

Danfeng Wu

Department of Linguistics
University of Geneva
Rue De-Candolle 2
1205 Geneva, Switzerland

Email: danfeng.wu@unige.ch
Website: dfwu.github.io

EMPLOYMENT

2025 – Assistant Professor of Linguistics, University of Geneva
2022 – 2025 Fellow by Examination, Magdalen College, University of Oxford

EDUCATION

2016 – 2022 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dissertation: *Syntax and prosody of coordination*
2008 – 2012 B.A. in Mathematics and Economics, Columbia University, *Magna cum Laude*

SUMMER SCHOOLS

2017 Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, Lexington, KY
2015 Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, Chicago, IL

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Syntax-Semantics, Prosody, Pragmatics, Experimental Phonetics

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

accepted **Danfeng Wu.** Syntax of negation in corrective *but* sentences: Evidence from syntax-semantics and prosody. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*. [link]
accepted **Danfeng Wu.** Elided material is present in prosodic structure. *Glossa*. [link]
2024 **Danfeng Wu.** Suppletion of numerals ‘one’ and ‘two’ in Mandarin Chinese. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 33: 367–400. DOI: [10.1007/s10831-024-09281-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-024-09281-1)
2022 **Danfeng Wu.** Island violations in stripping constructions. *Glossa* 7(1). DOI: [10.16995/glossa.7895](https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.7895)
2022 **Danfeng Wu.** Syntax of *either* in *either...or...* sentences. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 40(3): 933–977. DOI: [10.1007/s11049-021-09523-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-021-09523-0)

- 2022 **Danfeng Wu.** Why **if or not* but *✓whether or not*. *Linguistic Inquiry* 53(2): 412–425. DOI: [10.1162/ling_a_00410](https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00410)
- 2019 Shigeru Miyagawa, **Danfeng Wu** and Masatoshi Koizumi. Inducing and blocking labeling. *Glossa* 4(1): 141. DOI: [10.5334/gjgl.923](https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.923)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- submitted **Danfeng Wu** and José Elías-Ulloa. The prosody of *no...sino...* sentences. *Contemporary Approaches to Variation in Spanish Intonation*. Issues in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics, ed. by Patrícia Amaral and Megan Solon. John Benjamins Publishing.

MANUSCRIPTS

- submitted **Danfeng Wu.** Corrective markers across languages. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*. [link]
- in revision Daniel Altshuler, Setayesh Dashti and **Danfeng Wu.** Aspect and negation. *Annual Review of Linguistics*.
- in prep **Danfeng Wu.** Generics in Mandarin Chinese. *Special Issue on Generics Across Languages, Linguistic Variation*, ed. by Dimitra Lazaridou-Chatzigoga, Linnaea Stockall, Matt Husband, and Suzi Lima.
- in prep **Danfeng Wu.** Constituent negation requires entailment of an alternative. [link]
- in prep **Danfeng Wu.** Phrasing and prominence: A case study of the post-focal context in English. [link]
- in prep **Danfeng Wu.** Semantic opposition coordination: An argument for good-questionhood. [link]

PROCEEDINGS

- to appear **Danfeng Wu.** Two paths to correction. *Proceedings of GLOW 47*.
- 2025 **Danfeng Wu.** Why *not numeral NP* requires *but* but not *not many NP*. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29*.
- Danfeng Wu.** Corrective markers *bing* and *you* in Mandarin Chinese. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29*.
- 2024 **Danfeng Wu.** Prosody of corrective *but* sentences in English. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2024*, 175-179.
- Danfeng Wu.** Semantic opposition coordination: An argument for question settlement. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 28*.
- Danfeng Wu.** Elided material is present in prosodic structure. *Proceedings of the Chicago Linguistic Society 59*.

