

DAOXIN LI

Updated September 2024
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EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Fellow

2024 -

Infant and Child Development Center, Northwestern University
PI: Sandra Waxman

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Linguistics

2019 - 2024

University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation: *Distributional learning of syntactic generalizations*

Committee: Charles Yang (advisor), Kathryn Schuler (co-advisor), Julie Anne Legate, John Trueswell, Marlyse Baptista

B.A. in English Language

2015 - 2019

Tsinghua University

Non-degree Studies

Certificate in Language and Communication Science, University of Pennsylvania

2024

(Interdisciplinary graduate training in linguistics, computer science, psychology, neuroscience, and quantitative statistics)

Certificate in College and University Teaching, Penn Center for Teaching & Learning

2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Behavioral and computational study of language acquisition; Syntax and semantics acquisition; Distributional learning; Word learning; Language and Cognition; Psycholinguistics; Theoretical syntax; Quantitative methods

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

1. **Daoxin Li** & Sandra Waxman. (2026). Invited chapter on word learning in prep. In Hilary Nesi & Petar Milin (Eds.), *International encyclopedia of language and linguistics, 3rd edition*. Elsevier.

Peer-reviewed Articles

7. **Daoxin Li**. (2024). Controlling overt subjects in Mandarin. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*. doi: 10.1007/s10831-024-09280-2

6. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2024). Children can use distributional cues to acquire recursive structures. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 46*, 1925-1932. [PDF]

5. **Daoxin Li**, Christine Soh Yue, & John Trueswell. (2024). Is it a bat or a thing? Referential contrast in the learning of homophones and superordinate terms. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46, 2301-2307. [PDF]
4. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn D. Schuler. (2023). Acquiring recursive structures through distributional learning. *Language Acquisition*, 30(3–4), 323–336. doi: 10.1080/10489223.2023.2185522
awarded *Language Acquisition* 2023 Best Paper by an Untenured Scientist
3. Qing Lyu, Hua Zheng, **Daoxin Li**, Li Zhang, Marianna Apidianaki, & Chris Callison-Burch. (2022). Is “my favorite new movie” my favorite movie? Probing the understanding of recursive noun phrases. In *Proceedings of the 2022 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL 2022)*. (pp. 5286–5302). doi: 10.18653/v1/2022.naacl-main.388
2. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2021). Distributional learning of recursive structures. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 43, 1437-1443. [PDF]
1. Li Yin, R. Malatesha Joshi, **Daoxin Li**, & Seon-Kee Kim. (2020). Decisions about consonant doubling among non-native speakers of English: Graphotactic and phonological influences. *Reading and Writing*, 33, 1839–1858. doi: 10.1007/s11145-020-10017-5

Manuscripts (* indicates student mentee)

1. **Daoxin Li** & Charles Yang. (To be submitted). Productivity and the distributional learning of recursive structure.
2. Kathryn Schuler, **Daoxin Li**, & *Shengqi Zhong. (In prep). Adapting the head turn preference procedure for the web.
3. **Daoxin Li** & John Trueswell. (In prep). One meaning or two? The role of implicit referential contrast in the learning of homophones and superordinate terms.
4. **Daoxin Li**. (In prep). Distributional learning of verb argument structure: A computational model.

Conference Proceedings with Peer-reviewed Abstract (* indicates student mentee)

8. **Daoxin Li**. (To appear). Modelling the distributional learning of verb argument structure. In *Proceedings of the 48th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48)*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
7. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2023). Distributional learning of recursive structures: The role of the structural representation. In Paris Gappmayr and Jackson Kellogg (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 47th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 47)* (pp. 487-498). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. [PDF]
6. **Daoxin Li**, *Shengqi Zhong, & Kathryn Schuler. (2023). Adapting infant looking time paradigms for the web. In Paris Gappmayr and Jackson Kellogg (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 47th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 47)* (pp. 499-504). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. [PDF]
5. **Daoxin Li**. (2023). Passives, impersonals, and Voice in Sakha. In Si Kai Lee, Sarah Asinari

and Sabine Lazakovits (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*, 7, 88-103. doi: 10.3765/ptu.v7i1.5308

