

Suzana Fong

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APPOINTMENTS

- 2024–present Assistant professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland
2022–2023 Lecturer in syntax at Yale University
Fall 2021 Lecturer in linguistics at Queen Mary University of London

EDUCATION

- 2015–2021 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thesis: *Nominal licensing: the number interpretation and syntactic distribution of bare nominals in Wolof*
2013–2015 M.A. in Linguistics, Universidade de São Paulo
Thesis: *Construindo um domínio não-finito: a sintaxe de orações de gerúndio em português brasileiro [Building a nonfinite domain: the syntax of gerund clauses in Brazilian Portuguese]*
Spring 2014 Visiting student, University of Connecticut
2008–2012 B.A. in Linguistics and Portuguese Language, Universidade de São Paulo
Undergraduate research: Gerund complements in Brazilian Portuguese

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Broad syntax, morphosyntax
Narrow A-dependencies across nonfinite and finite clauses, A/Ā distinction, case, nominal licensing, control, hyperraising, bare nominals
Languages Wolof (Niger-Congo, Atlantic), Mongolian (Mongolic), Brazilian Portuguese (Romance), Adyghe and Kabardian (Northwest Caucasian)

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2024 “A Dependent Case analysis of pseudo noun incorporation in Wolof.” *Syntax* ([DOI](#))
2023 “Feature licensing and the number interpretation of bare nominals in Wolof.” *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 8(1). pp. 1–46 ([DOI](#), [supplementary file](#))
2019 “Proper movement through Spec-CP: an argument from hyperraising in Mongolian.” *Glossa* (4)1, 30. Special Collection: Subject Extraction, ed. Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine ([DOI](#))

PROCEEDINGS PAPERS

- 2025 “Reciprocal binding and syntactic ergativity in Adyghe and Kabardian.” Duygu Demiray, Roger Cheng-yen Liu & Nir Segal (eds.) *NELS 55: Proceedings of the Fifty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*. Vol. 1. ([manuscript](#))
- 2024 “Pronouncing PRO in Wolof.” Huang, Y., Kaldhol, N. H., Lim, J. J., Rose, S., & Struthers-Young, A. (2024). *ACAL in SoCAL: Selected papers from the 53rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. Language Science Press. (peer-reviewed; [DOI](#))
- 2022 “Distinguishing between explanatory accounts of the A/A'-distinction: the view from Argentinian Spanish Clitic Doubling.” In Ora Matushansky, Laurent Roussarie, Michela Russo, Elena Soare, and Sophie Wauquier (eds.), *Going Romance XXXIV Proceedings* (peer-reviewed, [DOI](#))
- 2021 “The syntax of plural marking: The view from bare nouns in Wolof.” In Mojmír Dočekal & Marcin Wągiel (eds.), *Formal approaches to number in Slavic and beyond*, 129–148. Berlin: Language Science Press (peer-reviewed, [DOI](#); superseded by [Fong 2023](#))
- 2020 “The syntax of number marking: the view from bare nouns in Wolof.” *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 5(1) ([DOI](#); superseded by [Fong 2023](#))
- 2018 “Featural definition of syntactic positions: Evidence from hyper-raising.” *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 3(1). ([DOI](#); superseded by [Fong 2019](#))
- 2013 “Clausal gerund and Case marking in Brazilian Portuguese.” In Quadros Gomes, A.P., Medeiros, A. B., Cavalcante S. R. O. (eds.) *Proceedings of the IX Workshop on Formal Linguistics*

HANDBOOK CHAPTER

- 2025 “A-dependencies.” With Dr. Claire Halpert. To Appear at *The Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Syntax*, eds. Sjef Barbiers, Norbert Corver, and Maria Polinsky ([pre-publication draft](#); invited and peer-reviewed contribution)

