

# Dr. Angela Xiaoxue He

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Assistant Professor, Department of English Language & Literature, Hong Kong Baptist University

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**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/view/angelaxiaoxuehe>

**Areas:** language acquisition, psycholinguistics, language and cognition, learning and memory

## Academic Qualifications & Positions

- 2019-2020 Research Assistant Professor, Brain and Mind Institute, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2018-2019 Postdoctoral Associate, Philosophy & Linguistics, University of Southern California
- 2015-2018 Postdoctoral Associate, Language & Hearing Sciences, Boston University
- 2009-2015 PhD in Linguistics, University of Maryland
- 2004-2009 BA in Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Grants, Awards & Fellowships

### Grants

- 2022-2024 One-off Tier 2 Start-up Grant, PI  
Hong Kong Baptist University, HK\$250,000  
*Input tailoring in parent-child real-time interaction*
- 2022 Faculty Research Impact Fund, PI  
Faculty of Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University, HK\$50,000  
*Promoting public recognition of the role of sleep in children's language development*
- 2021-2023 Special Grant for Strategic Development of Virtual Teaching and Learning, PI  
Hong Kong University Grants Committee (UGC), HK\$150,000  
*Virtual Board: Hybrid Delivery and Display for Enhanced Teaching and Learning*
- 2020-2022 [Knowledge Transfer Project Fund](#), PI; transferred to another PI due to job change  
Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK\$400,000  
*Sleep to remember—Promoting early language development by making best use of sleep*
- 2016-2017 [Dudley Allen Sargent Research Fund Faculty/Postdoc Competition](#), PI  
Boston University, \$5,000  
*Comprehension of 1st and 2nd person pronouns in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

### Awards

- 2017 [Peter Jusczyk Best Paper Award from the Society of Language Development](#)  
Paper title: *Verb Learning in 14- and 18-Month-Old English-Learning Infants*
- 2016 Travel Award for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders
- 2015 [Howard Lasnik Award](#) for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student
- 2014 Society for Language Development Student Award

2014	Graduate Travel Award, College of Arts and Humanities, Univ. of Maryland
2014	Jacob K Goldhaber Travel Award, Graduate School, Univ. of Maryland
2014	International Conference Student Support Award, Univ. of Maryland

### ***Fellowships***

2014	Graduate Teaching-Assistantship, Linguistics, Univ. of Maryland
2009-2014	Graduate Fellowship, Linguistics, Univ. of Maryland, \$20,000 each year
2011-2013	Language Science Fellowship, Univ. of Maryland, \$5,000 each year
2005-2009	Scholarship, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong, \$10,000 each year

## **Publications**

### ***Refereed Journals***

9. **He, A. X.** (2021). Optimal input for language development: Tailor nature to nurture. *Infant and Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/icd.2269>
8. **He, A. X.**, Huang, S., Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, S. (2020). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. *Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104205>
7. **He, A. X.**, & Witternberg, E. (2020). The acquisition of event nominals and light verbs. *Language and Linguistics Compass*. Language and Linguistics Compass. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lnc3.12363>
6. **He, A. X.**, Kon, M. & Arunachalam, S. (2020). Linguistic context in verb learning: Less is sometimes more. *Language Learning & Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2019.1676751>
5. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, & Farkas, H. F. (2019). Events and processes in language and mind. *Baltic Yearbook for Cognition, Logic, and Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.4148/1944-3676.1122>
4. de Carvalho A., **He A. X.**, Lidz J., & Christophe A. (2019). Prosody and function words cue the acquisition of word meanings in 18-month-old infants. *Psychological Science*, 30(3), 319-332. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797618814131>
3. **He, A. X.**, Luyster, R., Hong, S. J., & Arunachalam, S. (2018). Personal pronoun usage in maternal input to infants at high vs. low risk for autism spectrum disorder. *First Language*, 38(5), 520-537. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0142723718782634>
2. **He, A. X.** & Arunachalam, S. (2017). Word learning mechanisms. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews on Cognitive Science*, 8(4), e1435. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1435>  
This paper has been recognized as a top 20 most read paper in Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science.
1. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (2017). Verb learning in 14- and 18-month-old English-learning infants. *Language Learning and Development*, 13(3), 335-356. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2017.1285238>  
This paper has won the [Peter Juszyc Best Paper Award](#).