4. **Daoxin Li**. (2022). Syntactic bootstrapping mental verbs and perception verbs with limited morphosyntactic cues. In Ying Gong and Felix Kpogo (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 46th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 46)* (pp. 428-441). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. [PDF]

3. **Daoxin Li**, Lydia Grohe, Petra Schulz, & Charles Yang. (2021). The distributional learning of recursive structures. In Danielle Dionne and Lee-Ann Vidal Covas (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 45th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 45)* (pp. 471-485). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. [PDF]

2. **Daoxin Li**. (2021). Controlling overt subjects in Mandarin. In *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 6(1), 303-316. doi: 10.3765/plsa.v6i1.4973

1. **Daoxin Li**, Xiaolu Yang, Thomas Roeper, Michael Wilson, Rong Yin, Jaieun Kim, Emma Merritt, Diego Lopez, & Austin Tero. (2020). Acquisition of recursion in child Mandarin. In Megan M. Brown and Alexandra Kohut (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 44th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 44)* (pp. 294-307). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. [PDF]

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

6. **Daoxin Li**. (2024). *Adults and children can use distributional cues to acquire recursive structures*. Talk at the Learning and Development Lab, Georgetown University, Washington DC, Mar 26, 2024.

5. **Daoxin Li**. (2024). *Modelling the distributional learning of verb argument structure*. Talk at the Integrated Language Sciences and Technology (ILST) Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Feb 9, 2024.

4. **Daoxin Li**. (2023). *Distributional learning of recursive structures*. Talk at the Language Acquisition Lab, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA, Sep 21, 2023. (Virtual)

3. **Daoxin Li**. (2022). *Adapting infant looking time paradigms for the web*. Talk at the Integrated Language Sciences and Technology (ILST) Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Oct 28, 2022.

2. **Daoxin Li**. (2021). *Distributional learning of recursive structures*. Talk at the Integrated Language Sciences and Technology (ILST) Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Oct 1, 2021.

1. Petra Schulz, **Daoxin Li**, Lydia Grohe, & Charles Yang. (2020). *The distributional learning of recursive structures: The case of possessives in German*. Talk at the Language Acquisition Research Center (LARC) Roundtable, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA, Oct 30, 2020. (Virtual)

Referred Conference Presentations (* indicates student mentee)

30. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2024). *Children can use distributional cues to acquire recur-*

sive structures. Poster at the 49th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 49), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 7 - 10, 2024.

29. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2024). *Children can use distributional cues to acquire recursive structures*. Poster at the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2024), Rotterdam, Netherlands, Jul 24 - 27, 2024. (Virtual)

28. **Daoxin Li**, Christine Soh Yue, & John Trueswell. (2024). *Is it a bat or a thing? Referential contrast in the learning of homophones and superordinate terms*. Poster at the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2024), Rotterdam, Netherlands, Jul 24 - 27, 2024. (Virtual)

27. **Daoxin Li**. (2024). *Modelling the distributional learning of verb argument structure*. Talk at the 98th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2024), New York NY, Jan 4 - 7, 2024.

awarded 2nd Prize for LSA Student Abstract Award

26. **Daoxin Li** & John Trueswell. (2024). *One meaning or two? The role of referential contrast in the learning of homophones and superordinate terms*. Poster at the 98th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2024), New York NY, Jan 4 - 7, 2024.

25. **Daoxin Li**. (2023). *Modelling the distributional learning of verb argument structure*. Poster at the 48th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 2 - 5, 2023.

24. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2023). *Distributional learning of recursive structures: The role of the structural representation*. Poster at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2023), Sydney, Australia, Jul 26 - 29, 2023.

23. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2023). *Distributional learning of recursive structures: The role of the structural representation*. Poster at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 2023), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, Mar 9 - 11, 2023.

22. **Daoxin Li** & John Trueswell. (2023). *Cross-situational learning homophones and general categories: The role of the referential domain*. Poster at the 97th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2023), Denver CO, Jan 5 - 8, 2023.