- 2022 **Danfeng Wu.** Syntax of negation in corrective *but* sentences. *Proceedings of NELS 52*.
- 2021 **Danfeng Wu.** There is no post-focal de-phrasing in English. *Proceedings of the 2020 Annual Meeting on Phonology*.
- Danfeng Wu.** Prosodic evidence for an ellipsis-based approach to *either...or...* sentences. *Proceedings of the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.
- 2020 **Danfeng Wu.** *Whether* can pied-pipe. *Proceedings of NELS 50*, ed. by Mariam Asatryan, Yixiao Song, and Ayana Whitmal, 245–254.
- Danfeng Wu.** Durational cues to stress and phrasing are preserved post-focally in English. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2020*, 240–244.
- Danfeng Wu** and Yadav Gowda. Focus and penultimate vowel lengthening in Zulu. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2020*, 136–140.
- 2019 **Danfeng Wu.** Evidence from ellipsis suggests the low origination site of expletives *there* and *it*. *Proceedings of CLS 54*, ed. by Eszter Ronai, Laura Stigliano, and Yenan Sun, 573–584.
- Danfeng Wu.** Syntax of *either* in *either...or...* sentences. *Proceedings of NELS 49*, ed. by Maggie Baird and Jonathan Pesetsky, 295–304.
- 2018 Shigeru Miyagawa, **Danfeng Wu** and Masatoshi Koizumi. A revised labeling approach to long-distance agreement. *Proceedings of MT3*, 87–92.

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED

- 2025 Xuhui Hu and **Danfeng Wu.** Polar particles in English, Mandarin and Yixing. Talk at *International Conference on Formal Linguistics (ICFL-11)*, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China.
- Xuhui Hu and **Danfeng Wu.** Polar particles in English, Mandarin and Yixing. Talk at *LAGB 2025: Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, University of Suffolk, UK.
- Setayesh Dashti, Daniel Altshuler and **Danfeng Wu.** Negation and progressive aspect in Persian. Talk at *the 4th North American Conference on Iranian Linguistics (NACIL 4)*, University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada.
- Danfeng Wu.** Two paths to correction. Poster at *GLOW 47*, Frankfurt am Main and Göttingen, Germany.
- 2024 **Danfeng Wu.** Why *not numeral NP* requires *but* but not *not many NP*. Talk at *Sinn und Bedeutung 29*, Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale, Italy.

- Danfeng Wu.** Corrective markers *bing* and *you* in Mandarin Chinese. Talk at *Sinn und Bedeutung 29 Workshop 'Evidentials in non-canonical speech acts'*, University of Enna Kore, Italy.
- Danfeng Wu.** Allomorphy of 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. Talk at *LAGB 2024*, Newcastle University, UK.
- Danfeng Wu.** Why *not numeral NP* requires *but* but not *not many NP*. Talk at *Form and Meaning of Coordination*, University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Danfeng Wu.** Prosody of corrective *but* sentences in English. Poster at *Speech Prosody 2024*, Universiteit Leiden, Netherlands.
- Danfeng Wu.** The absolute and contextual forms of 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. Poster at *the 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- 2023 **Danfeng Wu.** Semantic opposition coordination: An argument for question settlement. Talk at *SuB 28*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany.
- Danfeng Wu.** Prosodic evidence for the recursive prosodic structure of corrective *but* sentences. Talk at *30th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, University of Manchester, UK.
- Danfeng Wu.** Elided material is present in prosodic structure. Talk at *CLS 59*, UChicago, Chicago, IL.
- Danfeng Wu.** Allomorphy of 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. Poster at *GLOW 46*, University of Vienna, Austria. [cancelled due to visa issues]
- 2022 **Danfeng Wu.** Elided material is present in prosodic structure. Talk at *Societas Linguistica Europaea 55*, University of Bucharest, Romania.
- Danfeng Wu.** Bipartite syntax of negation in corrective *but* sentences. Talk at *LSA 96*, Washington, DC.
- Danfeng Wu** and Boer Fu. Prosodic evidence for syntax in biased questions in Mandarin. Poster at *LSA 96*, Washington, DC.
- Boer Fu and **Danfeng Wu.** Numeral allomorphy of 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. Poster at *LSA 96*, Washington, DC.
- Sasha Calhoun, Jesse Harris, Andrew Hedding, Morwenna Hoeks, Beste Kamali, Amanda Rysling, Maziar Toosarvandani, **Danfeng Wu** and Mengzhu Yan. Competence meets performance: New perspectives on information structure. Organized session at *LSA 96*, Washington, DC.
- 2021 **Danfeng Wu.** Syntax of negation in corrective *but* sentences. Talk at *NELS 52*, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- Danfeng Wu.** Prosodic evidence for an ellipsis-based approach to *either...or...* sentences. Poster at *WCCFL 39*, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- Danfeng Wu.** Evasion strategies save apparent island violations in stripping. Poster at *LSA 95*, Virtual.

