

Xixian Liao

CONTACT INFORMATION

✉ Departament de Traducció i Ciències del Llenguatge
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Office/Despatx: 53.216
Roc Boronat, 138
08018 Barcelona

🌐 xixianliao.github.io

@ xixian.liao@upf.edu

EDUCATION

since 10/2019	Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics Universitat Pompeu Fabra Supervisors: Gemma Boleda, Laia Mayol	Barcelona, Spain
05/2022–08/2022	Visiting graduate student University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh, UK
10/2018–07/2019	M.A. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (GPA: 8.68/10) Universitat Pompeu Fabra Supervisors: Carina Silberer, Gemma Boleda	Barcelona, Spain
10/2014–07/2018	B.A. in Hispanic Philology (GPA: 9.58/10, with honors) Beijing Jiaotong University	Beijing, China
09/2016–06/2017	Exchange student Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Madrid, Spain

PUBLICATIONS

2024	Dong, Y., Liao, X., and Webber, B. (accepted to the main conference, to appear). Syntactic preposing and discourse relations. In <i>Proceedings of the 18th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)</i> .
2023	He, Y., Liao, X., Liang, J., and Boleda, G. (2023). The impact of familiarity on naming variation: A study on object naming in Mandarin Chinese. In <i>Proceedings of the 27th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning</i> , pages 456–475.
2021	Aina*, L., Liao*, X., Boleda, G., and Westera, M. (2021). Does referent predictability affect the choice of referential form? A computational approach using masked coreference resolution. In <i>Proceedings of the 25th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning</i> , pages 454–469.
2022	Liao, X. Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. In Gutzmann, D. . S. R., editor, <i>Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26</i> , pages 544–556, Universität zu Köln.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Article in revision Xixian Liao, Gemma Boleda, Laia Mayol, and Hannah Rohde. Comparing models of pronoun production and interpretation via observational and experimental evidence.
- Article submitted Xixian Liao, Thomas Brochhagen, Gemma Boleda, and Laia Mayol. The role of referent predictability in pronoun production: Insights from a Bayesian meta-analysis.

SUPERVISION

MASTER'S THESES

- 08/2023 Co-supervisor (Principal supervisor: Bonnie Webber)
Student: Yunfang Dong, MSc in Speech and Language Processing, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Science, The University of Edinburgh.
- 07/2023 Co-supervisor (Principal supervisor: Gemma Boleda)
Student: Yunke He, MSc in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Department of Translation and Language Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

PRESENTATIONS

PEER REVIEWED

- 2023 The Impact of Familiarity on Naming Variation: A Study on Object Naming in Mandarin Chinese. *The SIGNLL Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) 2023*. Singapore, Dec 6-7.
- 2023 Bayesian pronoun interpretation in English corpus passage completions. *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Pittsburgh. March 9-11.
- 2021 Does referent predictability affect the choice of referential form? A computational approach using masked coreference resolution. *Deep Learning Barcelona Symposium 2021*. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Dec 22-23.
- 2021 Does referent predictability affect the choice of referential form? A computational approach using masked coreference resolution. *The SIGNLL Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) 2021*. Barceló Bávaro Convention Centre, Dominican Republic, Nov 10-11.
- 2021 Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Sinn und Bedeutung 26*. University of Cologne, Sept 8-10.
- 2021 Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Student session in European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI) 2021*. Virtually, Aug 4-13.

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Predictability and pronoun production: an online passage continuation study and a Bayesian meta-analysis (two studies in progress). *PSYCHOLINGUISTICS COFFEE*. University of Edinburgh, June 15.

WORKSHOPS

- 2021 Referent predictability and referential choice. *UR-Ling workshop*. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Nov 12.
- 2021 Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Workshop on Computational and Experimental Explanations in Semantics and Pragmatics, European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information*. Virtually, Aug 9–10.

OTHER

- 2020 Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Seminari GLiF*. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Dec 17.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2017–2018 Chinese-Spanish Interpreter & Translator
Bilateral Seminar of Infrastructure Between China and Uruguay
Seminar on Ocean Railway Construction for Perú-Brasil
Ministry of Commerce, China

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS

FELLOWSHIPS

- since 05/2020 FI SDUR grant (competitive Ph.D. fellowship)
Awarding body: Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts i de Recerca (AGAUR), Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia)

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 09/2019–04/2020 CSC scholarship (competitive Ph.D. scholarship)
Awarding body: Chinese Scholarship Council

GRANTS

- 05/2022–08/2022 Research abroad-grant
Funding of a research stay at the University of Edinburgh
Awarding body: Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts i de Recerca (AGAUR), Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia)

TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

TEACHING

- 10/2023–12/2023 Computational Semantics (1 MA seminar)
(teaching assistant to Prof. Gemma Boleda)
Language of instruction: English
Teaching assessment by students: 9.4/10
Content: WordNet, (contextualized) embeddings, large language models, transfer learning

- 10/2023–12/2023 Information and Communications Technology (2 BA seminars)
(teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel)
Language of instruction: Spanish
Content: HTML, Corpus, Regular Expressions
- 10/2022–12/2022 Information and Communications Technology (2 BA seminars)
(teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel)
Language of instruction: Spanish
Teaching assessment by students: 9.8/10
- 10/2021–12/2021 Information and Communications Technology (2 BA seminars)
(teaching assistant to Prof. Tianqi Zhang)
Language of instruction: Spanish
Teaching assessment by students: 9.5/10
- 01/2021–04/2021 Semantics and Pragmatics (1 MA seminar)
(teaching assistant to Prof. Martina Wiltschko)
Language of instruction: English
Teaching assessment by students: 9.05/10
- 10/2020–12/2020 Information and Communications Technology (1 BA seminar)
(teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel)
Language of instruction: Spanish
Teaching assessment by students: 9.5/10

SERVICE IN THE FIELD

- 12/2023 Reviewer: ACL ARR (Rolling Review for the Association for Computational Linguistics)
- 08/2022 Co-chair of the Student Session of the 34th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (track: Language and Computation)
National University of Ireland Galway
- 04/2022, 07/2023 Co-organizer of REtreat for Students in Computational Linguistics (REST-CL)
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- 10/2020–12/2021 Co-organiser of the GLiF research group seminar (with Sebastian Buchczyk)
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

PARCITIPATION IN FUNDED PROJECTS

- since 09/2022 Member
Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación, Agencia Estatal de Investigación, “Experimental Studies on Discourse Structure (ExpeDiS)” (ID: *PID2021-122779NB-I00*)
PI: Laia Mayol
- 10/2021–09/2022 Member
Ministerio de Ciencia e Inovación, “The Question Under Discussion and its Linguistic Effects (QUdle)” (ID: *PGC2018-094029-A-I00*)
PI: Laia Mayol

SUMMER SCHOOLS & COMPLETED COURSES

08/2022	33rd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Galway, Ireland
07/2021–08/2021	32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Held virtually
09/2020–06/2021	The FIDU (Initial Training in University Teaching) Programme in Translation and Language Sciences Universitat Pompeu Fabra
05/2021	Statistics for Language studies Universitat Pompeu Fabra
02/2021	From Draft to Submission: Publishing an Article or Book Chapter in English Universitat Pompeu Fabra
09/2020	Machine Learning Coursera, Stanford, online

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (IELTS C1), Spanish (DELE C1)

SKILLS

Python, R, HTML, Java, Visual Basic