21. *Shengqi Zhong, **Daoxin Li**, & Kathryn Schuler. (2022). *Adapting infant looking time paradigms for the web*. Talk at the 47th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 47), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 3 - 6, 2022.

20. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2022). *Distributional learning of recursive structures: The role of the structural representation*. Poster at the 47th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 47), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 3 - 6, 2022.

19. Qing Lyu, Hua Zheng, **Daoxin Li**, Li Zhang, Marianna Apidianaki, & Chris Callison-Burch. (2022). *Is "my favorite new movie" my favorite movie? Probing the understanding of recursive noun phrases*. Talk at the 2022 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL 2022), Seattle WA, Jul 10 - 15, 2022.

18. **Daoxin Li**, *Shengqi Zhong, & Kathryn Schuler. (2022). *Adapting infant looking time paradigms for the web*. Talk at the XXII Biennial International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS 2022), Ottawa, Canada, Jul 7 - 10, 2022.

17. Qing Lyu, Hua Zheng, **Daoxin Li**, Li Zhang, Marianna Apidianaki, & Chris Callison-Burch. (2022). *Is “my favorite new movie” my favorite movie? Probing the understanding of recursive noun phrases*. Poster at the 9th annual Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (MASC-SLL 2022), Temple University, Philadelphia PA, Apr 30, 2022.
16. **Daoxin Li**. (2022). *Passives, impersonals, and Voice in Sakha*. Talk at the 58th annual meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 58), University of Chicago, Chicago IL, Apr 22 – 24, 2022. (Virtual)
15. **Daoxin Li**, *Shengqi Zhong, & Kathryn Schuler. (2022). *Adapting infant looking time paradigms for the web*. Poster at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 2022), University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA, Mar 24 – 26, 2022. (Virtual)
14. **Daoxin Li**. (2022). *Passives, impersonals, and Voice in Sakha*. Talk at the 7th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+7), University of Connecticut, Storrs CT, Feb 18 – 19, 2022. (Virtual)
13. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2022). *Acquiring recursive structures through distributional learning*. Talk at the 96th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2022), Washington DC, Jan 6 – 9, 2022.
12. **Daoxin Li**. (2022). *Syntactic bootstrapping mental verbs and perception verbs with limited morphosyntactic cues*. Poster at the 96th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2022), Washington DC, Jan 6 – 9, 2022.
11. **Daoxin Li**. (2021). *Syntactic bootstrapping mental verbs and perception verbs with limited morphosyntactic cues*. Talk at the 46th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 46), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 4 – 7, 2021. (Virtual)
10. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2021). *Distributional learning of recursive structures*. Poster at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2021), University of Vienna, Austria, Jul 26 – 29, 2021. (Virtual)
9. **Daoxin Li**. (2021). *Controlling overt subjects in Mandarin*. Talk at the 33rd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL 33), University of Chicago, Chicago IL, Jun 24 – 25, 2021. (Virtual)
8. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2021). *Acquiring recursive structures through distributional learning*. Talk at “Recursion across Languages: The Intricacies of Babel” Workshop, Bucharest, Romania, Jun 1 – 2, 2021. (Virtual)
7. **Daoxin Li** & Kathryn Schuler. (2021). *Acquiring recursive structures through distributional learning*. Talk at the 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 34), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Mar 4 – 6, 2021. (Virtual)
6. **Daoxin Li**, Lydia Grohe, Petra Schulz, & Charles Yang. (2021). *The distributional learning of recursive structures*. Short talk at the 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 34), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Mar 4 – 6, 2021. (Virtual)
5. **Daoxin Li**. (2021). *Controlling overt subjects in Mandarin*. Talk at the 95th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2021), San Francisco CA, Jan 7 – 10, 2021. (Virtual)