## Conference Proceedings

2. Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (2018). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. *Proceedings of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development*.  
<http://www.lingref.com/buclid/42/BUCLD42-03.pdf>

1. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (2015). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium*. <https://repository.upenn.edu/pwpl/vol21/iss1/32/>

## Invited Talks

12. **He, A. X.** (Mar 2021). Recognizing the role of sleep in early language acquisition. Brain and Mind Everywhere—A Virtual Symposium. Annual symposium at the Brain and Mind Institute, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

11. **He, A. X.** (Feb 2021). Decipher a novel verb and keep it in your memory: Investigating children's language acquisition with and beyond linguistics. Hong Kong University Linguistics Seminar.

10. **He, A. X.** (May 2019). *Gleebest* of the *blicks* are doing a *gorp!* — Inferring word meanings from the syntax. Semantics Babble (<http://idiom.ucsd.edu/ivano/SemBabble/>), research group at University of California, San Diego.

9. **He, A. X.** (Apr 2019). How do young learners orient themselves in the word learning maze? Developmental Brown Bag, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

8. **He, A. X.** (Apr 2019). Parse to learn while learning to parse: Verb learning and language processing in 3-year-olds. Language Processing Lab, PI: Elsi Kaiser, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Southern California.

7. **He, A. X.** (Mar 2019). How do young children "decipher" the meanings of "tough words"? Research seminar at the Dept. of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China.

6. **He, A. X.** (Dec 2017). Tackling those tough words: acquisition of verbs, abstract nouns, and pronouns. Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences Colloquium Series, Boston University.

5. **He, A. X.** (Nov 2017). What do we learn from acquisition of "tough" words? – Bringing linguistic, cognitive and social development together. Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston University.

4. **He, A. X.** (May 2017). Towards optimal input: Information and processing load in verb learning. Communication Sciences & Disorders Research Day, Boston University.

3. **He, A. X.** (Apr 2016). The role of sentence parsing, event analysis, and their relation in verb learning. Language and Cognition workshop, Harvard University.

2. **He, A. X.** (June 2015). Guided verb learning. Project on Child Development laboratory, PI: Sandra Waxman, Northwestern University.

1. **He, A. X.** (Oct 2013). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping of verb learning. Language Science Center, PI: Colin Phillips, University of Maryland.

## Refereed Conference Presentations

### *Talks*

22. Wellwood, A. & **He, A. X.** (June 2021). Aspects of comparing adjectives. Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA) Annual Meeting. Virtual.
21. **He, A. X.**, Luyster, R., & Arunachalam, S. (Apr 2021). Parent tuning to children's language processing speed. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2021 Biennial Meeting. Virtual.
20. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (July 2021). Online comprehension of parents' referential expressions in children with and without ASD. Paper presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL). Virtual.
19. Clancy, H., **He, A. X.**, Luyster, R., & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2019). "It's in your box!"—Personal pronoun comprehension in children with ASD. The 44<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
18. Wellwood, A., Pietroski, P. & **He, A. X.** (July 2019). Graded plurals and indeterminacy. Society for Philosophy & Psychology annual meeting (SPP), University of California, San Diego.
17. Wellwood, A., & **He, A. X.** (June 2019). Evaluating comparatives with superordinate mass nouns. The Canadian Linguistics Association Annual Meeting (CLA-ACL), Vancouver BC.
16. Clancy, H., **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Apr 2019). Personal pronoun comprehension in children with ASD. Linguistics and Cognitive Science Student Conference. Newark, DE.
15. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2018). Sleep consolidates syntactically-derived verb meanings in 2-year-olds. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
14. Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (Nov 2017). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. Paper at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston University, Boston, MA.
13. **He, A. X.**, Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, S., (Oct 2017). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. Paper at the 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.
12. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (July 2017). How we conceptualize the ends of events (and what it might mean for verb acquisition). Paper at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL). Lyon, France.
11. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Jan 2017). How much information is too much: Informativity and processing cost in verb learning. The 91<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Austin, TX.
10. de Carvalho, A., Dautriche, I., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J., Christophe, A. (May 2016). The acquisition of word meanings: interactions between parsing and learning. Paper at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA.
9. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (May 2016). When one cue is better than two: trade-off between processing load and informativity in verb learning and verb extension tasks. Paper at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA.
8. Perkins, L., **He, A. X.**, Williams, A., Dudley, R., Björnsdóttir, S. & Lidz, J. (Mar 2016). Can intransitive clauses name 2-participant events? A new test of participant-to-argument matching in verb learning. The 29<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.

