Yenan Sun (孫葉楠)

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Research Interests

Broad: Semantics, Pragmatics, Syntax-Semantics interface, Chinese Linguistics
Narrow: Tense and Aspect, Degree, Equatives and similatives, Discourse Structure

Education

2016 - 2022	Ph.D. in Linguistics Department of Linguistics, The University of Chicago, USA Dissertation: Incompleteness Under Discussion Committee: Chris Kennedy (chair), Itamar Francez, Ming Xiang, Anastasia Giannakidou
2012 - 2016	B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Nanjing University, China

Employment

2022 - pres.	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Language and Literature
2022	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR Research Assistant (Feb-July), Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages

Publications

MONOGRAPH

In Press	**Yenan Sun**. Equation constructions in Mandarin Chinese. Springer Singapore.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2025	**Yenan Sun** & Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. Demonstratives and Mandarin relative types. *Journal of Linguistics*. Online first. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022226725100996
2024	Jackie Yan-Ki Lai, Lawrence Y. L. Cheung & **Yenan Sun**. The resumptive view of the Cantonese dummy *keoi5* revisited. *Journal of Chinese Linguistics* 52(3): 727-742. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1353/jcl.2017.a933425
2022	**Yenan Sun**. Decomposing *same*. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 40(3): 911-931. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-021-09522-1

2021	**Yenan Sun**. A bipartite analysis of *zhiyou* 'only' in Chinese. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 30(4): 319-355. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-021-09228-w
2019	Eszter Ronai, **Yenan Sun**, Alan Yu & Ming Xiang. Integration of contextual-pragmatic and phonetic information in speech perception: An eye-tracking study. *Laboratory Phonology: Journal of the Association for Laboratory Phonology* 10(1): 1-15. DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/labphon.186

Manuscripts in the pipeline

In Rvsn	**Yenan Sun**, Lawrence Y. L. Cheung & Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. Removing non-culmination potential with Mandarin *le*. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.
In Rvsn	**Yenan Sun**. When aspectual forms compete: Mandarin incompleteness revisited. *Journal of Semantics*.
In Prep	**Yenan Sun**. Mandarin incompleteness as a root phenomenon: A Semantic-Pragmatic Perspective.
In Prep	**Yenan Sun** & Xuan Li. 金滿白語中體標記的若干特性 [Several Characteristics of Aspect Markers in Jinman Bai].
In Prep	**Yenan Sun**. Contextual information and completeness. Book chapter in *New Perspectives on Chinese Formal Semantics* edited by Zhuosi Luo & Haoze Li.

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

2023	**Yenan Sun**. Incompleteness and (not-)at-issue Updates in Mandarin Chinese. In: Deng, D., Liu, M., Westerståhl, D., Xie, K. (eds) *Dynamics in Logic and Language*. *TLLM 2022*: 135-155. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-25894-7_7

Conference Proceedings with peer-reviewed abstarcts

2025	**Yenan Sun**. Main clause phenomena and discourse moves: Mandarin incompleteness in subordinate clauses. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29*: 1518-1535.
2020	**Yenan Sun**. *Only*-concord in Vietnamese: Support for a bipartite analysis and Undermerge. In *Proceedings of the 50th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*: 183-192.
2020	**Yenan Sun**. *Same* as the parameter of an equation construction. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 24*: 306-318.
2019	**Yenan Sun**. Equating degrees or state-kinds, or both. In *Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*: 523-532.
2019	**Yenan Sun**, Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. The morphosyntax of Chinese adjectival reduplication: The role of RED. In *Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*: 203-210.
2019	**Yenan Sun**, Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. Revisiting the restrictive/appositive distinction in Mandarin relative clauses: The confound of demonstratives. In Patrick Farrell (eds.) *Proceedings of the 93th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* 4, 28:1-14.
2018	**Yenan Sun**. Two strategies of *sameness*: Chinese *tong* and *xiangtong*. In *Proceedings of the 20th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*: 369-380.
2018	Jackie Yan-Ki Lai, **Yenan Sun**. On Apparent Parasitic Gaps in Mandarin Chinese. In *Proceedings of the 20th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*: 195-199.

2018   **Yenan Sun**. Two Kinds of Quantificational Domains: Mandarin *mei* with or without *dou.* In *Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*: 365-379.

EDITED VOLUMES

2019   Eszter Ronai, Laura Stigliano and **Yenan Sun** (eds.), *Proceedings of the Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.* CLS.

Presentations

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2025   **Yenan Sun**, Xuan Li. Several Characteristics of Aspect Markers in Jinman Bai [金滿白語中體標記的若干特性]. Fudan University, Shanghai, Nov 6.

2025   **Yenan Sun**. Language do care about degrees versus manners: Evidence from Mandarin equation constructions. The University of Chicago Semantics Workshop, USA, May 29.

2024   **Yenan Sun**. A pragmatic perspective into Main Clause Phenomena: A case study of Mandarin incompleteness. Peking University, Beijing, Dec 13.

2024   **Yenan Sun**. Revisiting the Typology of Equation Constructions. CUHK Linguistics Seminar, Hong Kong, Oct 29.

2024   **Yenan Sun**. What is Under Discussion: A Pragmatic Perspective on Chinese Incompleteness. Seminar on the Study of Chinese Syntax and Semantic Theory, Anhui, Aug 24-25.

2022   **Yenan Sun**. What is Under Discussion: A Pragmatic Perspective on Chinese Incompleteness. The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Hong Kong SAR, April 1.

