimental approach.” the 20th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar, Seoul, South Korea.
- APR. 2018 “Interpretive restrictions on superlatives in full vs. fragment answers.” the 41st GLOW, Budapest. (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAR. 2018 “The agreement hierarchy and multi-valuation.” Current Issues in Comparative Syntax, the National University of Singapore.
- FEB. 2018 “Relative readings of superlatives in full vs. fragment answers: An experimental investigation.” Linguistic Evidence 2018, University of Tübingen. (with Lyn Tieu)
- DEC. 2017 “Children can access absolute and relative readings of superlatives.” the Australian Linguistic Society 2017, University of Sydney. (with Lyn Tieu)
- OCT. 2017 “The multi-valuation agreement hierarchy.” Resolving Conflicts Across Borders workshop & SinFonIJA 10.
- OCT. 2017 “Feature resolution, feature conflicts and the structure of either... or.” Resolving Conflicts Across Borders workshop & SinFonIJA 10. (with Peter W. Smith, Beata Moskal, Katharina Hartmann)
- SEPT. 2017 “Aiming high: children’s knowledge of absolute and relative readings of superlatives.” the 13th International Conference of the Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition. (with Lyn Tieu)
- AUG. 2017 “Cross-Domain Multi-Valuation as Agreement Hierarchy.” the 19th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar.
- APR. 2016 “An asymmetry between multi-valued Ns and Ts.” the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 34.
- APR. 2016 “On multi-valued Ns and Ts in number concord and agreement.” the 52nd Annual Meeting of Chicago Linguistics Society, University of Chicago.

- MAR. 2016 “Multi-value asymmetry in number agreement and concord.” the 40th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
- JAN. 2016 “A superlative argument for syntactic movement in fragment answer.” LSA 2016 Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- SEPT. 2015 “Fragment answers and movement - a superlative argument.” 2015 Annual Meeting of Linguistic Association of Great Britain (LAGB), University College London, London, UK.
- JUN. 2015 “Number agreement across borders in nominal RNR.” Agreement Across Borders Conference (AAB), University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia.
- JUN. 2015 “The ‘associative reading’ of DPs and the quantity vs. quality distinction.” the Semantics of African, Asian and Austronesian Languages 2 (TripleA), University of Potsdam. (with I-Ta Chris Hsieh)
- MAR. 2015 “No clash constraint in nominal RNR number agreement.” the 39th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
- NOV. 2014 “Beyond production: searching for absolute and relative interpretations of superlatives.” BUCLD 39, Boston University. (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAY 2014 “Investigating superlatives in the littlest linguists.” GLOW in Asia X, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAR. 2014 “The littlest linguists and their superlatives.” the 50th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society, University of Chicago. (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAR. 2014 “The third reading of the most expensive photo of Abby.” the 38th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
- JUL. 2013 “Syntactic treatment of the relative reading with NP Internal focus in superlatives.” the 19th International Congress of Linguists, Geneva, Switzerland.
- FEB. 2013 “On the relative reading with NP internal focus in superlatives.” the 31st West Coast Conference of Formal Linguistics, Arizona State University.

#### **INVITED TALKS**

- JAN. 2021 “Closest agreement in Slavic languages: Linear order or hierarchical structure.” Plenary talk at the 5th Asian Junior Linguistics Conference hosted by International Christian University.
- MAY. 2020 “What we can learn from agreement with exclusive disjunction.” Invited talk at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- NOV. 2019 “Does grammar care about linear order?” Invited talk at University of Vienna.
- APR. 2019 “What we can learn from Multi-valuation.” Invited talk at National Singapore University.
- FEB. 2019 “What we can learn from Multi-valuation.” Invited talk at McGill University.
- OCT. 2018 “Multi-valuation and the Language Level of the Agreement Hierarchy” Talk at Rutgers University.
- JUL. 2018 “Multi-valuation and the Agreement Hierarchy.” Invited talk at University of Tübingen.
- OCT. 2017 “Three projects in the nominal domain.” Colloquium talk for the Research Training Group ‘Nominal Modification’, Goethe University Frankfurt.

- SEPT. 2017 “Multi-valuation as the Agreement Hierarchy: typology and experiments.” Invited talk at Goethe University Frankfurt.
- AUG. 2017 “Fragment answers and movement.” Invited talk at Dongguk University.
- JUL. 2016 “Multi-Valuation in Nominal Right Node Raising Constructions and its Implications.” Invited talk at Ritsumeikan University, Japan.
- JUN. 2016 “Multi-Valuation in Nominal Right Node Raising Constructions and its Implications.” Colloquium talk at National Tsinghua University, Taiwan.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2016 Department Fellowship (merit-based teaching release) for 2016 Fall Semester, Department of Linguistics, UConn
- 2015 Bursary to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain
- 2015 UConn 2015 Graduate Travel Award
- 2015 Fellowship for Linguistic Society of America Linguistic Institute, University of Chicago
- 2015 University of Connecticut Provost’s Commendation for Teaching Excellence
- 2014 Financial Support for GLOW in Asia X from National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan
- 2012 Full Scholarship, North American Summer School on Logic, Language and Information

## **TEACHING**

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### **NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

- 2021-2022 GET1036 Logic of Language  
SEMESTER 2
- 2021-2022 EL3201 Syntax  
SEMESTER 1 EL4880D Experimental Syntax
- 2020-2021 EL4201 Advanced Syntax  
SEMESTER 2 EL4880D Experimental Syntax
- 2020-2021 EL3201 Syntax  
SEMESTER 1

### **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (AS INSTRUCTOR)**

- SPRING 2017 The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)
- FALL 2015 The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)
- WINTER 2014 Language and Mind (Ling 1010)
- FALL 2014 The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)
- FALL 2013 The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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- MEMBERSHIP
- the Linguistics Association of Great Britain
  - the Linguistic Society of America

## REVIEWING

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- 2022 Natural Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1 | Glossa Psycholinguistics \* 1 | LSA2022 | GLOW 45 | NELS 52
- 2021 Natural Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1 | Glossa \* 1 | International Journal of Chinese Linguistics \* 1 | GLOW 44 | WCCFL 39 | AMC workshop
- 2020 Semantics and Pragmatics \* 1 | International Journal of Chinese Linguistics \* 1 | Glossa \* 1 | NELS 51
- 2019 NACCL 32 | CLS 55
- 2018 Nature Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1 | Journal of Linguistics \* 1 | CLS 54 | NELS 49
- 2015 Nature Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1
- 2014 The Linguistics Review \* 1
- 2013 Nature Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1

## OTHER

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- FOUNDER Lingalert.com