MANUSCRIPTS

- (In progr.) *An Introduction to Generative Grammar* ([current version of manuscript](#))
- 2025 “Reciprocal binding in Adyghe and Kabardian and the ban on ergative anaphors” ([draft](#))
- 2023 “A Wholesale Late Merge Theory of Control” ([draft](#))

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED

- 2021–2022 *Nominal licensing via dependent case: the view from Pseudo Noun Incorporation in Wolof*
- S-Lab, University of Maryland, February, 2022
 - Syntax & Semantics Circle, University of California, Berkeley, February, 2021 (presented under the title *A dependent case analysis of pseudo noun incorporation in Wolof*)

PEER-REVIEWED

2024–2025	<i>Reciprocal binding and syntactic ergativity in Adyghe</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLA 72 conference (Canadian Linguistic Association). McGill University, June, 2025• NELS 55 (North East Linguistics Society). Yale University, October, 2024 (virtual talk)
2022–2023	<i>Pronouncing PRO in Wolof</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NELS 53 (North East Linguistics Society). University of Göttingen, January, 2023 (virtual poster)• ACAL 53 (Annual Conference on African Linguistics). University of California, San Diego, April, 2022 (virtual talk)• 46th PLC (Annual Penn Linguistics Conference). University of Pennsylvania, March, 2022 (virtual talk)• ConSOLE 30 (Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe), Université de Nantes, January 2022 (virtual talk)
2021–2022	<i>Nominal licensing via dependent case: the view from Pseudo Noun Incorporation in Wolof</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LSA Annual Meeting (Linguistic Society of America), Washington DC, January, 2022 (pre-recorded talk)• NELS 52 (North East Linguistics Society). Rutgers University, October, 2021 (virtual talk)• 14th SinFonIJA (Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis). University of Novi Sad, September 2021 (virtual talk)
2020–2021	<i>Distinguishing between accounts of the A/A'-distinction: the view from Argentinian Spanish Clitic Doubling</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLS 57 (Chicago Linguistic Society), University of Chicago, May, 2021 (virtual talk)• LSRL 51 (Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April, 2021 (virtual talk)• Going Romance 34, CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), November, 2020 (virtual talk)
2019–2021	<i>The number interpretation of bare nominals in Wolof</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACAL 51–52 (Annual Conference on African Linguistics). University of Florida, April, 2021 (virtual talk)• ConSOLE 29 (Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe), Leiden University Centre for Linguistics, January 2021 (virtual talk)• LSA 2020 Annual Meeting (Linguistic Society of America), New Orleans, January, 2020• SinFonIJA 12 (Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis). Workshop on Number, Numerals, and Plurality. Masaryk University, September, 2019• LAGB Annual Meeting (Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Queen Mary University of London, September 2019
2019	<i>Alternations between regular and athematic participles in Brazilian Portuguese</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 49th LSRL (Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages). University of Georgia in Athens, May, 2019• 43rd PLC (Penn Linguistics Conference). University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, March, 2019 (poster)

2018	<i>Proper movement through Spec-CP: an argument from hyperraising in Mongolian</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NELS 49 (North East Linguistics Society). Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, October, 2018 (poster) • VIII Encuentro de Gramática Generativa. Universidad de Buenos Aires, August, 2018 (presented under the title <i>Differential Subject Marking in Mongolian</i>) • ConCall-3 (Conference on Central Asian Languages of the Central Asian Region), Indiana University, March, 2018 (presented under the title <i>A raising analysis of accusative subjects in Mongolian</i>)
2018	<i>Featural definition of syntactic positions: evidence from hyper-raising</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSA 2018 Annual Meeting (Linguistic Society of America), Salt Lake City, January, 2018
2012–2015	<i>Orações de gerúndio em português brasileiro [Gerund clauses in Brazilian Portuguese]</i> .
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63º Seminário do GEL (<i>Grupo de Estudos Lingüísticos do Estado de São Paulo</i>). Universidade Estadual de Campinas, July, 15 • IX ABRALIN (Brazilian Linguistics Association International Congress). Universidade Federal do Pará, February, 2015 • Workshop on morphology and interpretation. Universidade de São Paulo, July, 14 (poster) • IX Workshop on Formal Linguistics. Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, August, 2012 (poster) • 60º Seminário do GEL (<i>Grupo de Estudos Lingüísticos do Estado de São Paulo</i>). Universidade de São Paulo, July, 2012 (poster)
2010	<i>Propriedades morfossintáticas na construção da metáfora [Morphosyntactic properties in the building of metaphors]</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58º Seminário do GEL (<i>Grupo de Estudos Lingüísticos do Estado de São Paulo</i>). Universidade Federal de São Carlos, July, 2010 (poster)

