# Mengchen Li

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## EDUCATION

**University of Pennsylvania**                                          **Jul. 2025 – May 2027 (Expected)**
*Master of Science in Education | Dual Major in Education Policy & Learning Sciences and Technologies Programs*
*| GPA: 3.95/4.00*

**Renmin University of China**                                                      **Sept. 2021 – Jun. 2025**
*Bachelor of Arts | Major: English (Linguistics) | GPA: 3.76/4.00*
Awards: Academic Excellence Scholarship; Three Good Student Award (*Three Times*); Everlasting Friendship Scholarship;
Outstanding Volunteer Award (*Twice*); Excellent Graduate Award; Excellent Undergraduate Thesis Award

**Yale University, Summer School**                                                      **Jul. 2023 – Aug. 2023**
*Courses: Education and Empire (A); Writing Seminars I (A)*

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Li, M.** (2025). Why Can They Learn So Well? The Multidimensional Impact of Parental Income Levels on Chinese Children's Academic Achievement. *SAGE Open, 15*(3). https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440251355367
- **Li, M.** (2025). Policy Analysis on College Access for Low-Income Students in the United States. In *Proceedings of the 2024 4th International Conference on Education, Language and Art (ICELA 2024). Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, 813–822. https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-364-1_101
- **Li, M.**[1], Cai, X.[1], Jiang, M., & Yang, S. (2025). Weakened and delayed tonal processing in L2 Mandarin syllable perception: Evidence from mismatch negativity. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*. (Under review)
  [1] Co-first author: These authors contributed equally to this work.

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH

**Weakened and Delayed Tonal Processing in L2 Mandarin Syllable Perception: Evidence from Mismatch Negativity**
*Co-First Author*                                                      **Oct. 2024 – May 2025**
- Designed and conducted an EEG experiment using the mismatch negativity (MMN) paradigm to examine tonal and segmental processing in adult second language (L2) learners of Mandarin
- Discovered attenuated and delayed neural responses to lexical tones compared to native speakers, indicating L2-specific deficits in pre-attentive tonal encoding that differ from segmental processing patterns; manuscript currently under review at *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*

**Policy Analysis on College Access for Low-Income Students in the United States**
*Independent Author*                                                      **Sept. – Nov. 2024**
- Analyzed support models, intervention mechanisms, and interdepartmental collaboration of U.S. higher education access policies
- Evaluated how education expands opportunities and facilitates intergenerational mobility
- Proposed optimization recommendations and practical pathways to enhance policy implementation; paper accepted by ICELA 2024 conference

**Why Can They Learn So Well? The Multidimensional Impact of Parental Income Levels on Chinese Children's Academic Achievement**
*Independent Author*                                                      **Oct. 2023 – Jun. 2024**
- Conducted interviews with 30 families from different income levels to understand family culture, economic backgrounds, career contexts, and parent-child educational interactions
- Adopted grounded theory method in qualitative research to analyze mechanisms linking socioeconomic factors to children's learning development; published in SAGE Open

**The Impact of Original Text Features on Cognitive Processing of Post-Editing: An Empirical Study Based on News Texts**
*Research Team Member*                                                      **Mar. 2023 – Apr. 2024**
- Recruited 40 participants and utilized eye-tracking technology to measure cognitive load during human-machine translation post-editing, analyzing fixation counts and duration across lexical and syntactic text features
- Found that specific linguistic features (causal connectives, pronouns, adverbs) significantly reduce cognitive load, providing evidence-based insights for optimizing translator training and human-AI collaboration workflows
- Won national-level project approval; presented findings at the 6th National Conference on Cognitive Translation Studies in Macau

**Ulpan Model and Its Implications for the International Communication of the Chinese Language**
*Independent Author*                                                      **May 2023 – Jan. 2024**
- Analyzed the rise of the Ulpan model in Hebrew language revitalization and its contribution to language spread and development
- Identified key features of the Ulpan learning approach and proposed applications for international Chinese language education

## INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Hefei 168 High School, International Department – Teaching Assistant**                                                      **Oct. – Nov. 2024**
- Analyzed differences between UK A-level and Chinese domestic curricula; developed personalized learning plans and improvement strategies for students; contributed to parent-school communication and student support systems
- Planned and coordinated extracurricular activities including drama festival evaluations to assess students' abilities and provided optimization suggestions

**Hefei University of Economics – Administrative Assistant**                                        Sept. – Oct. 2024
- Participated in educational policy workshops studying national policy implementation; developed teaching programs, organized student feedback, and proposed suggestions for optimizing teaching systems and industry-education integration projects
- Proposed learning support strategies for struggling students including tutoring and resource support; improved access to learning materials on the school website.

**Future Science and Technology Education Base, International Centre for Engineering Education (ICEE) – Research Intern**                                        Jul. – Sept. 2024
- Studied the development and trends of international engineering education through comparative analysis of domestic and international contexts
- Investigated AI education implementation in K-12 and vocational settings, with focus on challenges facing under-resourced areas and strategies for promoting educational equity

**New Oriental Education – IELTS Instructor Assistant**                                        Jan. – Feb. 2024
- Supervised vocabulary learning for three classes; designed and conducted one-on-one oral practice sessions
- Tracked student learning, managed classroom discipline and communicated learning outcomes to parents

**Bengbu Education Examination Authority – Educational Counseling Assistant**            Aug. – Sept. & Jan. – Feb. 2023
- Studied the national college entrance examination (Gaokao) reform policies and analyzed their regional impact
- Counseled students preparing for Gaokao, high school entrance exams, and adult education exams; explained exam procedures and admission policies to visitors

**Lundbeck Pharmaceutical Information Consulting Co., Ltd. – Training & E-Learning Intern**         Apr. – Jun. 2023
- Designed and conducted new employee training programs; organized online assessments and analyzed results
- Tracked and compared weekly learning progress across training cohorts; generated data-driven reports on employee learning outcomes to inform training improvements
- Managed corporate e-learning platform including content updates and user support; produced educational materials and coordinated internal training communications

## LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**Class Monitor, Renmin University of China**                                        Sept. 2022 – Jun. 2023
- Coordinated class affairs including class meetings and scholarship selection; delivered notices from college and class advisor
- Led the class to achieve "Advanced Class Group" honor through effective coordination and student engagement initiatives

**"Thousand Students, Hundred Villages" Rural Field Research Program**                    Jun. – Sept. 2022
- Interviewed cooperative leaders and visited agricultural greenhouses; designed and administered community questionnaires
- Completed academic paper on agriculture and rural economic development; won second prize in the 25th "Imagine Cup" Curricular Academic Science and Technology Works Competition

**"Streets and Alleys of China" Urban Community Investigation Program**                    Dec. 2021 – Feb. 2022
- Conducted community investigation on neighborhood development including housing policies and urban transformation
- Collected field data and materials; completed detailed investigation report documenting urban transformation processes

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**Youth Volunteers Association, Renmin University of China**                                        Sept. 2021 – Jun. 2025
- Encouraged and mentored middle school students in under-resourced areas through letter correspondence program
- Wrote postcards for left-behind children, uploaded to targeted platform, and received highest votes; organized book donations
- Guided freshmen during orientation events; provided clinical laboratory guidance during medical checkups for new students
- Created book appreciation videos and shared reading insights with primary and secondary school students

## SKILLS & INTERESTS

**Languages:** English (Proficient); Japanese (Intermediate); Mandarin (Native)
**Technical Skills:** R; SPSS; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint; Adobe Photoshop; Adobe Animate; Zotero; Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
**Interests:** Reading; Calligraphy; Painting; Swimming; Tai Chi; Tennis; Badminton; Music