- 2020 **Danfeng Wu.** There is no post-focal de-phrasing in English. Poster at *AMP 2020*, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.
- Danfeng Wu.** Durational cues to stress and phrasing are preserved post-focally in English. Virtual presentation at *Speech Prosody 2020*, Tokyo, Japan.
- Danfeng Wu** and Yadav Gowda. Focus and penultimate vowel lengthening in Zulu. Virtual presentation at *Speech Prosody 2020*, Tokyo, Japan.
- Yadav Gowda and **Danfeng Wu.** Focus and prominence in Zulu. Talk at *ACAL 51*, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. [cancelled due to the pandemic]
- Danfeng Wu.** Phrasal stress and phrasing are preserved in the absence of pitch accent: Evidence from post-nuclear de-accentuation in English. Talk at *CLS 56*, UChicago, Chicago, IL. [cancelled due to the pandemic]
- Danfeng Wu** and Yadav Gowda. Focus and penultimate vowel lengthening in Zulu. Talk at *GLOW 43*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.
- Danfeng Wu.** *Whether* can pied-pipe. Talk at *LSA 94*, New Orleans, LA.
- Yadav Gowda and **Danfeng Wu.** Clitic climbing and linear adjacency in Wolof. Talk at *LSA 94*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 **Danfeng Wu.** Why **if or not* but *✓whether or not*. Poster at *NELS 50*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.
- 2018 **Danfeng Wu.** A copy-based approach to *either* in *either... or...* sentences. Poster at *NELS 49*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
- Shigeru Miyagawa, **Danfeng Wu** and Masatoshi Koizumi. A revised labeling approach to long-distance agreement. Poster at *MAPLL × TCP × TL × TaLK (MT3)*, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan.
- Danfeng Wu.** Evidence from ellipsis suggests the low origination site of expletives *there* and *it*. Talk at *CLS 54*, UChicago, Chicago, IL.
- Danfeng Wu.** English expletives *there* and *it* originate low: Evidence from ellipsis. Poster at *WCCFL 36*, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- Elise Newman and **Danfeng Wu.** A new analysis and prediction about Lubukusu agreeing complementizers. Talk at *LSA 92*, Salt Lake City, UT.

INVITED

- 2025 The interplay between correction and negation across languages. *2nd NegLaB Workshop (NegLaB II)*, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Polar questions in English and the Chinese languages. *Colloquium*, University of Konstanz, Germany.
- Phrasing and prominence: A case study of the post-focal context in English. *Penn Phonetics Laboratory*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

- Encoding polar questions in syntax: A comparative study of English, Mandarin, and Yixing Chinese (with Xuhui Hu). *SyntaxLab*, University of Cambridge, UK.
- What do *bing* and *you* mean in *bing bu* and *you bu*? *Fifth Young Linguistics Scholars Forum*, Nanjing University, China.
- What do *bing* and *you* mean in *bing bu* and *you bu*? *Linguistics Frontiers Seminar*, Peking University, China.
- 2024 Corrective markers *bing* and *you* in Mandarin Chinese. *Syntax and Semantics Circle*, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.
- Elided material is present in prosodic structure. *Ce Qu'on a Toujours Mal Compris... About the Interaction of Structure and Sound*, Université de Lille, France.
- Corrective markers *bing* and *you* in Mandarin Chinese. *Colloquium*, University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Pied-piping by 'whether' across languages. *Colloquium*, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Syntax and semantics of *either...or...* sentences. Keynote at *32nd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE 32)*, Queen Mary University of London, UK.
- 2023 Allomorphy of numerals 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. *Com(parative) Syn(tax) Discussion Group*, Leiden University, the Netherlands.
- Allomorphy of numerals 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. *LingLunch*, Queen Mary University of London, UK.
- Allomorphy of numerals 'one' and 'two' in Mandarin Chinese. *Edinburgh Seminar on Morphological Theory (EdinMorph)*, the University of Edinburgh, UK.
- Syntax and prosody of coordination. *General Linguistics Seminar*, University of Oxford, UK.
- Syntax and prosody of coordination. *Colloquium*, University College London, UK.
- Syntax and prosody of coordination. *Colloquium*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- Syntax and prosody of coordination. *Colloquium*, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- Syntax and prosody of coordination. *Colloquium*, Université de Montréal, Canada.
- 2022 Syntax of negation in corrective *but* sentences. *Syntax Reading Group*, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- 2021 Syntax of corrective *but*. *Syntax and Semantics Circle*, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.

