

Yik Ching (Eugene) WONG

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Education

PhD student

2021- present

Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota
Primary Advisor: Benjamin Munson

BA in Linguistics and Language Technology (First Class Honours)

2012 - 2016

City University of Hong Kong

Study-abroad program: Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain (Jan - Jun 2016)

Final-year project: *Production of the English vowels in Cantonese and Japanese children*

Supervisor: Wai-Sum Lee

Research

Research Interests: Production, perception and acquisition of sociophonetics; Bilingual language development, assessment and treatment; Voice quality

Publications

Fung, R. & Wong, E. Separated and reunified: An apparent time investigation of the voice quality differences between Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese. *PLOS ONE*. (manuscript submitted).

Wong, E., Koeppe, K., Cychosz, M. & Munson, B. Learning gendered speech in early childhood: Evidence from a longitudinal study of vowel and consonant acoustics. (manuscript in preparation).

Conference Presentations

Wong, E. and Munson, B. (2023). How do children mark gender phonetically? An analysis of voice quality. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2023*. Prague, Czech Republic.

Wong, E. and Fung, R. (2023). What is a substantial voice? An LTAS study on two Cantonese accents. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2023*. Prague, Czech Republic.

Wong, E. and Ebert, K. D. (2023). Developing an alternative scoring system based on L1 Influences on Nonword Repetition Tasks in Mandarin-English Bilinguals. *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*. Madison, WI. June 1-3.

Kerry, E., Finestack, L., Kuchler, K. & Wong, E. (2023). Towards less-biased language assessment: Exploring dynamic and processing-based assessments in diverse bilingual children. *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*. Madison, WI. June 1-3.

Wong, E., & Munson, B. (2021). A longitudinal study of gender-specific characteristics of children's vowels. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 150(4), A152.

Invited Talks

Fung, R. and Wong, Y.-C. (2017). The voice quality differences between Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese. *The 22nd JWLLP & The 5th Workshop on VariAMU*. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, April 8th, 2017

Fung, R. and Wong, Y.-C. (2017). The differences in voice quality between Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese. *UChicago Linguistic Research Forum*. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, March 17th, 2017.

Work in Progress

Project FYI: Find Your Identity – Acoustics of Children's Gendered Speech

- Collaborator: Benjamin Munson
- This project examines acoustics variables of gender in children's speech.

Project H2T: From Hearing to Talking – The Sociophonetics of Child-Directed Speech

- Collaborator: Benjamin Munson
- This project examines gender variations in child-directed speech
- Data collection in progress.

Project WhIMS: Who is My Model of Speech? Development of Gendered Speech in Children

- Collaborators: Benjamin Munson, Melissa Koenig, Charisse Pickron
- This project examines children's social preferences and selective learning towards speakers of different genders.
- Experiment materials in preparation.

Identifying Language Impairment

- Collaborators: Lizbeth Finestack, Kerry Ebert
- This project examines the efficacy of various linguistic and non-linguistic measures (dynamic assessment, standardized tests, and processing-based measures) in bilingual children
- I translated parent-caregiver interview questionnaires and assessment materials into Cantonese and Mandarin
- I conducted language assessments with Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking children.

Dynamic & processing based language assessments

- Collaborators: Kerry Ebert, Lizbeth Finestack
- This is an NIH-supported longitudinal project that examines the specificity and sensitivity of linguistic and non-linguistic measures on identifying language impairment in bilingual children.

Professional Experiences

Teaching Assistant

2021 - present

Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota

Courses taught:

SLHS 1301 Physics and Biology of Spoken Languages (Spring & Fall 2021, 2022, 2023)

- Taught the laboratory portion of an introductory class on speech acoustics for undergraduate students
- Developed materials and assignments including worksheets, lab reports and discussion activities for weekly lab sessions.
- Graded assignments and exams

SLHS 1402 The Talking Brain (Spring 2021)

- Graded assignments and projects, facilitated in-class discussion activities

Guest Lectures

SLHS 1301 Physics and Biology of Spoken Languages (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

- Covered lectures on source-filter theory, consonant and vowel acoustics

SLHS 3304 Phonetics (Spring 2023)

- Covered lectures on stress, intonation and syllable structures, regional and global varieties of English

SLHS 5609 Child Language Disorders in Diverse Populations (Spring 2023)

- Covered lectures on bilingual language development, variations of English, and assessment for bilingual children

Lab Manager (Assistant Technical Officer) 2016- 2020
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

- Assist in the establishment of Speech and Language Sciences Lab
- Manage lab equipment (Compumedics EEG, Tobii TX300 and Eyelink 1000 Plus eye-trackers, Soterix HD-tDCS, Karl Storz laryngoscopy, Glottal Enterprise EGG & aerodynamic system, Carstens AG501 Electromagnetic Articulograph)
- Maintain and troubleshoot daily lab operation
- Assist in conducting lab experiments, language and cognitive assessment to adults and children
- Liaise with companies on purchasing lab equipment, consumables and maintenance services
- Write up guidelines of lab equipment
- Train lab users (undergraduate, postgraduate students, research assistants and post-doc fellows)
- Conduct lab tours and demo of equipment to visitors and students
- Design and develop fun linguistics games and demo for lab events

Research Assistant (concurrently with Lab Manager position) 2016- 2018
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Projects:

A Physiological study on the voice quality and intonation of two regional accents of Cantonese: Articulatory and acoustic analyses (PI: Roxana Fung) 2017- 2018

- Designed speech tasks
- Collected acoustic and electroglottographic signals from 20 Hong Kong Cantonese and 20 Guangzhou Cantonese speakers
- Performed analysis using spectral and cepstral measures, glottal parameters, LTAS and functional data analysis
- Drafted conference and journal papers

Pitch and Intonation of Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese
(PI: Roxana Fung)

2016- 2017

- Performed acoustic analysis of vowels, tones and voice quality on the speech recordings from 191 speakers of both gender and across three age groups from the two cities using VoiceSauce
- Drafted conference and journal papers

Cantonese Chinese Annotator, part-time, distance work 2014- 2017
Nuance Communications, USA

- Annotated Cantonese data for developing advanced NLP models in linguistics technologies, question-answering and conversational system

Supports

Dissertation Proposal Development Program Summer 2023
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship 2023- 2024
Graduate School, University of Minnesota

Summer Department Fellowships 2021, 2022
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota

Bryng Bryngealson Student Research Funding Fall 2021, Summer 2022, Spring 2023
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota

Other Academic Training

Compumedics Hong Kong ERP Research & Clinical EEG Workshop. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Nov 7th- 10th, 2018.

Compumedics Clinical Curry School. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Oct 20th- 21st, 2017.

Skills

Acoustics	Praat, Computerized Speech Lab, Audacity
Statistics & Data Analysis	R, SPSS, Python
Neuroimaging	Compumedics Neuroscan, Biosemi, Curry 7, BESA
Experiment design	E-prime, Presentation, Experiment Builder, STIM2
Languages	Cantonese (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (fluent), Spanish (intermediate, DELE B1 certificate) Portuguese (basic), French (basic), German (basic)