

Xixian Liao

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

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|-----------------|--|------------------|
| 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

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| 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 Bávoro 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 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

- 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

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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 |
| 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