Cheng Xiao

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Education

2019-2025	**Ph.D. in Linguistics**
	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 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 & B.Ec. in Finance**
	Wuhan University, China

Academic Positions

2025-present	Graduate Research Assistant, Aging Brain Cohort (ABC), Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of South Carolina
2023-2025	Graduate Research Assistant, Desai Lab, Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina
2022-2023	Instructor of Record, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
2021, 2022	Graduate Research Assistant (summer), Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
2019-2022	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**, 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

2025   Society for Human Sentence Processing Student Travel Award (HSP 38), USD 375.

2024   Linguistics Program Graduate Student Summer Research Award, University of South Carolina, USD 500.

2024   Dr. Richard Walker Memorial Endowed Fellowship, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina, USD 5,000.

2023   Paula Menyuk Travel Award for the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48), USD 385.

2023   Discover USC Graduate Student Poster Award winner, University of South Carolina.

2023   Society for Human Sentence Processing Student Travel Award (HSP 36), USD 400.

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

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Xiao, C., & Liu, J. (2024b). The Perception of Emotional Prosody in Mandarin Chinese Words and Sentences. *Second Language Research*. 1-28. https://doi.org/10.1177/02676583241286748

Xiao, C., & Liu, J. (2024a). 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

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

Work in Progress

Xiao, C., Liu, J., Shinkareva, V. S., Yang, X., Desai, R.H. (*in revision*). Knowing and Feeling: The Role of Semantic Valence in Emotional Prosody Perception for L2 Chinese Learners.

Arheix-Parras, S., **Xiao, C.**, Crouse, C., Riccardi, N., Johari, K., Desai, R.H. (*in revision*). The Role of the Anterior Temporal Lobe in Reading: an HD-tDCS Study.

Xiao, C., Arheix-Parras, S., Riccardi, N., Johari, K., Desai, R.H. (*submitted*). Thematic and Taxonomic Semantic Neighborhoods are Affected by Anterior Temporal Stimulation.

Yang, X., Gao, C., **Xiao, C.**, Riccardi, N., Desai, R.H. (manuscript available upon request). Psycholinguistic Constructs Underlying Words in Naturalistic Listening.

Arheix-Parras, S. (co-first author), **Xiao, C.** (co-first author), Riccardi, N., Johari, K., Desai, R.H. (manuscript available upon request). The Role of the Anterior Temporal Lobe in Auditory and Visual Lexicosemantic Processes.

Xiao, C., Desai, R.H. (in preparation). Age-related Differences in the Neural Representation of Psycholinguistic Constructs [Data collection and analyses completed].

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

Invited Talks

2025   Language and Emotion in L1 and L2 Brain, *Second Language Acquisition Reading Group at the University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, February 20.

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

2025   Neural Processing of Emotional Prosody in Native and Non-native Chinese Speakers, *38th Annual Human Sentence Processing Conference* (HSP 38), College Park, MD, March 28.

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 Autistic Children, *4th Corpus Linguistics Conference in China*, Wuhan, China, June 2.

2018   Inquiry into the Language Acquisition of Autistic Children, *1ˢᵗ Neurolinguistics Conference in China*, Xuzhou, China, July 1.

Teaching Experience

Linguistics

2022-2023   **Instructor of Record**, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
LING 301/ENGL 389: The English Language
LING 101: Introduction to Language

2023-2024   **Invited Guest Lecturer**, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
LING 474/PSYC 474: Cognitive and Social Aspects of Bilingualism (on accent)
LING 300/PSYC 300: Introduction to Language Sciences (on phonetics)

Teaching Chinese as a Second Language

2019-2022   **Instructor of Record**, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina
CHIN 322: Advanced Mandarin Chinese II
CHIN 321: Advanced Mandarin Chinese I
CHIN 222: Intermediate Mandarin Chinese II
CHIN 221: Intermediate Mandarin Chinese I
CHIN 122: Basic Proficiency Mandarin Chinese
CHIN 121: Elementary Mandarin Chinese

Teaching English as a Second Language

2019-2020   **ESL Tutor**, University of South Carolina

Supervising Experience

2023-2025   Sidney Crouse (Neuroscience, undergraduate), Desai Lab
2023-2024   Rachel Gulczinski (Biology, undergraduate), Desai Lab
2022-2024   Katia Boyet (Psychology & Statistics, undergraduate), Desai Lab
2024   Abbie Scoby (International Business and Finance & French), Linguistics Program
2024   Mira Flyorova (Philosophy, undergraduate), Linguistics program

Ad-hoc reviewing

Journal   Bilingualism: Language and Cognition

Scientific Reports

PLOS One

Conference   Discover USC 2024, Psychology and Neuroscience Section.

Service

2023-2025	Graduate Fellowship Peer Mentor, National Fellowship office at the University of South Carolina.
2024	Graduate Enrichment Committee Member, Linguistics Program at the University of South Carolina.
2023	Professional Development Workshop Leader, *Creating Research Posters 101* for GSLING Student Research Symposium at the University of South Carolina.
2020-2021	Course Module Designer, prosodic-enhanced course module for the Chinese Program and Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of South Carolina.
2016-2018	Textbook Writer and Editor, 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, MATLAB, Praat, Python, Qualtrics, R, REDCap, Unix
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