

# HELEN SHIYANG LU

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## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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**The University of British Columbia (UBC)** 2024 - Now  
Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Advisors: Dr. Alexis K. Black & Dr. Janet F. Werker

## EDUCATION

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**University of Southern California (USC)** 2018 - 2024  
Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, Minor in Quantitative Methods  
M.A. in Psychology 2018 - 2020  
Dissertation: *The effects of language experience on statistical learning in infants and adults*  
Advisor: Dr. Toben H. Mintz

**University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** 2014 - 2018  
B.A. in Psychology and Linguistics with a Specialization in Computing, *Summa Cum Laude*

## PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

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1. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (in revision). Task-dependent learning of non-adjacent dependencies: Success in a familiarity rating task versus failure in a two-alternative forced-choice task.
2. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (in prep). Second language learning facilitates non-adjacent dependency learning: Effects moderated by specific language.
3. **Lu, H.S.**, Werker, J.F., and Black, A.K. (2025). Statistical word segmentation in unfamiliar speech. To appear in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 47, No. 47).
4. Kosie, J. E., Zettersten, M., Abu-Zhaya, R., Amso, D., Babineau, M., Baumgartner, H. A., ...**Lu, H.S.**..., Lew-Williams, C. (Stage 1 registered report). ManyBabies 5: A large-scale investigation of the proposed shift from familiarity preference to novelty preference in infant looking time. *Nature Human Behaviour*. [PDF](#)
5. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2023). Dynamic action and human agents facilitate learning of non-adjacent dependencies in visual sequences. *Cognitive Science*, 47(9), e13344. [PDF](#)
6. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2021). Learning non-adjacent rules and non-adjacent dependencies from human actions in 9-month-old infants. *PloS One*, 16(6), e0252959. [PDF](#)
7. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2021). Dynamic action facilitates learning of non-adjacent dependencies in visual sequences. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 43, No. 43). [PDF](#)

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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**SRCD Early Career Travel Award** 2025  
USD\$500, travel award offered to early career members to support conference attendance

**Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship** 2024 - 2026  
CAD\$60,000 per annum, awarded for postdoctoral research and potential at five Canadian universities

**Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant - Linguistics, NSF** 2023 - 2025  
“Doctoral Dissertation Research: The Effects of Language Experience on Statistical Learning in Infants and Adults” (BCS-2234422, Co-PI, Total amount: USD\$18,949)

<b>Frederick and Dorothy Quimby Memorial Scholarship</b> USD\$22,750, merit-based scholarship based on superior scholarship and outstanding citizenship	2023 - 2024
<b>Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Awards, USC</b> USD\$1,365, fund to support student research in the department	2023
<b>Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Awards, USC</b> USD\$1,600, fund to support student research in the department	2022
<b>USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, USC</b> USD\$5,000 award granted to one or two graduate students nominated by their departments	2020
<b>Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Awards, USC</b> USD\$3,200, fund to support student research in the department	2020
<b>Department of Psychology Research Continuity Fund, USC</b> USD\$945, fund to support online research during COVID-19	2020
<b>Dornsife PhD Fellowship, USC</b>	2018 - 2023
<b>Department of Psychology Highest Honors, UCLA</b> Distinction of Highest Honors awarded to the top (10%) students in the Honors thesis cohort	2018
<b>Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, UCLA</b> USD\$5,000 merit-based award granted to students conducting advanced research in the STEM field	2017

## REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Lu, H.S.**, Werker, J.F., Black, A.K., (2025). Statistical word segmentation in unfamiliar speech. *Talk* to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2025), San Francisco, CA, USA, August 2025
2. **Lu, H.S.**, Bokhanovich, O., Mintz, T.H., (2025). How language experience shapes sensitivity to non-adjacent dependencies in 12-month-old infants. *Poster* to be presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2025 Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA, May 2025
3. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2024). Task-dependent learning outcomes: Successful non-adjacent dependency learning in a rating task but not in 2AFC. *Poster* presented at the Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning meeting, Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain, June 2024
4. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2024). Non-adjacent dependency learning in monolingual and multilingual 12-month-olds: An online habituation study. *Poster* presented at the Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning meeting, Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain, June 2024
5. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2024). Investigating non-adjacent dependency learning in 12-month-old infants. *Poster* presented at the Cognitive Development Society (CDS) conference, Pasadena, California, USA, March 2024
6. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2023). Twelve-month-olds Generalize Nonadjacent Dependencies From Artificial Speech Presented at a Natural Speech Rate. *Flash Talk* presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, March 2023
7. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2022). Human dynamic actions aid non-adjacent dependency learning in both infants and adults. *Talk* presented at the Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning meeting, Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain, June 2022

8. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2021). Dynamic action facilitates learning of non-adjacent dependencies in visual sequences. *Poster* presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Virtual Conference, July 2021
9. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2021). Learning non-adjacent rules and dependencies from human actions in 9-month-old infants: Actions sometimes speaker louder than words. *Online presentation* at Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), Virtual Conference, January 2021
10. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2019). Visual rule learning: The connection between human actions and speech. *Poster* presented at the Cognitive Development Society (CDS) conference, Louisville, Kentucky, USA, October 2019
11. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2019). Visual rule learning: The connection between human body movements and speech. *Talk* presented at the 14th Annual Symposium on Cognitive and Language Development, Los Angeles, California, USA, May 2019
12. **Lu, H.S.**, Brady, S., Sanders, A., Johnson, S.P., and Sandhofer, C.M. (2018). What's in a word? The influence of productive vocabulary on toddlers' perceptual memory and shape bias. *Talk* presented at the 27th Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Los Angeles, California, USA, May 2018
13. **Lu, H.S.**, Brady, S., Sanders, A., Johnson, S.P., and Sandhofer, C.M. (2018). What's in a word? The relation of toddlers' productive vocabulary and feature memory. *Poster* presented at the 13th Annual Symposium on Cognitive and Language Development, Irvine, California, USA, May 2018
14. **Lu, H.S.**, Sanders, A., and Johnson, S.P. (2017). Indexing working memory capacity in infancy. *Poster* presented at the 12th Annual Symposium on Cognitive and Language Development, San Diego, California, USA, May 2017

## TEACHING RELATED EXPERIENCES

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<b>Instructional Skills Workshop</b>	Dec 2024
Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning at UBC; Teaching-intensive workshop on lesson planning as well as effective teaching and learning	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> for Statistics I with SPSS and R (PSYC274)	Spring 2022, Fall 2022
University of Southern California; Instructor(s): David Walsh, Rand Wilcox	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> for Developmental Psychology (PSYC336L)	Spring 2021, Fall 2020
University of Southern California; Instructor(s): Leslie Berntsen, Frank Manis	
<b>Center for Excellence in Teaching Future Faculty Training Workshops</b>	Spring 2020
University of Southern California; Semester-long weekly workshops focused on teaching practices	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> for Experimental Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC314L)	Spring 2019
University of Southern California; Instructor(s): William Breland	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> for Introduction to Psychology (PSYC100)	Fall 2018
University of Southern California; Instructor(s): Ann Renken	

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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<b>Associate</b> of Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning at UBC	2024-Now
<b>Member</b> of Stimulus Design & Experiment Programming Teams in ManyBabies 5	2023-Now
<b>Student Member</b> of ManyBabies Diversity & Outreach Committee	2023-Now
<b>Organizer</b> for USC Department of Psychology Developmental Area Speaker Series	2021-2022

**Ad Hoc Reviewer** for

- California Meeting in Psycholinguistics (2021)
- Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (2023, 2024)
- CogSci (2024; 2025)
- *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*
- *Cognitive Psychology*

**Invited Panel Speaker** for

- USC Linguistics 610 Graduate Student Panel
- USC CLIMATE 2023 PhD Preview Day for minority students
- USC Psi Chi Graduate School Panel
- UCLA Chinese Students and Scholars Association Graduate School Panel

**SKILLS**

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**Languages**

Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), Cantonese (Intermediate)

**Experiment Related Software and Techniques**

Habituation (Habit, PyHab in-person & online), Head-turn Preference, GitLab, PsychoPy3, Qualtrics, Praat, Lookit, SR EyeLink 1000 Plus, SR Experiment Builder, SR Data Viewer

**Programming Languages**

R,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Python