

# Weijie Xu

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## Education

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

## Additional Training

The North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI), USC, 2022

The 6th Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology, University of Potsdam, 2022

## Research Interests

Psycholinguistics; language processing; computational linguistics; cognitive modeling; language change and evolution; cross-linguistic variations

## Publications

- 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 of gradable adjectives. *Semantics and Pragmatics* 15.
- 2021 **Weijie Xu** & Ming Xiang. Is there a predictability hierarchy in reference resolution? In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* Vol. 43.

## Conference Presentations

- 2023 **Weijie Xu** & Richard Futrell. Dependency locality optimized for computational rationality. Poster at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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

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

## Teaching Assistant

- Winter 2022 Introduction to Linguistics  
*Instructor: Dr. Richard Futrell*

## Research and Work Experience

- Jan 2020 - Jun 2021 Research Assistant  
*Language Processing Lab, The University of Chicago*
- May 2018 - Oct 2018 Consumer Insight Research Intern  
*Dyson Technology (Shanghai) Limited*

## Skills

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