# Stephen Politzer-Ahles

30 July 2018

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies stephen.politzerahles@polyu.edu.hk

# **EDUCATION**

2013	Ph.D, Linguistics, University of Kansas
2011	M.A., Linguistics, University of Kansas
2008	B.A., Modern Languages and Literatures, Kenyon College

# PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2016-	Assistant Professor The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies
2015-2016	Post-doctoral associate The University of Oxford Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics
2013-2015	Post-doctoral associate New York University Abu Dhabi

**NYUAD** Institute

# **PUBLICATIONS**

# Refereed journal articles

in press	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , & Zhang, J. Evidence for the role of tone sandhi in speech production. <i>Journal of Chinese Linguistics</i> .
2018	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Piccinini, P. On visualizing phonetic data from repeated measures experiments with multiple random effects. <i>Journal of Phonetics</i> , 70, 56-69.
2018	Nieuwland, M., <b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Segaert, K., Darley, E., Kazanina, N., Von Grebmer Zu Wolfsthurn, S., Bartolozzi, F., Kogan, V., Ito, A., Mézière, D., Barr, D., Rousselet, G., Ferguson, H., Busch-Moreno, S., Fu, X., Tuomainen, J., Kulakova, E., Husband, E., Donaldson, D., Kohút, Z., Rueschemeyer, S., & Huettig, F. Large-scale replication study reveals a limit on probabilistic prediction in language comprehension. <i>eLife</i> , 7, e33468.
2018	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , & Husband, E. Eye movement evidence for context-sensitive derivation of scalar inferences. <i>Collabra: Psychology, 4</i> , 3.

- Zhan, J., Jiang, X., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhou, X. Neural correlates of fine-grained meaning distinctions: an fMRI investigation of scalar quantifiers. *Human Brain Mapping*, *8*, 3848-3864.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Al-Kaabi, M., & Almeida, D. Laryngeal features are phonetically abstract: mismatch negativity evidence from Arabic, English, and Russian. *Frontiers in Psychology Language Sciences*, *8*, 746.
- 2017 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using event-related potentials. *PLoS ONE*, *12*, e0175199.
- Politzer-Ahles, S. An extension of within-subject confidence intervals to models with crossed random effects. *The Quantitative Methods for Psychology, 13*, 75-94.
- 2016 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: evidence from mismatch negativity. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, 42*, 1547-1570.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. No place for /h/: ERP investigation of English fricative place features. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*, 31, 728-740.
- Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Pak, N., Martínez-García, M., & Coughlin, C. Probing the dynamics of complex word recognition: An ERP Investigation of the processing of novel compounds. *The Mental Lexicon*, 10, 413-434.
- 2015 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Gwilliams, L. Involvement of prefrontal cortex in scalar implicatures: evidence from magnetoencephalography. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience, 30*, 853-866.
- Politzer-Ahles, S., & Fiorentino, R. The realization of scalar inferences: context sensitivity without processing cost. *PLoS ONE*, 8, e63943.
- Lee, H., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Jongman, A. Speakers of tonal and non-tonal Korean dialects use different cue weightings in the perception of the three-way laryngeal stop contrast. *Journal of Phonetics*, 41, 117-132.
- Hunt, L., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Gibson, L., Minai, U., & Fiorentino, R. Pragmatic inferences modulate N400 during sentence comprehension: evidence from picture-sentence verification. *Neuroscience Letters*, *534*, 246-251.
- Politzer-Ahles, S., Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. Distinct neural correlates for pragmatic and semantic meaning processing: An event-related potential investigation of scalar implicature processing using picture-sentence verification. *Brain Research*, 1490, 134-152.

# Chapters

in press **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Chen, S. Significance. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders*.

#### Letters and commentaries

2016 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Holliday, J., Girolamo, T., Spychalska, M., & Berkson, K. Is linguistic injustice a myth? A response to Hyland (2016). *Journal of Second Language Writing*, 34, 3-8.

### Conference proceedings and working papers

- Cheung, C., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Hwang, H., Chui, R., Leung, M., & Tang, T. Comprehension of presuppositions in school-age Cantonese-speaking children with and without autism spectrum disorders. *Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics*, 31, 557-572.
- 2015 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: evidence from mismatch negativity. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.
- 2015 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. *LSA Extended Abstracts*.
- Politzer-Ahles, S. Are intermediate levels of the scale used during online comprehension of scalar implicatures? *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, 33, 1-15.
- Politzer-Ahles, S., & Zhang, J. The role of phonological alternation in speech production: Evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics*, 18, 060001.
- Politzer-Ahles, S., & Zhang, J. The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. *Tonal Aspects of Languages*.
- Politzer-Ahles, S. A Minimalist account of Uyghur genitives. *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, 32, 106-119.

#### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### **Extramural fellowships**

- 2018-2020 Early Career Scheme #25606117, Research Grants Council (Hong Kong), "Mental representations of Chinese tones: abstract vs. episodic accounts". 742,856 HKD
- 2010 East Asia & Pacific Summer Institutes #1015160, National Science Foundation, "An ERP investigation of the processing of visually-presented Mandarin sentences"

### **Institutional grants and fellowships**

2018	Undergraduate summer research abroad sponsorship #USRA1809, The Hong
	Kong Polytechnic University, 100,000 HKD
2017-2019	Start-up fund for new recruits #1-ZE89, Faculty of Humanities – The Hong Kong
	Polytechnic University, "Testing how the brain deploys phonological knowledge
	of Mandarin tones during speech comprehension", 500,000 HKD
2017-2018	Departmental grant #G-UACX, Central Research Fund – The Hong Kong
	Polytechnic University, "The mental representation and processing of Cantonese-
	English loanwords", 100,000 HKD
2012	NIDCD T32 Pre-Doctoral Training in Language Impairment, Child Language
	Doctoral Program – University of Kansas.
2010	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for Global &
	International Studies – University of Kansas
2009-2010	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for East Asian Studies –
	University of Kansas

### **Awards**

2013	One-University Open Access Publishing Fund, University of Kansas
2013	CUNY Travel Award, CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing
2012	Doctoral Student Research Fund, University of Kansas
2012	IPA Student Award, International Phonetic Association
2011-2012	France Ingemann Scholarship, Linguistics Department – University of Kansas
2009	Linguistics Honors Fellowship, Linguistics Department – University of Kansas
2008-2009	Graduate Studies Scholarship, University of Kansas

# **INVITED TALKS**

2017	Challenges in linking electrophysiological data to the theory of scalar implicature.
	Revising formal semantic and pragmatic theories from a neurocognitive
	perspective, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. 19 June
2017	On the lexical representation of allomorphs in Mandarin third tone sandhi. <i>The</i>
	UChicago Language Research Forum, UChicago Center in Hong Kong, Hong
	Kong. 17 March
2012	(with Jie Zhang) The role of phonological alternation in speech production:
	evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. 164th Acoustical Society of America. Kansas
	City, United States. 22-26 October

# **CONFERENCE POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

# **Oral presentations**

Politzer-Ahles, S., Lin, J., & Pan, L. Sensitivity of the N400 to the phonetics but not the phonology of Mandarin tones. 1<sup>st</sup> Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language. Seoul. 18-19 May

2018 Nieuwland, M., Barr, D., Bartolozzi, F., Busch-Moreno, S., Darley, E., Donaldson, D., Ferguson, H., Fu, X., Heyselaar, E., Huettig, F., Husband, E., Ito, A., Kazanina, N., Kogan, V., Kohút, Z., Kulakova, E., Mézière, D., Politzer-Ahles, S., Rousselet, G., Rueschemeyer, S., Segaert, K., Tuomainen, J., &Von Grebmer Zu Wolfsthurn, S. Dissociable effects of prediction and integration on the N400: Evidence from a large-scale replication study. 31st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Davis, United States, 15-17 March 2018 Politzer-Ahles, S., Pan, L., & Lin, J. No long-lag morphological priming for Mandarin monosyllables. Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (Asia) Conference. Hyderabad, India. 1-3 February 2017 Nieuwland, M., Politzer-Ahles, S., Heyselaar, H., Segaert, K., Darley, E., Kazanina, N., Von Grebmer Zu Wolfsthurn, S., Bartolozzi, F., Kogan, V., Ito, A., Meziere, D., Barr, D., Rousselet, G., Ferguson, H., Busch-Moreno, S., Fu, X., Kulakova, E., Tuomainen, J., Husband, M., Donaldson, D., Kohút, Z., Rueschemeyer, S., & Huettig, F. Phonological form is not probabilistically preactivated during language comprehension: A 9-lab failure to replicate DeLong, Urbach & Kutas (2005). 30<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Cambridge, United States, 30 March – 1 April Politzer-Ahles, S., Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the 2015 perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Glasgow, United Kingdom, 10-14 August Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. Underspecification of voice 2015 features in the mental larynx. 23<sup>rd</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester, United Kingdom, 28-30 May Politzer-Ahles, S. "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. 89<sup>th</sup> 2015 Linguistic Society of America. Portland, United States, 8-11 January 2015 Tucker, M., Politzer-Ahles, S., King, J., & Almeida, D. Errors in the brain: magneto- and electroencephalographic evidence from English agreement. 89th Linguistic Society of America. Portland, United States, 8-11 January 2014 Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. No place for /h/: ERP investigation English fricative place features. 20th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference. Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 3-6 September 2012 Politzer-Ahles, S., & Zhang, J. The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tonal Aspects of Languages. Nanjing, China, 26-29 May 2008 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** The puzzle of Mandarin *le*: an integrated approach. 20<sup>th</sup> North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. Columbus, United States, 25-27 April

#### **Posters**

2018 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Pan, L., & Lin, J. No long-lag morphological priming for Mandarin monosyllables. 16<sup>th</sup> Conference on Laboratory Phonology. Lisbon, Portugal. 19-22 June.