7. **He, A. X.**, & Lidz, J. (Jan 2016). What infants learn about a verb depends on its subject. The 90<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), DC.
6. de Carvalho, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Christophe, A. (Nov 2015). 18-month-olds use the relationship between prosodic and syntactic structures to constrain the meaning of novel words. The 40<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
5. de Carvalho, A., **He, A. X.**, Dautrichel, I., Lidz, J. & Christophe, A. (Sept 2015). Phrasal prosody helps infants to access the syntactic structure of sentences and to constrain the acquisition of novel word meanings. Workshop on the role of prosody in early speech perception, the 12<sup>th</sup> Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition conference (GALA), Nantes, France.
4. **He, A. X.**, & Lidz, J. (Nov 2014). Development of the verb-event link between 14 and 18 months. The 39<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
3. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). When participant structure and argument structure do not match: Participant structure construction in adults and prelinguistic infants. Paper at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
2. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (May 2014). Thematic interpretation and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) & the 26th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL), College Park, MD.
1. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Mar 2014). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), Philadelphia, PA.

## **Posters**

18. Arunachalam, S., **He, A. X.**, & Song, H. (Nov 2020). When less is more: Evidence from verb learning in Korean 4- and 5-year-olds. The 45<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), virtual conference.
17. Shi, H., **He, A. X.**, Song, H., & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2020). Korean and English verb learning in transitive frames. The 45<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), virtual conference.
16. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2019). Can you do a "gorp" for five minutes? Learning nouns that denote event concepts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-2), Beijing, China.
15. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (June-July 2018). Exploring the conceptual origin of a linguistic behavior: Event endstate representation in infancy. The XXI ICIS Biennial Congress, Philadelphia, PA.
14. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2018). Verb learning mediated by sentence processing—understanding both the learning process and the learning outcome. The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
13. Williams, A., Perkins, L., **He, A. X.**, Björnsdóttir, S., & Lidz, J. (Nov 2017). A new test of one-to-one matching between arguments and participants in verb learning. The 42<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA.
12. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Oct 2017). Eye gaze reveals where verb learners trip. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.
11. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Oct 2017). Event nominal acquisition benefits from linguistic context. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.

10. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Aug 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.
9. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). How much information is too much when introducing new verbs: Insights from typically-developing 3-year-olds. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
8. **He, A. X.**, Kim, N., Hong, S. J., Luyster, R. & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). Pronouns in maternal input to infants at high- vs. low-risk for autism spectrum disorder. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
7. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 29<sup>th</sup> annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.
6. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic interpretations and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.
5. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). Verb learning and the perception of three-participant events in infants and adults. Poster presented at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.
4. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic role assignment in resultative constructions in English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
3. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Jan 2014). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 88<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Minneapolis, MN.
2. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Nov 2013). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: a prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 38<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
1. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (Nov 2011). Mapping intransitive verbs onto self-propelled actions. The 36<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA.

