

Angela Y. Cao

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Education

Ph.D. Cognition and Perception , New York University	2025–
M.S. Computer Science , University of Rochester	2025
Enrolled in doctoral program in linguistics.	
M.S. Linguistics , University of Edinburgh	2023
B.A. Mathematics, B.A. Linguistics , <i>summa cum laude</i> , Emory University	2022

Non-degree Study

Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-Doctoral School in Computer Science (DE)	SU 2023
71st Linguistics Institute, Linguistics Society of America (US)	SU 2023
European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (IE)	SU 2022

Experience

Research

Graduate Researcher , NYU's Concepts & Causality Lab	2025–
Graduate Researcher , UR's Formal and Computational Semantics (FACTS) Lab	2022–2025
Research Assistant , Emory's Natural Language Processing Lab	2020–2022
NSF REU Intern , Stanford's Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI)	SU 2021

Teaching

Teaching Assistant , LING-110: Intro. to Linguistic Analysis, U. of Rochester	FA 2024
Teaching Assistant , QTM-190: Data Science for Beginners, Emory University	SP & FA 2021
Peer Mentor , LING-201: Introduction to Linguistics, Emory University	FA 2020

Publications

Proceedings

William Walden, Pavlo Kuchmiichuk, Alexander Martin, Chihsheng Jin, **Angela Cao**, Claire Sun, Curisia Allen, Aaron Steven White (2025). Cross-document event-keyed summarization. Proceedings of The 1st Joint Workshop on Large Language Models and Structure Modeling at ACL.

Angela Cao, Aaron Steven White, and Dan Lassiter (2025). *Cause, make, and force* as graded causatives. Proceedings of the 3rd Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM).

Angela Cao*, Atticus Geiger*, Elisa Kreiss*, Thomas Icard, and Tobias Gerstenberg (2023). A semantics for causing, enabling, and preventing verbs using structural causal models. Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Angela Cao and Madison Liotta (2023). Negation and negative polarity items in Tigrinya. University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics (PWPL), vol 29.1.

Angela Cao, Gregor Williamson, and Jinho D. Choi (2022). A cognitive approach to annotating causal constructions in a cross-genre corpus. Proceedings of the 16th Linguistic Annotation Workshop (LAW) at LREC.

Manuscripts

Angela Cao, Faye Holt, Jonas Chan, Stephanie Richter, Lelia Glass, and Aaron Steven White (2024). Generating event descriptions under syntactic and semantic constraints.

* indicates equal contribution

Talks & Posters

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| ELM 3 at University of Pennsylvania, USA
Poster on 'Graded Causatives'
Angela Cao, Aaron White, and Dan Lassiter | July 2024 |
| *Guest Presentation , "Language and Computers" at Georgia Tech, USA
Talk on 'Generating Event Descriptions with Syntactic and Semantic Constraints' | March 2024 |
| *PEER 3 at Cornell University, USA
Talk on 'Generating Event Descriptions with Syntactic and Semantic Constraints'
Angela Cao, Faye Holt, Jonas Chan, Stephanie Richter, Lelia Glass, and Aaron White | March 2024 |
| CogSci 45 at Sydney, Australia
Poster on 'A Semantics for Causing, Enabling, and Preventing Verbs Using Structural Causal Models'
Angela Cao, Atticus Geiger, Elisa Kreiss, Thomas Icard, and Tobias Gerstenberg | July 2023 |
| LELPGC 23 at University of Edinburgh, UK
Poster on 'Make and Force as Graded Causatives'
Angela Cao and Dan Lassiter | June 2023 |
| LAW 16 at LREC, Marseilles, France
Talk on 'A Cognitive Approach to Annotating Causal Constructions in a Cross-Genre Corpus'
Angela Cao, Gregor Williamson, and Jinho D. Choi Angela Cao | June 2022 |
| PLC 46 at University of Pennsylvania, USA
Talk on 'Negation and Negative Polarity Items in Tigrinya'
Angela Cao and Madison Liotta | March 2022 |

* if invited

Theses

M.Sc. Thesis: “Graded Causatives” Advised by Daniel Lassiter	2023
B.A. Thesis: “An Analysis of Causal Language Constructions in Diverse Discourse Data” Advised by Jinho D. Choi	2022

Awards

General

Rising Star, The Linguist List	2023
Honorable Mention (Psychology), NSF GRFP	2023
Edinburgh Award for Student Leadership	2023
Undergraduate Fellow, Emory Center for Mind, Brain, & Culture	2021–2022

Grants

MacCracken Fellowship, New York University	2025–2030
Linguistics Doctoral Assistantship, University of Rochester	2023–2025
Attendance Grant, Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School	2023
Attendance Grant for the 2023 LSA Institute, Georgia Institute of Technology	2023
Tuition Grant, European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information	2022
Research Grant, Emory Center for Mind, Brain, & Culture	2022
Research Grant, Emory Undergraduate Research Programs	2020 & 2021
Edward G. Scruggs Scholarship, Emory University	2019

Service

Reviewer, PEER 4	2025
Volunteer, Semantic and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 34	SU 2024
Organizer, Reading Group in Probabilistic Cognitive Modelling @ UoE	SP 2023
M.Sc. Linguistics Program Representative, University of Edinburgh	2022–2023
Website Coordinator, Language Lunch at the University of Edinburgh	2022–2023
Vice President, Phi Sigma Iota Honor Society	2022
Volunteer, Emory Undergraduate Linguistics Conference 3	2022
Research Ambassador, Emory Undergraduate Research Programs	FA 2021

Language

Human: Mandarin (fluent), English (native)

Programming: Python, R, Java, HTML, CSS, JavaScript

Frameworks/Tools: NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, spaCy, \LaTeX , llama.cpp

Last updated: June 6, 2025