

# ZHIYU MIA GONG

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## Academic Appointment

2022- **University of California, Santa Cruz**  
Assistant Professor

## Education

2022 **Ph.D., Cornell University**  
Linguistics, with Graduate Minor in Cognitive Science  
Dissertation: *Issues in the Syntax of Movement: Cross-Clausal Dependencies, Reconstruction, and Movement Typology*

2017 **M.A., University of Delaware**  
Linguistics

2015 **B.A., Beijing Language and Culture University**  
English

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Accepted Gong, Z. M. Two Types of Long Distance Scrambling in Mongolian. *Syntactic Theory and Research*.

Accepted Gong, Z. M. & Despić, M. On the Syntax of Cross-Categorial Reflexive Marking in Khalkha Mongolian. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.

To Appear Sims, J., Gong, Z. M., & Washington, J. N. Central Asian Turkic and Khalkha Past Tense Systems Arose Through Balanced Contact. In *Proceedings of the 10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*.

2025 Gong, Z. M. Case in wholesale later merger: evidence from Mongolian scrambling. *Linguistic Inquiry* 56(1): 53-95.  
DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1162/ling\\_a\\_00494](https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00494)

- 2023 Gong, Z. M. A/Ā-operations at the Mongolian clausal periphery. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 32: 413-457.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-023-09268-4>
- 2021 Gong, Z. M. Postsyntactic Lowering and linear relations in Dagur noun phrases. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*. 6(1), 42.  
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1397>

*Articles Peer Reviewed by Abstract*

To appear Gong, Z. M. & Ótott-Kovács, E. Variation in the subject position requires both relative clause-external and internal analyses. In *Proceedings of the 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

To appear Gong, Z. M. Wh-island Sensitivity Reveals Two Scrambling Mechanisms in Khalkha Mongolian. In *Proceedings of the 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

2024 Gong, Z. M., & Miloje Despić. On the Nature of Reflexive Possessive Agreement In Mongolian: From Nominals to Clauses. in *Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics*.

2022 Gong, Z. M. Scrambling and reconstruction asymmetries. in *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*: Vol. 28.1.

2020 Gong, Z. M. The POSS-final suffix order in Dagur. in *The Proceedings of 50th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*.

*Talks*

*Invited*

- 2025 Two Types of Long Distance Scrambling across Weak Islands. The Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 14 (TEAL-14). University of Southern California.
- 2024 Dissecting Relative Clauses with Genitive Subjects – A Methodology (with Eszter Ótott-Kovács). University of Southern California Seminar in Syntax.
- 2024 Reflexive Possessive in Mongolian and the Morphosyntax of Binding and Agreement. Stanford University Linguistics Colloquium.

- 2024 Reflexive Binding and Clausal Nominalization in Khalkha Mongolian. University of Chicago Linguistics Colloquium.
- 2024 Reflexive Binding in Mongolian: From Nominals to Clauses. Michigan State University Linguistics Colloquium.
- 2023 On the Licensing of Genitive Subjects in Mongolian: Some Preliminary Notes. Stanford Syntax and Morphology Circle.
- 2023 On the Licensing of Genitive Subjects. Berkeley Syntax & Semantics Circle.
- 2023 On the nature of reflexive binding in Mongolian: From nominals to clauses. Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics 17 (WAFL 17), National University of Mongolia.
- 2022 A/Ā-operations at the clausal periphery: Agree, movement, and the interpretation of chains. Berkeley Syntax & Semantics Circle.
- 2021 Condition C reconstruction revisited: scrambling, late merger, and the A/Ā-distinction in Mongolian. Syracuse-Cornell Word Order/Scrambling Workshop.
- Refereed*
- 2025 Specification of D Derives Variation in Relative Clauses (with Eszter Óttó-Kovács). The 10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+10), University of Southern California.
- 2025 Central Asian Turkic and Khalkha past tense systems arose through balanced Turkic-Mongolic contact (with Joshua Sims, Jonathan Washington). The 10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+10), University of Southern California.
- 2024 Parallels Between Central Asian Turkic and Mongolic Past Tense Systems (with Joshua Sims, Jonathan Washington). The 2024 Mongolia Society Annual Meeting, US-Asia Institute, Washington, DC.
- 2024 Reflexive Binding in Mongolian: From Nominals to Clauses (with Miloje Despić). GLOW in Asia XIV, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 2023 On Mongolian Copular Constructions with байх 'to be' (with Tserenchunt Legden). The 2023 Mongolia Society Annual Meetings and Panels. University of Pittsburgh.

- 2021 Late Merger in scrambling — A Mongolian case study. PLC45, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2019 The POSS-final suffix order in Dagur. NELS 50, MIT.
- 2019 A lowering analysis of the Dagur CASE-POSS order. WAFL15, Lomonosov Moscow State University.
- 2019 A Lowering analysis of the Dagur CASE-POSS order. 94<sup>th</sup> LSA Annual Meeting; LSA Summer Institute.
- 2018 Differential Case Marking in Khalkha Mongolian. The Conference on Central Asian Languages of the Central Asian Region (ConCALL-3), Indiana University, Bloomington.

#### Grants & Awards

- 2024 Hellman Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.  
Project Title: Documenting Linguistic Diversity: Anaphoric Variations in Transeurasian Languages
- 2024 Writing Fellow, UC Santa Cruz.
- 2021 Sage Dissertation Fellowship, Cornell University.
- 2020 Hamilton Lugar School Scholarship, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2020 Summer Research Fellowship, Cornell University.
- 2020 Lee Teng-hui Fellowship in World Affairs with East Asia Focus, East Asia Program, Cornell University.  
Project Title: Fieldwork on Flexible Word Order in Mongolic Languages
- 2020 Summer Foreign Language Grant, Cornell University.
- 2019 James McCawley Fellowship, Linguistic Society of America.
- 2019 EAP Research Travel Grant, Cornell University.
- 2019, 2018 Mario Einaudi Center International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University.  
Project Title: Documenting the Dagur Language

2018 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University.

#### Teaching

UCSC      LING 282 Field Methods 24S  
LING 222 Syntax B 25W, 24W, 23W  
LING 113 Syntax II 24W, 23S  
LING 112 Syntax I 25W  
LING 190 Senior Research 24W, 23S  
LING 229 Syntax Seminar 22F, 26W

Cornell      LING1170/PSYCH1102, Introduction to Cognitive Science (TA) 21S  
LING3303, Introduction to Syntax and Semantics (TA) 19F

#### Fieldwork & Community Projects

2020-      Khalkha, Mongolia, United States.  
remotely since 2020; on site since 2022  
2019-      Chakhar, Hulun Buir, Inner Mongolia.  
14 months on site; remotely during 2020-22  
2018-2020 Dagur, Morin Dawa Dagur Autonomous Banner.  
5 months on site  
2020      Khalkha Language and Culture, CeLCAR, Indiana University, Bloomington.  
Central Asian Language Online Courses.

#### Service

Member of Editorial Board  
Journal of East Asian Linguistics

#### Refereeing

##### *Journals*

Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, Glossa, Acta  
Mongolica

##### *Conferences*

Linguistic Society of America Annual Meetings (LSA), West Coast Conference on Formal  
Linguistics (WCCFL), Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS), Chicago  
Linguistics Society (CLS)

##### *Grant Agencies*

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)

##### *Conference Organization*

Organizing Committee Member, West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 41