4. **Daoxin Li**, Lydia Grohe, Petra Schulz, & Charles Yang. (2020). *The distributional learning of recursive structures*. Talk at the 45th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 45), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 5 – 8, 2020. (Virtual)
3. **Daoxin Li**, Xiaolu Yang, Thomas Roeper, Michael Wilson, Rong Yin, Jaieun Kim, Emma Merritt, Diego Lopez, & Austin Tero. (2019). *Acquisition of recursion in child Mandarin*. Poster at the 44th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 44), Boston University, Boston MA, Nov 7 – 10, 2019. (Accepted as an alternate for talk)
2. **Daoxin Li**, Xiaolu Yang, Thomas Roeper, Michael Wilson, Rong Yin, Jaieun Kim, & Emma Merritt. (2019). *Acquisition of recursion in child Mandarin*. Poster at the 14th bi-annual conference on Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA 14), University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, Sep 12 – 14, 2019.
1. Li Yin, R. Malatesha Joshi, **Daoxin Li**, & Seon-Kee Kim. (2019). *Graphotactic as well as phonological influences on decisions about consonant doubling among non-native speakers of English*. Talk at the third annual conference of the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA 2019), Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, India, Feb 28 – Mar 1, 2019.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

1. External

- “Shui Mu Tsinghua Scholar” Postdoctoral Fellowship** (declined) 2024
Tsinghua University
- Paula Menyuk Travel Award** 2024
The 49th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 49)
- 2nd Place, Student Abstract Award** 2024
The 98th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2024)
- Prize for the Best Original Research Article of 2023 by an Untenured Scientist** 2023
Language Acquisition Editorial Team
- Paula Menyuk Award** (awarded to students who are first authors on top-rated abstracts) 2021
The 46th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 46)

2. University of Pennsylvania

- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship** 2019 - 2024
- Research Grant** (\$1,800), Integrated Language Sciences and Technology Initiative (ILST) 2024
- Research Travel Grant**, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) 2019, 2023, 2024
- Departmental Conference Travel Reimbursement Fund**, Department of Linguistics 2023
- Dean’s Travel Subvention**, School of Arts and Sciences 2019, 2022(2×), 2023
- Research Fund** (\$1,500), Language and Communication Sciences (LCS) Initiative 2019, 2022, 2023

Travel Grant , Graduate Student Government of the School of Arts and Sciences (SASGov)	<i>2021</i>
Professional Society Membership Grant Graduate Student Government of the School of Arts and Sciences (SASGov)	<i>2021</i>
3. Tsinghua University	
Outstanding Graduate Award	<i>2019</i>
Merit-based Scholarship for all school years	<i>2016 - 2018</i>
Undergraduate Summer Research Travel Grant	<i>2018</i>
Tsinghua Initiative Scientific Research Fund	<i>2018</i>
Academic Travel Award	<i>2017</i>

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Researcher Infant and Child Development Center, Northwestern University (PI: Sandra Waxman) Project: Influence of language on infants' object representations	<i>2024 -</i>
Graduate Researcher Language Learning Lab, University of Pennsylvania (PI: John Trueswell) Project: Cross-situational learning homophones and superordinate terms	<i>2021 - 2024</i>
Graduate Researcher Child Language Lab, University of Pennsylvania (PI: Kathryn Schuler) Project 1: Distributional learning of recursive structures in artificial language Project 2: Adapting the head-turn preference procedure over the web	<i>2020 - 2024</i>
Graduate Researcher Syntax Lab, University of Pennsylvania (PI: Julie Anne Legate) Project: Controlling overt subjects in Mandarin	<i>2020 - 2024</i>
Undergraduate Researcher Dept of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Tsinghua University (Supervisors: Xiaolu Yang & Tom Roeper (UMass Amherst)) Project: Acquisition of recursive possessives in child Mandarin	<i>2018 - 2019</i>
Undergraduate Researcher Child Cognition Lab, Tsinghua University (Supervisor: Peng Zhou) Project: Acquisition of serial verb constructions in Mandarin Chinese	<i>2018</i>
Research Assistant Center for the Study of Language and Psychology, Tsinghua University (PI: Li Yin) Project 1: Early writing facilitation in typically & atypically developing children Project 2: Graphotactic and phonological influences on ESL learners' consonant doubling	<i>2017 - 2018</i>
Research Assistant	<i>2017</i>

