

HELEN SHIYANG LU

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2024 - Now
University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver BC, Canada
- Supervisors: Dr. Alexis K. Black & Dr. Janet F. Werker

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Psychology with a Minor in Quantitative Methods 2024
University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles CA, USA
- Minor in Quantitative Methods
- Dissertation: *The Effects of Language Experience on Statistical Learning in Infants and Adults*
- Advisor: Dr. Toben H. Mintz

M.A. in Psychology 2020
University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles CA, USA
- Advisor: Dr. Toben H. Mintz

B.A. in Psychology and Linguistics with a Specialization in Computing 2018
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles CA, USA

PUBLICATIONS

1. Lu, H.S. and Mintz, T.H. (2026). Task-dependent learning of non-adjacent dependencies: Success in a familiarity rating task versus failure in a two-alternative forced choice task. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 33(1), 12. [PDF](#)
2. Lu, H.S., Werker, J.F., and Black, A.K. (2025). Statistical word segmentation in unfamiliar speech. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 47). [PDF](#)
3. Kosie, J. E., Zettersten, M., ...Lu, H.S...., Lew-Williams, C. (Stage 1 registered report; March 2024, in-principle acceptance). ManyBabies 5: A large-scale investigation of the proposed shift from familiarity preference to novelty preference in infant looking time. *Nature Human Behaviour*. [PDF](#)
4. 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](#)
5. 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](#)
6. Lu, H.S. and Mintz, T.H. (2021). Dynamic action facilitates learning of non-adjacent dependencies in visual sequences. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 43). [PDF](#)

FORTHCOMING MANUSCRIPTS

1. Lu, H.S. and Mintz, T.H. (under review). Second language learning facilitates non-adjacent dependency learning: Effects moderated by specific language.
2. Lu, H.S., Bokhanovich, O. and Mintz, T.H. (in prep). Twelve-month-old infants learn non-adjacent dependencies from naturally paced speech.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Talks

1. **Lu, H.S.**, Werker, J.F., and Black, A.K. (2025). *Statistical word segmentation in unfamiliar speech*. Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2025), San Francisco, USA, August 2025
2. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2023). *Twelve-month-olds generalize nonadjacent dependencies from artificial speech presented at a natural speech rate*. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, USA, March 2023
3. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2022). *Human dynamic actions aid non-adjacent dependency learning in both infants and adults*. Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning, Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain, June 2022
4. **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*. Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), Virtual Conference, January 2021
5. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2019). *Visual rule learning: The connection between human body movements and speech*. The 14th Annual Symposium on Cognitive and Language Development, Los Angeles, USA, May 2019
6. **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*. The 27th Annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Los Angeles, USA, May 2018

Posters

1. **Lu, H.S.**, Black, A.K., and Werker, J.F. (2026, accepted). *Do six-month-olds use vowel harmony to segment speech?* Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Conference, Montreal, Canada, April 2026
2. **Lu, H.S.**, Werker, J.F., Black, A.K., (2025). *Segmenting words in two languages: Cue weighting of prosodic vs. statistical information in English and Cantonese*. Ensuring Full Literacy 2025 Annual Meeting, Edmonton, Canada, June 2025.
3. **Lu, H.S.**, Bokhanovich, O., Mintz, T.H., (2025). *How language experience shapes sensitivity to non-adjacent dependencies in 12-month-old infants*. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2025 Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, USA, May 2025
4. **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*. Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning meeting, Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain, June 2024
5. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2024). *Non-adjacent dependency learning in monolingual and multilingual 12-month-olds: An online habituation study*. Interdisciplinary Advances in Statistical Learning meeting, Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain, June 2024
6. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2024). *Investigating non-adjacent dependency learning in 12-month-old infants*. Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Conference, Pasadena, USA, March 2024
7. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H., (2021). *Dynamic action facilitates learning of non-adjacent dependencies in visual sequences*. The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Virtual Conference, July 2021

