

Cheng Xiao

PhD Candidate, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

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[Curriculum Vitae, updated August 2024]

Education

- 2019-present **Ph.D. in Linguistics**
University of South Carolina, United States
Dissertation: *The processing of emotional prosody and semantics in Mandarin Chinese words and sentences*
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: *The noun acquisition and rehabilitation of children with autism spectrum disorder in Mandarin Chinese*
- 2009-2013 **B.A. in Humanities**
- 2010-2013 **B.Ec. in Finance**
Wuhan University, China

Academic Appointments

- 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

- 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**, Proposal # 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 course enrichment of CHIN121: Elementary Mandarin Chinese), University of South Carolina, USD 400.
- 2020-2021 **Graduate Teaching Resource Development Grant** (for course enrichment of CHIN321: Advance Mandarin Chinese), University of South Carolina, USD 400.

Publications

Refereed journal articles

- Xiao, C., & Liu, J. (accepted). 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
- Xiao, C., Arheix-Parras, S., Johari, K., Riccardi, N., Desai, R.H. (in preparation). Semantic neighborhood effects with anterior temporal lobe stimulation.
- Xiao, C., Liu, J., Shinkareva, S., Yang, X., Desai, R.H. (in preparation). Knowing is feeling: The role of semantic valence in emotional prosody perception for L2 Chinese learners.
<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/7JTWX>

Refereed book chapter

- 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

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)

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 16th Annual Meeting* (SNL 2024), Brisbane, Australia, October 26.
- 2024 The perception of emotional prosody in novice and advanced L2 Chinese learners, *37th 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, *48th 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, *36th 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, *96th 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, *1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation*, Sonderborg, Denmark, December 8.
- 2018 The mini-corpus analysis of the language of the autistic children, *4th Corpus Linguistics Conference in China*, Wuhan, China, June 2.
- 2018 Inquiry into the language acquisition of the autistic children, *1st Neurolinguistics Conference in China*, Xuzhou, China, July 1.

Teaching Experience

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
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
Guest Lecturer , Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina	
Spring 2023	LING 300: Introduction to Language Sciences
Tutor , International Accelerator Program, University of South Carolina	
Fall 2019–Spring 2020	English as a second language (ESL) Tutor

Selected Awards and Fellowships

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 th 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.

Ad-hoc Reviewing

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

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 Chinese 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

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

Memberships

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