OUTREACH

2019	<i>The singular (and plural) behavior of bare nouns in Wolof</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hungry Wugs presentation for undergraduate students, MIT, April, 2019
2017	<i>A ciência e a lógica da estrutura das línguas [The science and logic of linguistic structure]</i> . With Dr. Mar Bassa and Dr. Karin Vivanco
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUB-Lingüística, Cambridge/MA, March, 2017. Introduction to linguistics & discussion of research for non-linguist audience

SELECTED NON-REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

2023–2025	<i>A Wholesale Late Merge Theory of Control</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUN Seminar Series, March, 2025 • MIT Ling-Lunch, May, 2023 • Yale Syntax Reading Group, April, 2023

TEACHING

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Winter 2026	Introduction to Linguistics (1100) Morphology (3000, undergraduate)
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Fall 2025	Introduction to Syntax (1103, undergraduate) Field Methods (4500/6500, undergraduate/graduate; language: Jaffna Tamil)
Winter 2025	Introduction to Syntax (1103, undergraduate) Selected Topics in Syntactic Theory (4110/6110, undergraduate/graduate; topic: agreement phenomena and the operation Agree)
Fall 2024	Introduction to Syntax (1103, undergraduate) Morphology (3000, undergraduate)

YALE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2023	Syntax II (LING 254/654, undergraduate/graduate) Linguistics in the real world (LING 106, undergraduate)
Fall 2022	Seminar on Agree (LING 261/661, undergraduate/graduate) Morphology (LING 280/680, undergraduate/graduate)

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Fall 2021	Introduction to Semantics (LIN5217/7206, BA/MA) Syntax II: Explaining Grammatical Structures (LIN5213, BA) Syntax (LIN7209, MA)
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2025 LSA LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE

Summer 2025	Introduction to Generative Syntax, University of Oregon. July–August, 2025
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ESCUELA DE LINGÜÍSTICA DE BUENOS AIRES (ELBA)

2020	Theoretical approaches to hyperraising. Universidad de Buenos Aires, February, 2020 (invited one-week Summer course)
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TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Fall 2020	Introduction to Syntax (24.951, graduate), MIT
Fall 2018	Introduction to Linguistics (24.900, undergraduate), MIT
Spring 2017	Special Subject: Linguistics (24.S90, undergraduate), MIT
Fall 2016	Language and Its Structure II: Syntax (24.902, undergraduate), MIT
2015 (sem. 1)	<i>Sintaxe: fundamentos de análise e descrição sintática</i> (FLL0215, undergraduate introduction to syntax), Universidade de São Paulo
2014 (sem. 2)	<i>Elementos de Lingüística II</i> (FLL0434, undergraduate introduction to linguistics, part II), Universidade de São Paulo

ADVISING AND MENTORSHIP

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

2025–	Richmond Essien. Research assistantship & capstone project supervision; project: <i>Subject markers in Akan</i>
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- 2025 Janet Adedigba. Research assistantship supervision; project: *Hyperraising in Yorùbá* (Niger-Congo)
- 2024– Yijun Li. PhD co-supervision
- 2024– Manouchehr Kouhestani. PhD co-supervision