- Syntax and prosody of *either...or...* sentences. *Colloquium*, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.
- Syntax and prosody of *either...or...* sentences. *Syntax and Morphology Circle*, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.
- 2020 Syntax and prosody of *either...or...* sentences. *Syntax and Semantics Reading Group*, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- Syntax and prosody of *either...or...* sentences. *Syntax Colloquium*, Institut für Linguistik, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Whether* can pied-pipe. *Syntax Brown Bag*, NYU, New York, NY.
- 2018 Deriving Case Theory: Issues of [-N]/[+N], ECM. *Workshop on Case Theory and Labeling of Structures*, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

GRADUATE

Themes and methods in syntax, University of Geneva. Fall 2025.
Polar questions in different languages, undergraduate/graduate seminar. University of Geneva. Fall 2025.

UNDERGRADUATE

Prelims Semantics and Pragmatics, University of Oxford. Hilary 2024.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Prelims Syntax, University of Oxford. Hilary 2024, Michaelmas 2023.
Prelims Morphology, University of Oxford. Michaelmas 2023.
Prelims Semantics and Pragmatics, University of Oxford. Hilary 2023.
Language and Its Structure II: Syntax (24.902), MIT. Fall 2020.
Linguistics for Researchers in Computer Science, Cognitive Science, and Related Fields (24.S94), course organizer and teaching assistant, MIT. Fall 2019.
Advanced Phonology (24.962), MIT. Spring 2019.
Introduction to Linguistics (24.9000), MIT. Spring 2018.
Introduction to Syntax, LSA Summer Institute, Lexington, KY. Summer 2017.

LANGUAGE TEACHING

Mandarin Chinese, course designer and instructor, Mumbai, India. 2012 – 2014.

ADVISING AND MENTORING

- 2023 – 2024 Advisor for Katy Jenkinson, Chenxi Xia and Yutong Zhang on Graduate Syntax Papers
- 2020 Advisor and mentor for Allie Amerman and Alyssa Solomon, undergraduate research assistants for an experimental project on the prosody of disjunction

2019 – 2020	Advisor and mentor for Aquila Simmons and Kitty Zeng, undergraduate research assistants for an experimental project on post-focal prosodic phrasing
2009 – 2012	International Group Chair, Columbia Mentoring Initiative Mentored international undergraduate students at Columbia University, led and supervised mentoring relations between upperclassmen and freshmen

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2024	Syntax-prosody interface in English and Spanish. John Fell Research Fund, University of Oxford; £5,429.
2023	Workshop on NLP and linguistics. Academic Grant, Magdalen College and Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford. With Rahul Santhanam; £2,923.
2019	Experiment on English prosody. Ken Hale Grant, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT.
2019	Fieldwork on Zulu focus prosody. Ken Hale Grant, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT. With Yadav Gowda.
2019	Fieldwork on Wolof clitic climbing. Ken Hale Grant, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT. With Yadav Gowda.
2012	Kai-fu Lee Scholarship, Columbia University
2008 – 2011	Liu Xu Scholarship, Columbia University

SERVICE

EDITING

2025 –	Editorial board, <i>Linguistic Variation</i>
--------	--

REVIEWER

Articles	<i>Catalan Journal of Linguistics, Glossa, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Journal of Linguistics, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language & Linguistic Theory, Snippets, Studies in Chinese Linguistics, Syntax</i>
Abstracts	<i>ConSOLE, Diachronic Generative Syntax (DiGS), LingO, NELS</i>

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

2022 – 2025	Co-creator and organizer of <i>Syntax / Semantics Workshop</i> at the University of Oxford
2024	Co-organizer of <i>Does ChatGPT know language as humans do?</i> , workshop on NLP and linguistics at Magdalen College, University of Oxford

2022 – 2023 Co-organizer of *You're on Mute* online seminar series on ellipsis
 2018 – 2019 Co-organizer of Comp Lang reading group at MIT

OUTREACH

2023 – 2025 Teach outreach lessons in linguistics to disadvantaged school students in the UK

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

2022 – 2024 Member of the Governing Body, Magdalen College, University of Oxford
 2023 – 2024 Working group member on College Governance, Magdalen College, University of Oxford
 2022 – 2024 Undergraduate admissions for Linguistics & Philosophy and Linguistics & Psychology at Brasenose College, Jesus College and Magdalen College, University of Oxford
 2018 – 2019 Graduate student representative at MIT

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Chinese Mandarin: Native

Shanghainese: Native

French: Reading, Conversational

Technical skills: R, Praat, LaTeX

Wolof: Fieldwork

Zulu: Fieldwork