

Boer Fu

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Phonology, phonetics, Mandarin Chinese, biased question semantics

EDUCATION

2017-2022 Ph.D. in Linguistics
(expected) Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dissertation: Mandarin Prenuclear Glides and Segmentation Learning.
(in progress)

2013-2017 B.A. in Linguistics (*cum laude*)
University of California, Los Angeles

PAPERS

Submitted. Contrast preservation in Mandarin r-suffixation: a comparative study of Beijing and Liaoning dialects.

2021 Negative yes/no questions in Mandarin: evidence for VERUM. Generals paper, MIT.

2019 Prominence transition between syllables: a new account of stress. ms., MIT.

2017 Welsh vowel mutation: a new optimality theoretic analysis. ms., MIT.

2016 Khalkha Mongolian vowel harmony: an optimality theoretic analysis. Honors thesis, UCLA.

PRESENTATIONS

2022 Prenuclear glide in Mandarin Chinese: is it a segment? Poster presentation at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), Washington, D.C., United States.

2022 Prosodic evidence for syntax in biased questions in Mandarin. Poster presentation at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), Washington, D.C., United States. With Danfeng Wu.

- 2022 Numeral allomorphy of ‘one’ and ‘two’ in Mandarin Chinese. Poster presentation at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), Washington, D.C., United States. With Danfeng Wu.
- 2021 Negation scoping and focus in Mandarin biased questions: a VERUM account. Talk at the 2021 Annual Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS) 2021, Freiburg, Germany (virtual).
- 2019 Contrast preservation in Mandarin r-suffixation. Poster presentation at Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM) 27. Manchester, United Kingdom.
- 2016 “Successful verb” marker *zhao* in northern Mandarin Chinese: passive sentence construction. Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (SCULC) 2016, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

TEACHING

- Fall 2021 Teaching assistant, 24.901 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology.
[Undergraduate course]
Instructor: Donca Steriade
- Fall 2019 Teaching assistant, 24.961 Introduction to Phonology.
[Graduate course]
Instructors: Edward Flemming, Michael Kenstowicz
- Spring 2019 Teaching assistant, 24.9000 How Language works.
[Undergraduate course]
Instructor: Kai von Fintel

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2019 Obermayer Prize for Writing on the History of Innovation
A competition for MIT graduate students to write for the general public on the history of an innovation. My winning entry is a piece on the history of the London Underground and the Boston subway.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2017 Departmental Honors
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2017 Undergraduate Research Fellows Program
University of California Los, Angeles
- 2015 Kurnitz Writing Award, Third Place
A writing competition for international students at UCLA. My winning entry is a short Kafkaesque story titled “A Flight to New York”.
University of California, Los Angeles

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

- 2015-2016 UCLA Speaker Variability Database

Supervisor: Patricia Keating
University of California, Los Angeles

ACADEMIC SERVICE

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| 2020 | Linguistics graduate student representative Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| 2019-2020 | Co-organizer, MIT Phonology Circle Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| 2019 | Student co-organizer, NELS 50 Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| 2018-2019 | Co-organizer, MIT Ling-Lunch Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| 2016 | Co-organizer, Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference University of California, Los Angeles |
| 2015 | Volunteer, North America Conference on Chinese Linguistics 27 University of California, Los Angeles |

NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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| 2016 | Intern, Scottish Parliament Edinburgh, UK |
| 2016 | News writer, Department of Electrical Engineering University of California, Los Angeles |
| 2014 | Intern, Great Sports Radio Shanghai, China |
| 2014 | Teacher, New Oriental Education & Technology Group Shanghai, China |

LANGUAGES

Native: Mandarin Chinese
Near-native: English, Shanghainese
Intermediate: Spanish, French

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Python, R, Praat, PCIBex, LaTeX.