Language Acquisition Lab, Tsinghua University (PI: Xiaolu Yang)
Project: Temporal reference in the production of Mandarin-speaking children

RESEARCH MENTORING

Izabela Baran *2024 Summer*
Undergraduate Research Assistant at Child Language Lab, University of Pennsylvania

Milana Korobko *2023 Summer, 2024 Summer*
Undergraduate Research Assistant at Child Language Lab, University of Pennsylvania

Zaid Tabaza *2023 Summer - 2024 Spring*
MindCORE Summer Research Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
Student next position: MSc program in Speech and Language Processing, University of Edinburgh

Shengqi Zhong *2020 Fall - 2021 Spring*
Undergraduate Research Assistant at Child Language Lab, University of Pennsylvania
Student next position: MSc program in Education Data Science, Stanford University

TEACHING

Guest Lecturer for *Structure of Languages* *2024 Fall*
“Computational study of language acquisition”
Instructor: Hongchen Wu, Georgia Institute of Technology

Teaching Assistant for *LING 2700: Language Acquisition* *2023 Fall*
Instructor: Aletheia Cui, University of Pennsylvania

Guest Lecturer for *LING 4000: Tutorial in Linguistics* *2023 Fall*
“Research in experimental language acquisition”
Instructor: Aletheia Cui, University of Pennsylvania

Recitation Instructor for *LING 0001: Introduction to Linguistics* *2023 Spring*
Instructor: Lacey Wade, University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant for *LING 300: Tutorial in Linguistics* *2021 Fall*
Instructor: Julie Anne Legate, University of Pennsylvania

Guest Lecturer for *LING 300: Tutorial in Linguistics* *2021 Fall*
“Statistics fundamentals”
“Research in computational language acquisition”
Instructor: Julie Anne Legate, University of Pennsylvania

Recitation Instructor for *LING 001: Introduction to Linguistics (Virtual)* *2021 Spring*
Instructor: Martin Salzmann, University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant for *LING 270: Language Acquisition (Virtual)* *2020 Fall*
Instructor: Charles Yang, University of Pennsylvania

SERVICES

Member , Linguistic Society of America Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics	2024 -
Volunteer , the 3rd Experiments in Linguistic Meaning Conference	2024
Mentor , Penn Mind Sciences Diversity & Equity Initiative	2021 - 2024
Editorial Board , Penn Working Papers in Linguistics (PWPL)	2019 - 2024
Session Chair , the 48th Penn Linguistics Conference	2024
Treasurer , Penn Graduate Linguistics Society	2021 - 2023
Session Chair , Locality in Theory, Processing and Acquisition Workshop	2023
Session Chair , the 47th Penn Linguistics Conference	2023
Coordinator , Penn Linguistics Professional Development Workshop Series	2022
Session Chair , the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing	2022
Session Chair , the 34th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing	2021
Committee Chair , the 45th Penn Linguistics Conference	2020 - 2021
Organizing Committee , the 44th Penn Linguistics Conference	2019 - 2020
Volunteer , the 2nd International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics	2019
Co-founder & Vice President , Students' Linguistic Society of Tsinghua University	2018 - 2019

REVIEWING

Journals

Language Acquisition: 1	2023 - Present
Journal of Chinese Linguistics: 1	2022

Conferences

Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci): 7	2023 - Present
Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC): 10	2022 - Present
Biennial Conference on Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA): 3	2022

MEMBERSHIPS

International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS)	2022 - Present
Cognitive Science Society (CogSci)	2020 - Present
Linguistic Society of America (LSA)	2020 - Present

SKILLS

Technical Skills

C, Python, R, jsPsych, PCIBex, CLAN, L^AT_EX, Praat, Audacity, Premiere, Prolific, Lookit

Languages

English (proficient)
Mandarin Chinese (native)
German, Latin (beginner)
Sakha (fieldwork)