2018 Politzer-Ahles, S., Pan, L., & Lin, J. Mandarin monosyllables trigger long-lag identity priming but not long-lag morphological priming. 1st Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language. Seoul. 18-19 May 2018 Politzer-Ahles, S., Connell, K., & Hsu, Y. Third-tone sandhi is incompletely neutralizing in perception as well as production: evidence from visual world eyetracking. 1st Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language. Seoul. 18-19 May Shen, L., & Politzer-Ahles, S. Analysis of the influence of word frequency in 2018 auditory perception. 1st Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language. Seoul. 18-19 May Zhang, C., Huang, X., Politzer-Ahles, S., Peng, G., & Zhang, J. Neural encoding 2017 of T3 sandhi in Mandarin Chinese speakers in speech production. 9<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language Conference. Baltimore. 8-10 November. 2017 Cheung, C., Politzer-Ahles, S., Cheung, G., Choi, H., Lai, L., Leung, M., & Tang, T. Knowledge of presupposition triggers in Cantonese-speaking children with and without autism spectrum disorders. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Linguistic Association. Hong Kong, 26-28 May. Politzer-Ahles, S., Wiener, S., & Zhang, C. Predictive tones facilitate Mandarin 2017 lexical identification: evidence from ERPs. 1st International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics. Hong Kong, 10-12 March. 2016 Politzer-Ahles, S., & Husband, E. Consequences of scalar inference derivation revealed through eye movement measures. 22<sup>nd</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing. Bilbao, Spain, 1-3 September 2016 Husband, E., & Politzer-Ahles, S. Coercing events or inserting structure? Eyetracking evidence for a distinction between semantic and syntactic enrichment. 22<sup>nd</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing. Bilbao, Spain, 1-3 September 2016 Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. An MMN investigation of the Russian voicing contrast. 22<sup>nd</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing. Bilbao, Spain, 1-3 September Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. An MMN investigation of the 2016 Russian voicing contrast. 8th Neurobiology of Language. London, United Kingdom, 17-20 August 2016 Bovolenta, G., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Husband, M. Differential ERPs to local vs. global prediction failures. 29th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Gainesville, United States, 3-5 March 2015 Politzer-Ahles, S., Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using event-related potentials. 7<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language. Chicago, United States, 15-17 October 2015 Politzer-Ahles, S., Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. 169<sup>th</sup>

Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, United States, 18-22 May

2015 Berkson, K., & Politzer-Ahles, S. Phonation type contrasts and vowel quality in Marathi. 169th Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, United States, 18-22 May 2015 Politzer-Ahles, S. Asymmetrical mismatch negativity effects in Mandarin tone perception. 22<sup>nd</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, United States, 28-31 March 2015 Fiorentino, R., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Liao, K. Morpheme-based combinatorial processing of English compounds: evidence from magnetoencephalography and lexical decision. 22<sup>nd</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, United States, 28-31 March 2014 Tucker, M., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. Agreement attraction in the neural language system. 20<sup>th</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference. Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 3-6 September Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. No place for [h]: an ERP 2014 investigation English fricative place features. 6<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 27-29 August Tucker, M., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. Agreement attraction in the neural 2014 language system. 6<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 27-29 August Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. No place for /h/: an ERP 2014 investigation of [Place] in English intervocalic fricatives. 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester, United Kingdom, 29-31 May 2014 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Neural correlates of realizing scalar inferences: an MEG study. 27<sup>th</sup> CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbus, United States, 13-15 March Politzer-Ahles, S., Fiorentino, R., Durbin, J., & Li, L. The role of working 2014 memory in the online realization of scalar inferences. 27th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbus, United States, 13-15 March 2013 Politzer-Ahles, S., & Fiorentino, R. Sensitivity of online scalar inferencing to context and to processing load. 5<sup>th</sup> Experimental Pragmatics Conference. Utrecht, Netherlands, 4-6 September Politzer-Ahles, S., & Fiorentino, R. The realization of scalar inferences: context 2013 sensitivity without processing cost. 26<sup>th</sup> CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbia, United States, 21-23 March 2012 Politzer-Ahles, S., Jiang, X., Fiorentino, R., & Zhou, X. Individual differences in logical ability predict ERP responses to underinformative sentences. 4<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language Conference. San Sebastian, Spain, 25-27 October 2012 Fiorentino, R., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Pak, N. Probing the dynamics of complex word recognition: An ERP investigation of the processing of novel compounds. 4<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language Conference. San Sebastian, Spain, 25-27 October Lee, H., Jongman, A., & Politzer-Ahles, S. Speakers of tonal and non-tonal 2012 Korean dialects use different cue weightings in the perception of the three-way laryngeal stop contrast. 164th Acoustical Society of America. Kansas City, United States, 22-26 October

