

## Cheng Xiao

PhD Candidate, Linguistics, University of South Carolina

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<https://chengxiaocx.github.io>

### Education

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- 2019-present **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, anticipated spring 2025  
 University of South Carolina, United States  
 Dissertation: *The processing of emotional prosody and semantics in native and non-native Chinese speakers*  
 Committee: Jiang Liu, Rutvik H. Desai (co-chairs), Amit Almor, Svetlana Shinkareva
- 2013-2016 **M.A. in Linguistics and applied linguistics**  
 Wuhan University, China  
 Thesis: *Noun acquisition in Chinese children with autism spectrum disorder*
- 2009-2013 **B.A. in Humanities**
- 2010-2013 **B.Ec. in Finance**  
 Wuhan University, China

### Academic positions

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- 2023-present Graduate research assistant, Desai Lab, Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina
- 2022-2023 Graduate teaching assistant (**instructor of record**), Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
- 2021, 2022 Graduate research assistant (summer), Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
- 2019-2022 Graduate teaching assistant (**instructor of record**), Chinese Program, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina

### Grants

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- 2023-2025 **National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant** (Ling-DDRIG), BCS-2234914 (*Doctoral Dissertation Research: The semantic effect on the processing of emotional prosody in a tone language: A neurolinguistic study*), National Science Foundation, USD 17,780.
- 2022-2023 **University of South Carolina SPARC Graduate Research Grant**, 120700-22-59283 (*Bridging meaning and sound: The effects of semantics on emotional prosody processing in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences*), University of South Carolina, USD 4,938.
- 2020-2021 **Graduate Teaching Resource Development Grant** (for enrichment of CHIN121: Elementary Mandarin Chinese, with Dan Luo), Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina, USD 400.
- 2020-2021 **Graduate Teaching Resource Development Grant** (for enrichment of CHIN321: Advance Mandarin Chinese, with Dan Luo), Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina, USD 400.

## Selected awards and fellowships

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04/2024	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Summer Research Award, University of South Carolina, USD 500.
03/2024	Dr. Richard Walker Memorial Endowed Fellowship, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina, USD 5,000.
07/2023	Paula Menyuk Travel Award for the 48 <sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48), USD 385.
05/2023	Discover USC Graduate Student Poster Award winner, University of South Carolina.
02/2023	Society for Human Sentence Processing Student Travel Award (HSP 36), USD 400.
05/2021	Linguistics Program Graduate Student Summer Research Award, University of South Carolina, USD 600.
2013-2016	Outstanding Graduate Student Fellowship, Wuhan University, tuition & living expenses.
2011	Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award winner, College of Chinese Language and Literature, Wuhan University.
2009-2013	Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, Wuhan University, RMB 3,200.

## Publications

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### *Refereed journal articles*

- Xiao, C., & Liu, J.** (in press). The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences. *Second Language Research*.
- Xiao, C., & Liu, J.** (2024). Semantic effects on the perception of emotional prosody in native and non-native Chinese speakers. *Cognition and Emotion*. 1-11.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2024.2371088>
- Wang, B. X., Chen, S., Zhou, F., Liu, J., **Xiao, C.**, Chan, A., & Tang, T. (2024). English prosodic focus marking by Cantonese trilingual children with and without autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 67(3), 782-801.  
[https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_JSLHR-23-00508](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_JSLHR-23-00508)

### *Refereed book chapters*

- Liu, J., & **Xiao, C.** (2021). Tone category learning should serve tone word learning: an experiment of integrating pronunciation teaching in L2 Chinese curriculum. In Edited Volume *The acquisition of Chinese as a second language pronunciation: Segments and prosody*. Edited by Yang, Chunsheng: Springer. [http://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3809-4\\_6](http://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3809-4_6)

### *Work in progress*

- Xiao, C.**, Liu, J., Shinkareva, V. S., Yang, X., Desai, R.H. (*to be submitted*). Knowing is feeling: The role of semantic valence in emotional prosody perception for L2 Chinese learners.  
<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/7JTWX>
- Xiao, C.**, Arheix-Parras, S., Johari, K., Riccardi, N., Desai, R.H. (*in preparation*). Effects of thematic and taxonomic semantic neighbors in anterior temporal lobe stimulation.

Arheix-Parras, S., **Xiao, C.**, Crouse, C., Riccardi, N., Johari, K., Desai, R.H. (*to be submitted*). The role of anterior temporal lobe in reading: a tDCS study.

### ***Other publications***

Wang, B. X., Chen, S., Zhou, F., Liu, J., **Xiao, C.**, & Chan, A. (2023). Declarative or declarative question? —On the acoustics of English prosody of Hong Kong trilingual children with autism spectrum disorder. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 153(3\_supplement), A289-A289. <https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0018879>

Luo, H., Zhao, S., Luo, J., Tan, Xin., Ruan, G., Chen, Y., ..., **Xiao, C.**, ..., & Zhu, Y. (2018). *Comprehensive dictionary of Chinese poetry rhythms*. Zhonghua Book Company. ISBN 978-7101129779. (in Chinese)

Tang, C., Luo, X., Zhan, Y., Li, H., Mo. Y., Zhang, Wen., Sun, D., Zhang, Xue., Liu, Y., **Xiao, C.**, Yuan, Yu., & Xin, Wen. (2017). *Chinese characters and calligraphy* (Guangdong province calligraphy textbook series, Book 3). Guangdong Education Publishing House. ISBN 978-7554815625. (in Chinese)

