

# Xixian Liao

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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✉ Departament de Traducció i Ciències del Llenguatge  
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## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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| 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

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| Article in revision | Xixian Liao, Gemma Boleda, Laia Mayol, and Hannah Rohde. Comparing models of pronoun production and interpretation via observational and experimental evidence. |
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| 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. |
| Paper submitted   | Yunfang Dong, Xixian Liao, and Bonnie Webber. Syntactic Preposing and Discourse Relations.   |

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## SUPERVISION

### MASTER'S THESES

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| 08/2023 | Co-supervisor (Principal supervisor: Bonnie Webber)<br>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)<br>Student: Yunke He, MSc in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Department of Translation and Language Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra.        |

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## PRESENTATIONS

### PEER REVIEWED

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

### INVITED TALKS

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

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- 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

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### 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

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### TEACHING

- 10/2023–12/2023 Computational Semantics (1 MA seminar)  
(teaching assistant to Prof. Gemma Boleda)  
Language of instruction: English
- 10/2023–12/2023 Introducció a la Universitat i Recursos TIC (2 BA seminars)  
(teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel)  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
Content: HTML, Corpus, Regular Expressions

- 10/2022–12/2022 Introducció a la Universitat i Recursos TIC (2 BA seminars)  
(teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel)  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
Teaching assessment by students: 9.8/10
- 10/2021–12/2021 Introducció a la Universitat i Recursos TIC (2 BA seminars)  
(teaching assistant to Prof. Tianqi Zhang)  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
Teaching assessment by students: 9.5/10
- 01/2021–04/2021 Semàntica i Pragmàtica (1 MA seminar)  
(teaching assistant to Prof. Martina Wiltschko)  
Language of instruction: English  
Teaching assessment by students: 9.05/10
- 10/2020–12/2020 Introducció a la Universitat i Recursos TIC (1 BA seminar)  
(teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel)  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
Teaching assessment by students: 9.5/10

#### **SERVICE IN THE FIELD**

- 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**

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- 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

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| 05/2021 | Statistics for Language studies<br>Universitat Pompeu Fabra  |
| 02/2021 | From Draft to Submission: Publishing an Article or Book Chapter in English<br>Universitat Pompeu Fabra |
| 09/2020 | Machine Learning<br>Coursera, Stanford, online   |

## **LANGUAGES & SKILLS**

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### **LANGUAGES**

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

### **SKILLS**

Python, R, HTML, Java, Visual Basic