## Teaching

### ***Hong Kong Baptist University***

Role: sole lecturer; Duties: lecturing & grading

2021-2022 S2 ENGL4007: Advanced Topics in Linguistic Theory—Issues in Child Language Acquisition (3 credits, major elective)

2020-2021 S1 ENGL2005: Introduction to the Study of Language (3 credits, major required)

### ***Boston University***

Role: sole lecturer; Duties: lecturing

2017-2018 S2 SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required)

2016-2017 S2 SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required)

2015-2016 S2 SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required)



## ***University of Maryland***

Role: teaching assistant; Duties: grading, leading discussion sections

2014-2015 S2 LING240: Language and Mind  
2014-2015 S1 LING444: Child Language Acquisition  
2012-2013 S2 LING240: Language and Mind  
2012-2013 S1 LING200: Introduction to Linguistics  
2011-2012 S2 LING240: Language and Mind  
2010-2011 S2 LING200: Introduction to Linguistics  
2010-2011 S1 LING200: Introduction to Linguistics  
2011-2012 S1 LING444: Child Language Acquisition

## **Supervising**

### ***Postgraduate Advising***

2021-Pres. Teng WANG, Ph.D in progress, Hong Kong Baptist University  
Co-supervising with Dr. Ben ROWLETT

### ***Undergraduate Advising***

2021-2022 Supervisor of 3 honors project undergraduates, Hong Kong Baptist University  
2019-2020 Supervisor of 1 undergradaute thesis, Chinese University of Hong Kong  
2009-2015 Supervisor of >10 RAs in Project on Child Language Lab, University of Maryland  
2015-2018 Supervisor of >10 RAs, Child Language Lab, Boston University  
2018-2019 Supervisor of >6 RAs, The Meaning Lab, University of Southern California

## **Service**

### ***Member of Editorial Board***

2021-Pres. Editorial Board, Infant and Child Development  
2020-Pres. Review Editor, Language Sciences of Frontiers in Psychology & Frontiers in Communication

### ***Reviewer—Book Sections***

2016 Semantics in Language Acquisition in Trends in Language Acquisition Research

### ***Reviewer—Journals***

2021 Journal of Experimental Child Psychology; Language;  
Language Learning & Development; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research  
2020 Developmental Psychology; Language;  
Language Learning; Language Learning & Development  
2019 Child Development; First Language;  
Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics; Natural Language & Linguistic Theory

2018	Canadian Journal of Linguistics; Language Learning and Development; Natural Language & Linguistic Theory
2017	Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics; PLOS ONE
2016	Language, Cognition and Neuroscience
2015	Journal of Experimental Child Psychology

### ***Reviewer—Conference Abstracts***

2016-2021	BUCLD: Boston University Conference on Language Development
2020	IASCL: International Association for the Study of Child Language
2016-2019	CSS: Cognitive Science Society Meeting
2015	CUNY: CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure

### ***Committee Member***

2021-2023	Department Survey Coordinator, Hong Kong Baptist University
2021	Research Ethics Committee, Hong Kong Baptist University
2021	Asia-Pacific Babylab Constellation (ABC) 2021 Conference: Language and cognition in typical and atypical development
2012-2013	IGERT* Student Executive Committee, University of Maryland *NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program on Biological and Computational Bases of Language Science
2012	Language Science Day*, University of Maryland *annual social and scientific event of the language science community on campus
2011	IGERT* Lunch Talk Series & Social Events Committee, University of Maryland *NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program

### ***Outreach***

2017-2019	Founder and contributing author of the WeChat* special column <a href="#">Cognitive Science</a> ** *widely used social media in China **disseminates cognitive science-related knowledge to general public; updated weekly
2011	Contributor to Infant and Child Studies Tent @ Maryland Day* *all-day event to expose the public to linguistic and cognitive science
2010	Contributor to High School Outreach*, Language Science Center, Univ. of Maryland *hosts visits for local high-schoolers to the university campus and the language science labs