

Weijie Xu

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Education

- 2021-2026 **University of California, Irvine**
Ph.D., Language Science
Advisor: Richard Futrell
- 2019-2021 **The University of Chicago**
M.A., Computational Social Science
Thesis: *Is there a predictability hierarchy in reference resolution?*
Advisor: Ming Xiang
- 2015-2019 **Shanghai International Studies University**
B.A., Spanish Language and Literature

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2022 The North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI), USC
- 2022 The 6th Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology, Univ of Potsdam

Research Interests

Psycholinguistics; human sentence processing; computational linguistics; cognitive modeling; crosslinguistic universals and variations; language change and evolution

Publications

- revise & resubmit* **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Strategic resource allocation in memory encoding: An efficiency principle shaping language processing. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.14728*.
- 2025 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Informativity enhances memory robustness against interference in sentence comprehension. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 142, 104603.
- 2025 Charles Torres, **Weijie Xu**, Yanting Li & Richard Futrell. Creolization versus code-switching: An agent-based cognitive model for bilingual strategies in language contact. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics*.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. A hierarchical Bayesian model for syntactic priming. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Syntactic dependency length shaped by strategic memory allocation. In *Proceedings of the 6th Workshop on Research in Computational Linguistic Typology and Multilingual NLP*.

- 2023 **Weijie Xu**, Jason Chon, Tianran Liu & Richard Futrell. The linearity of the effect of surprisal on reading times across languages. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023*.
- 2022 Ming Xiang, Christopher Kennedy, **Weijie Xu** & Timothy Leffel. Pragmatic reasoning and semantic convention: A case study on gradable adjectives. *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 15, 9-1.
- 2021 **Weijie Xu** & Ming Xiang. Is there a predictability hierarchy in reference resolution? In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 43.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 **Weijie Xu**, Hailin Hao & Richard Futrell. Strategic memory allocation in the dependency locality effect in comprehension. Poster at 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), College Park, Mar 27-29.
- 2025 Hailin Hao, **Weijie Xu**, Richard Futrell & Michael Hahn. Information locality in the processing of English object relative clauses. Talk at 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), College Park, Mar 27-29.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. A hierarchical Bayesian model for syntactic priming. Poster at 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Rotterdam, July 26-29.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Dependency length shaped by strategic memory allocation: A corpus study in 11 languages. Poster at 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), Ann Arbor, May 16-18.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. A hierarchical Bayesian model for syntactic priming. Poster at 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), Ann Arbor, May 16-18.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Syntactic dependency length shaped by strategic memory allocation. Oral presentation at the 6th Workshop on Research in Computational Linguistics Typology and Multilingual NLP (SIGTYP), Malta, March 21.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Dependency locality shaped by resource rationality: Evidence from English and Spanish. Oral presentation at California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP), Palo Alto, Jan 13-14.
- 2024 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. A hierarchical Bayesian model for syntactic priming. Poster at California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP), Palo Alto, Jan 13-14.
- 2023 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Dependency locality optimized for computational rationality. Poster at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Asia (AMLaP Asia), Hong Kong, Dec 1-3.
- 2022 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Informativity enhances memory precision in the agreement attraction effect. Poster at the 28th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP), York, Sept 7-9.
- 2022 **Weijie Xu**, Jiaxuan Li, Ming Xiang & Richard Futrell. Syntactic adaptation to short-term cue-based distributional regularities. Poster at the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Toronto, July 27-30.

- 2022 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Informativity affects memory precision in the agreement attraction effect. Poster at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), Santa Cruz, March 24-26.
- 2022 **Weijie Xu**, Jiaxuan Li & Ming Xiang. Syntactic adaptation to short-term cue-based distributional regularities. Poster at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), Santa Cruz, March 24-26.
- 2021 **Weijie Xu** & Ming Xiang. Is there a predictability hierarchy in reference resolution? Poster at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Vienna, July 26-29.
- 2021 **Weijie Xu** & Ming Xiang. Processing referring expressions: Accessibility is not predictability. Poster at the 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Philadelphia, March 4-6.
- 2021 Ming Xiang & **Weijie Xu**. Reanalysis difficulty modulates cumulative structural priming effects in sentence comprehension. Poster at the 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Philadelphia, March 4-6.
- 2021 Ming Xiang, Christine Gu, Yixue Quan, **Weijie Xu** & Suiping Wang. Probability matching vs. regularization in contact-induced syntactic change. Poster at the 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Philadelphia, March 4-6.

Scholarships and Awards

- 2021 The University Merit-Based Scholarship (3 quarters), University of California, Irvine
- 2020 The University Merit-Based Scholarship (\$40,200), The University of Chicago
- 2019 Phoenix Research Award (\$20,000), The University of Chicago

Teaching

TEACHING ASSISTANT AT UC IRVINE

Lsci 3	Introduction to Linguistics	Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Winter 2025
Lsci 20	Introduction to Syntax	Spring 2024
Lsci 155	Psychology of Language	Winter 2024
Psych 9a	Psychology Fundamentals	Spring 2025
Psych 129	Evolutionary Psychology	Fall 2024
SocSci 70c	Comparing Cultures	Spring 2022

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

The Course Design Essentials (CDE) Program, UC Irvine, 2024

Mentoring Excellence Certificate Program, UC Irvine, 2024

Service and Experience

JOURNAL AND CONFERENCE REVIEWER

Journal	Journal of Memory and Language Language, Cognition & Neuroscience Open Mind
Conference	Annual Meeting of Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) 2025 California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 6, 7

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

2020.1 - 2021.6	Language Processing Lab, The University of Chicago <i>Research Assistant</i> , with Prof. Ming Xiang
2018.5 - 2018.10	Dyson Technology (Shanghai) Limited <i>Consumer Insight Research Intern</i>

Skills

Language	Mandarin Chinese (native) Gan Chinese (native) English (proficient) Spanish (intermediate)
Technical	Programming skills (Python, R, SQL); basic web design (HTML); web scraping (BeautifulSoup); large scale computing (Spark, PyWren, Amazon Web Services); experiment toolkits (PCIBex, Amazon MTurk, Prolific)