

# Zheng SHEN

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<https://zheng-shen.github.io>

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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### BROAD INTERESTS

- Theoretical and experimental syntax
- Syntax-semantics interface
- First language acquisition

### SPECIFIC TOPICS

- Agreement
- Fragment answers
- Superlatives across languages
- Acquisition of degree expressions

## EMPLOYMENT

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2020.1 – Assistant Professor  
Department of English Language and Literature  
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

## 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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL PAPERS

- 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. [\[link\]](#).

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDING PAPERS

- Shen, Zheng** and Peter W. Smith. to appear. "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

- 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 (SinFonJA 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 & SinFonJA 10.
- OCT. 2017 “Feature resolution, feature conflicts and the structure of either... or.” Resolving Conflicts Across Borders workshop & SinFonJA 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

#### **COLLOQUIA AND INVITED TALKS**

- 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.
- JUL. 2018 "Multi-valuation and the Agreement Hierarchy." Invited talk at University of Tübingen.
- 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.

#### **OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

- OCT. 2018 "Multi-valuation and the Language Level of the Agreement Hierarchy" Talk at Rutgers University.
- 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.
- FEB. 2017 "Multi-Valuation and the Agreement Hierarchy." Ling Lunch talk at MIT.
- DEC. 2015 "Two Asymmetries in Agreement." the 5th UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable.

- DEC. 2014 “The singular and the plural pattern(s) in nominal right node raising.” the 4th UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable.
- Nov. 2014 “Some notes on ‘many’.” UConn Ling Lunch. (with I-Ta Chris Hsieh)
- Nov. 2013 “The relative reading with NP internal focus of superlatives in English-type languages.” Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS), MIT.
- DEC. 2013 “The littlest linguists and their superlatives.” the 3rd UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable.
- DEC. 2013 “1 account for 2 generalizations of the 3rd reading of *best*.” the 3rd UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable.
- DEC. 2012 “Superlatives.” the 2nd UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable.
- APR. 2012 “Asymmetries between both and all.” the 3rd University of Connecticut Language Fest.

## MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

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| MEMBERSHIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Linguistics Association of Great Britain</li> <li>• the Linguistic Society of America</li> </ul>   |
| REVIEWING  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Language and Linguistic Theory × 3</li> <li>• Journal of Linguistics × 1</li> <li>• The Linguistic Review × 1</li> <li>• NELS since 2017</li> <li>• CLS since 2018</li> </ul>  |
| SERVICE    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 - 2015 President of UConn Linguistics Club</li> <li>• 2013 - 2014 Chair of the Colloquium Committee of UConn Linguistics Club</li> <li>• 2012 - 2013 Secretary of UConn Linguistics Club</li> <li>• 2012 - 2015 Organizing Committee of UConn Open Houses</li> <li>• 2012 - 2013 Organizing Committee of the 44th Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society</li> <li>• 2012 - 2013 Coordinator of UConn Ling Lunch talk series</li> <li>• 2011 - 2013 Co-organizer of 1st - 3rd UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable</li> </ul> |

## TEACHING

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

- 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)

## OTHER

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- FOUNDER Lingalert.com