

# 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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to appear	He, Y., Liao, X., Liang, J., and Boleda, G. 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> .
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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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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Submitted	Xixian Liao, Thomas Brochhagen, Gemma Boleda, and Laia Mayol. The role of referent predictability in pronoun production: Insights from a Bayesian meta-analysis.
Submitted	Yunfang Dong, Xixian Liao, and Bonnie Webber. Syntactic Preposing and Discourse Relations.

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## SUPERVISION

### MASTER’S THESES

08/2023	Co-supervisor (Principal supervisor: Bonnie Webber), Yunfang Dong MSc in Speech and Language Processing, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Science, The University of Edinburgh.
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## PRESENTATIONS

### PEER REVIEWED

Upcoming, 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 Bávaro 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

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. <i>UR-Ling workshop</i> . Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Nov 12.
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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

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 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**

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### **LANGUAGES**

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

### **SKILLS**

Python, R, HTML, Java, Visual Basic