2012	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.,</b> Jiang, X., Fiorentino, R., & Zhou, X. Independence of pragmatic and lexico-semantic processing in picture-sentence verification. 19 <sup>th</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience Society. Chicago, United States, 31 March – 3 April
2012	Fiorentino, R., <b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Popescu, E., & Popescu, M. The role of morphological juncture identification in complex word processing: an MEG investigation. 41 <sup>st</sup> Society for Neuroscience. Washington, United States, 12-16 November
2011	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. Event-related potential investigation of scalar implicature processing using picture-sentence verification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Neurobiology of Language. Annapolis, United States, 9-11 November
2011	Hunt, L., <b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Minai, U., & Fiorentino, R. N400 is elicited by pragmatic as well as semantic anomalies: a visual-world study of scalar implicatures. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Neurobiology of Language. Annapolis, United States, 9-11 November
2011	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. Online processing of scalar implicatures in Chinese as revealed by event-related potentials. 18 <sup>th</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, United States, 2-5 April

# **TEACHING**

# **The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

2016-7	Psycholinguistics [Chinese and Bilingual Studies]
2016-8	Contrastive Analysis of Chinese and English [Chinese and Bilingual Studies]
2018	Techniques in Language Sciences [Chinese and Bilingual Studies]
2018	Foundations in Behavioural and Social Sciences II [Chinese and Bilingual
	Studies, Applied Social Sciences]

# **University of Kansas**

2013 Psycholinguistics [Linguistics], teaching assistant

# Mentoring

2016-7 Master of Speech Therapy programme final projects [Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University]

### Ad hoc

2017	Workshop on ERP experiment design and data analysis [Shandong University of
	Finance and Economics], 30 May – 2 June
2016	Workshop on mixed-effects modeling in R [Linguistics, University College
	London], 18-20 May

#### OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2010-2013 Graduate research assistant, Neurolinguistics and Language Processing

Laboratory – University of Kansas (PI: Robert Fiorentino)

2008-2009 Graduate research assistant, Department of Anthropology – University of Kansas

(PI: Arienne Dwyer)

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE

# Ad-hoc grant reviewing

FWO - Flanders National Science Foundation Research Grants Council (Hong Kong) Swiss National Science Foundation

# Ad-hoc article reviewing

Bilingualism: Language and Cognition

Brain and Language

Cognition

Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience

Cognitive Psychology

Developmental and Cognitive Neuroscience

Developmental Neuropsychology

Developmental Science

Frontiers in Psychology

Frontiers in Neuroscience

JASA Express Letters

Journal of Chinese Linguistics

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition

Journal of Memory and Language

Language and Speech

Language, Cognition and Neuroscience

NeuroImage

Neuropsychologia

Psychonomic Bulletin and Review

Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

Scientific Reports

Yearbook of the Poznań Linguistic Meeting

### Ad-hoc conference reviewing

Cognitive Science Society Experimental Pragmatics

Human Brain Mapping Neurobiology of Language Linguistic Society of America Tonal Aspects of Languages

# Departmental and institutional service

2013-2014	Member of post-doc council and representative to faculty council, New York
	University Abu Dhabi
2010-2012	President of Linguistics Graduate Student Association, Department of Linguistics
	– University of Kansas
2010-2011	Editor of Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics –
	University of Kansas
2008-2010	Student representative for Linguistics Graduate Student Association, Department
	of Linguistics – University of Kansas

### TECHNICAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

#### **Software**

Data analysis and statistics: R, MATLAB, SPSS, Microsoft Excel / OpenOffice Calc Electrophysiological and neuroimaging: EEGLAB, FieldTrip, Neuroscan Edit, BESA, Brain Vision Analyzer, CTF DataEditor, FreeSurfer, MNE

Experimental control: Presentation, Paradigm, Experiment Builder

Acoustic: Praat, MultiSpeech, Audacity

Other: Transcriber, GNU Image Manipulation Program, Apache

### Programming, markup, and typesetting languages

Python, Perl and Perl CGI, C++, TCL, Windows cmd, Unix (bash, tcsh), LaTeX, HTML, MediaWiki

### Languages

English (native), Mandarin (advanced), French (intermediate), Uyghur (basic), Hindi (barebones), Northern Monguor (bare-bones)