YALE UNIVERSITY

- 2023 Hailey Dykstra (advisor to senior thesis). Thesis: *SMH: Negation in American Sign Language*
- 2023 Diana Kulpmeier (advisor to senior thesis). Thesis: *Who Saw Who? Exploring Direct-Inverse Marking in Blackfoot: An Agree-Based Approach*
- 2023 Pinyu (Pearl) Hwang (second reader to senior thesis). Thesis: *A new level of stupid: An Examination of Noun-of-Adj(P) Structures in English*

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017–2021 MIT Ken Hale Fund, funding for elicitation work with native consultants of Mongolian (Summer 2017) and Wolof (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2021)
- 2019 Student bursary: LAGB 2019 (Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain) at Queen Mary University of London
- 2019 Runner-up for the Best Student Presentation Award: 49th LSRL (Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages), University of Georgia
- 2013–2015 FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil). Funding for M.A. research (grant #2012/23196-5)
- 2014 FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil). Funding for Research Internship Abroad, BEPE (grant #2013/20648-5)
- 2013 Capes (*Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior*, Brazil). Funding for M.A. research
- 2011–2012 FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil). Funding for undergraduate research (grant #2011/08152-9)
- 2009–2010 CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, Brazil). Funding for undergraduate research

SERVICE

- Winter 2025– Linguistics Seminar Series organizer, MUN
- 2022–2023 Syntax Reading Group organizer, Yale
- 2021 ECO-5 workshop co-organizer (virtual), MIT
- 2017–2021 ECO-5 (syntax workshop that brings together 5 schools in the US East Coast) liaison, MIT
- 2019 TripleA 6 (The Semantics of African, Asian and Austronesian Languages) co-organizer, MIT
- 2018 WAFL 14 (Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics) co-organizer, MIT
- 2018 Linguistics judge for INSPIRE (National High School Research Competition in the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences), MIT
- 2017–2018 Syntax Square (reading group) co-organizer, MIT

2016–2017	Student co-editor of <i>Whamit!</i> (MIT Linguistics newsletter)
2016–2017	Ling-Lunch co-organizer, MIT
2015 (sem. 1)	Tardes de Lingüística na USP [<i>Linguistic Afternoons at the University of São Paulo</i> : colloquia and other outreach events] co-organizer, USP

AD-HOC REVIEWING FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES

Caderno de Estudos Linguísticos (2021); *Caderno de Squibs* (2020×2); Canadian Journal of Linguistics (2023); *Glossa* (2018, 2019, 2020, 2022–24); *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* (2024); *Language* (2022); *Linguistic Inquiry* (2021, 2024); *Syntax* (2021); *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (2024; 2025×2); *Open Linguistics* (2025); a paper for *Formal approaches to number in Slavic and beyond* (2020)

AD-HOC REVIEWING FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

LSA Annual Meeting (New Orleans, 2026); NELS 56 (NYU, 2025); CLA Conference (McGill, 2025); LSA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, 2025); NELS 55 (Yale, 2024); NELS 54 (MIT, 2024); LSA Annual Meeting (New York City, 2024); TripleAFLA (University of Manchester, 2022); 13th Workshop on Formal Linguistics (Universidade de Brasília, 2021)

MEMBERSHIP

2024–present	Canadian Linguistic Association
2017–present	Linguistic Society of America
2021–present	Association of Contemporary African Linguistics

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Brazilian Portuguese (native), Émpíng huà (恩平话, heritage), English (professional fluency), Spanish (basic reading), French (basic reading); Python (basic)

ELICITATION

Tamil	Fall 2025 (course 4500/6500, MUN)
Adyghe	Winter, Spring, and Summer, 2024 (independent, online)
Kabardian	Spring and Summer, 2024 (independent, online)
Wolof	Spring 2018 (course 24.942, MIT); Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2021 (MIT, Ken Hale Fund, online); Spring 2022 (independent, online)
Mongolian	Spring 2017 (course 24.942, MIT); Summer 2017 (MIT, Ken Hale Fund); Spring 2018, Summer 2018 (independent)