Tang, C., Luo, X., Zhan, Y., Li, H., Mo. Y., Zhang, Wen., Sun, D., Zhang, Xue., Liu, Y., **Xiao, C.**, Yuan, Yu., & Xin, Wen. (2017). *Chinese characters and calligraphy* (Guangdong province calligraphy textbook series, Book 4). Guangdong Education Publishing House. ISBN 978-7554815632. (in Chinese)

**Xiao, C.** (2017). The language acquisition strategy for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction*, 10, 35-37. (in Chinese)

### **Presentations**

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#### ***Invited talks***

2024 The perception of emotional prosody in L2 Chinese learners, special session on second language acquisition at *the Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia* (LCUGA 2024), Athens, GA, February 17.

#### ***Conference presentations***

2024 Semantic neighborhood effects with anterior temporal lobe stimulation, *Society for the Neurobiology of Language 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting* (SNL 2024), Brisbane, Australia, October 26.

2024 The perception of emotional prosody in novice and advanced L2 Chinese learners, *37<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Sentence Processing Conference* (HSP 37), Ann Arbor, MI, May 16.

2024 Knowing is feeling: The role of semantic valence in emotional prosody perception for L2 Chinese learners, *2024 GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, April 13.

2023 Semantic effects on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese: facilitation for L1 speakers versus interference for L2 learners, *48<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development* (BUCLD 48), Boston, MA, November 4.

2023 The emotional prosody perception of native speakers and L2 learners: an examination of semantic congruence effect, *Florida Psycholinguistics Meeting 2023* (FPM 2023), Gainesville, FL, October 21.

- 2023 *What you say vs. how you say it: the semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentence, Discover USC 2023 at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 21.*
- 2023 The semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *2023 GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 8.*
- 2023 The semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences, *Conference of the Institute for Mind and Brain at the University of South Carolina 2023, Columbia, SC, March 17.*
- 2023 Bridging sound and meaning: the semantic effect on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *36<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Sentence Processing Conference (HSP 36), Pittsburgh, PA, March 10.*
- 2022 The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences, *2022 GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, March 18.*
- 2022 The perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 96), Washington, DC, January 8.*
- 2021 The effect of language experience on the perception of emotional prosody in Mandarin Chinese, *1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Tone and Intonation, Sonderborg, Denmark, December 8.*
- 2018 The mini-corpus analysis of the language of the autistic children, *4<sup>th</sup> Corpus Linguistics Conference in China, Wuhan, China, June 2.*
- 2018 Inquiry into the language acquisition of the autistic children, *1<sup>st</sup> Neurolinguistics Conference in China, Xuzhou, China, July 1.*

## Teaching experience

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### *Linguistics*

**Instructor of record**, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

Spring 2023 LING 301/ENGL 389: The English Language

Fall 2022 LING 101: Introduction to Language

**Invited guest lecturer**, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

Fall 2024 LING 474/PSYC 474: Cognitive and Social Aspects of Bilingualism (on accent)

Spring 2023 LING 300: Introduction to Language Sciences (on phonetics)

### *Chinese as a second language*

**Instructor of record**, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina

Spring 2020 CHIN 322: Advanced Mandarin Chinese II

Fall 2019 CHIN 321: Advanced Mandarin Chinese I

Spring 2022 CHIN 222: Intermediate Mandarin Chinese II

Fall 2022 CHIN 221: Intermediate Mandarin Chinese I

Spring 2021 CHIN 122: Basic Proficiency Mandarin Chinese

Fall 2020 CHIN 121: Elementary Mandarin Chinese

***English as a second language*****Tutor**, International Accelerator Program, University of South Carolina

Fall 2019, Spring 2020 Academic English writing and speaking

**Supervising experience**

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2023-present	Sidney Crouse (Neuroscience, undergraduate), Desai Lab
2023-present	Rachel Gulczinski (Biology, undergraduate), Desai Lab
2022-2024	Katia Boyet (Psychology & Statistics, undergraduate), Desai Lab
2024	Mira Flyorova (Philosophy, undergraduate), Linguistics program

**Ad-hoc reviewing**

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Conference	Discover USC 2024, Psychology and neuroscience, undergraduate section.
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**Service**

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2023-present	Serve as a graduate fellowship peer mentor for the National Fellowship office at the University of South Carolina.
2024	Serve as a graduate enrichment committee member for the Linguistics Program at the University of South Carolina.
2023	Lead a professional development workshop on <i>Creating Research Posters 101</i> for GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina.
2020-2021	Design the prosodic-enhanced course module for Chinese Program and Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) at the University of South Carolina.
2016-2017	Compile and edit a series of Chinese calligraphy textbooks (12 books) for primary school students, all authorized by the Bureau of Education in Guangdong Province, and each book sells more than 100,000 copies.

**Research skills**

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<b>Tools</b>	AFNI, Audacity, E-Prime, fMRIPrep, FSL, Praat, Python, Qualtrics, R, RStudio, Unix
<b>Methods</b>	Behavioral measures, functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), High-definition transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (HD-tDCS)
<b>Languages</b>	English, Mandarin Chinese (native), Xiang Chinese

**Memberships**

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Society for Human Sentence Processing  
 Society for the Neurobiology of Language  
 Linguistic Society of America