8. **Lu, H.S.** and Mintz, T.H. (2019). *Visual rule learning: The connection between human actions and speech*. Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Conference, Louisville, USA, October 2019
9. **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*. The 13th Annual Symposium on Cognitive and Language Development, Irvine, USA, May 2018
10. **Lu, H.S.**, Sanders, A., and Johnson, S.P. (2017). *Indexing working memory capacity in infancy*. The 12th Annual Symposium on Cognitive and Language Development, San Diego, USA, May 2017

INVITED TALKS

1. Early Childhood Educators of BC 2025 Annual Conference: Workshop on Neuroscience of Early Brain Developments and Techniques to Support Neuronal Growth (May, 2025)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Grants

- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant - National Science Foundation (US) 2023 - 2025
"Doctoral Dissertation Research: The Effects of Language Experience on Statistical Learning in Infants and Adults" (BCS-2234422, Co-PI, USD\$18,949)
- Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Awards, USC (USD\$1,365) 2023
- Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Awards, USC (USD\$1,600) 2022
- USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, USC (USD\$5,000) 2020
- Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Awards, USC (USD\$3,200) 2020
- Department of Psychology Research Continuity Fund, USC (USD\$945) 2020

Fellowships

- Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship 2024 - 2026
CAD\$60,000 per annum, awarded for postdoctoral research and potential at five Canadian universities
- Frederick and Dorothy Quimby Memorial Scholarship 2023 - 2024
USD\$22,750, merit-based scholarship based on superior scholarship and outstanding citizenship
- Dornsife PhD Fellowship, USC 2018 - 2023
USD\$30,000 per annum

Awards

- SRCD Early Career Travel Award 2025
USD\$500, travel award offered to early career members to support conference attendance
- Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, UCLA 2017
USD\$5,000 merit-based award granted to students conducting advanced research in the STEM field

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Instructor

- Psychology of Language (PSYC 336), UBC Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant

- Statistics I (PSYC 274), USC Spring 2022, Fall 2022

- Developmental Psychology (PSYC 336L, *grading only*), USC Spring 2021, Fall 2020
- Experimental Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 314L), USC Spring 2019
- Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 100), USC Fall 2018

Rose Fajans (honors student), Clarice Szeto, Cindy Qiu, Romy Dolgin, Colleen Krogh, Ann Tarry, Gillian Sawyer, Ludi Yu, Celine Wen, Precia Rhee, Michelle Wang, Veronica Yu, Sammy Rush, Mira Bhasin, Mackenzie Forkas, Jaewon Cha, Deepali Yedulapuram, Annika Baktha, Kira Giummo, Landi Jiang, Naveen Haque, Rosela Pareyon, Tsugumi Kitayama, Fay Zhuozhuo Han

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Instructional Skills Workshop**, UBC Fall 2024
- **Future Faculty Training Workshop**, USC Spring 2020

LARGE-SCALE COLLABORATIONS

- ManyBabies 5: The Hunter & Ames Model of Infant Looking Preference 2021-Now
- Remote Infant Studies of Early Learning (RISE) Project 2025-Now

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Facilitator, UBC and CITI Program Hybrid Responsible Conduct of Research Course 2026
- Associate, Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning at UBC 2024-Now
- Member, Stimulus Design & Experiment Programming Teams in ManyBabies 5 2023-Now
- Organizer, USC Psychology Department Developmental Area Speaker Series 2021-2022
- Invited Panel Speaker
 - USC Linguistics 610 Graduate Student Panel 2024
 - USC CLIMATE 2023 PhD Preview Day for Minority Students 2023
 - USC Psi Chi Graduate School Panel 2023
 - UCLA Chinese Students and Scholars Association Graduate School Panel 2018
- Reviewer for Conferences
 - Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society 2024-2025
 - Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development 2023-2024
 - California Meeting in Psycholinguistics 2021
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for Journals
 - *Cognition*
 - *Cognitive Psychology*
 - *Cognitive Development*
 - *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*
 - *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology*
 - *Language Learning & Development*

SKILLS

Languages

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

R, \LaTeX , Python

Paradigms

Eye-tracking, pupillometry, infant looking-time procedures, adult behavioral learning tasks

[CV compiled on February 19, 2026]