2022   **Yenan Sun**. Revisiting incompleteness from a pragmatic perspective. Fudan University, Shanghai. Department of Chinese Language and Literature. Feb 24.

2021   **Yenan Sun**. What is under Discussion? A pragmatic perspective into incompleteness. Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai. School of Humanities. Dec 9.

2020   **Yenan Sun**. Multidimensionality of Meaning: A pragmatic account towards Chinese incompleteness phenomena. Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai. Nov 19.

2020   **Yenan Sun**. Incompleteness, anchoring, and at-issueness. Nanjing University, Nanjing. Nov 2.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026   Bowen Jiang, **Yenan Sun**, Ming Xiang, Alan Yu. Do accomplishments in Cantonese allow incompletive readings? A crowdsourced experimental study. Talk to be given at the 2026 LSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan 7-9.

2024   **Yenan Sun**. Mandarin Incompleteness as a semantic-pragmatically regulated Main Clause Phenomenon. Poster accepted at Amsterdam Colloquium 2024 [Withdrawn].

2024   **Yenan Sun**. Main clause phenomena and discourse moves: Mandarin incompleteness. Poster presented at Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB 29), Italy, Sep 17-19.

2024   **Yenan Sun**. Asymmetry between present and non-present tenses: Mandarin le_1 and le_2 sentences revisited. Talk given at the 4th Workshop on Sentence-final Particles in Modern Chinese, Guangzhou, March 16-17.

2023   **Yenan Sun**. Incompleteness with Mandarin Gradable Adjectives and its Cross-linguistic Parallel. Talk given at the 10th International Conference on Formal Linguistics (ICFL-10), Beijing, Oct 28-29.

2023   **Yenan Sun**. Maintaining Mandarin *hen* as a weak intensifier. Talk given at the 2nd International Symposium on Formal Approaches to Meaning in Chinese, Hong Kong, June 20-21.

2023   **Yenan Sun**. Main clause phenomena and discourse moves: Mandarin incompleteness. Talk given at the Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL-13), Taiwan [hybrid], May 12-14.

2023   Lawrence Y. L. Cheung, Jackie Y. K. Lai, **Yenan Sun**. Event Progression Maximizing (PM) -le in Mandarin Chinese. Talk given at the Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL-13), Taiwan [hybrid], May 12-14.

2022   **Yenan Sun**. Main clause phenomena and Mandarin incompleteness. Talk given at the Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (ARF 2022), Hong Kong [virtual], Dec 3.

2022   **Yenan Sun**, Lawrence Y. L. Cheung. Telicizing with inner aspect le: Partitivity and the definiteness constraint. Short talk given at GLOW in Asia XIII, CUHK, Hong Kong [virtual], August 4-7.

2022   **Yenan Sun**. Maintaining Mandarin *hen* as a weak intensifier. Poster presented at GLOW 45 (Workshop on Typological generalizations and semantic theory), London [virtual], April 26.

2022   **Yenan Sun**. Maintaining Mandarin *hen* as a weak intensifier. Talk given at Theoretical Linguistics at Keio (TaLK 2022), Toyko [virtual], March 2-4.

2021   **Yenan Sun**. Potentially incomplete sentences are imperfectives: A cross-linguistic perspective into Chinese incompleteness. Talk given at the 9th International Conference on Formal Linguistics (ICFL-9), Shanghai [virtual], November 5-7.

2021   **Yenan Sun**. (Potentially) incomplete sentences in Chinese are imperfective. Poster presented at the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 39), Tucson [virtual].

2021   **Yenan Sun**. Aspectual marking and (not-)at-issue updates in Mandarin Chinese. Poster presented at the 95th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 95), San Francisco [virtual].

2020   **Yenan Sun**. The interaction of aspect marking and QUD in Chinese. Talk given at the Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (ARF 2020), Hong Kong [virtual].

2020   **Yenan Sun**. Where does Mandarin *zhiyou* 'only' move? Not to CaiP! Poster presented at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 94), New Orleans.

2020   Jackie Yan-Ki Lai, **Yenan Sun**. When TPs Can(not) Move: The View from Cantonese. Poster presented at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 94), New Orleans.

2019   **Yenan Sun**. Equating degrees or state-kinds, or both. Poster presented at the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium (Workshop on Semantic Universals), Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2019   Jackie Yan-Ki Lai, **Yenan Sun**. When TPs Can(not) Move: The View from Cantonese. Talk given at the Arizona Linguistics Circle 13 (ALC 13), Tucson, AZ.

2019   **Yenan Sun**. Where does Mandarin *zhiyou* 'only' move? Not to CaiP! Talk given at the Arizona Linguistics Circle 13 (ALC 13), Tucson, AZ.

2019   **Yenan Sun**. *Only*-concord in Vietnamese: Support for a bipartite analysis and Undermerge. Poster presented at the 50th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 50), Boston, MA.

2019   **Yenan Sun**. Where is the parameter in the 'same' construction? Poster presented at Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB 24), Osnabrück University, Germany.

2019   **Yenan Sun**, Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. Demonstratives and the Restrictive/Appositive Distinction in Mandarin Relative Clauses. Talk given at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 93), New York City.

2018   Peter Alrenga, Daniel Hardt, Line Mikkelsen, **Yenan Sun**. One and *(the) same. Talk given at the 9th Meeting of California Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP 11), Berkeley.

2018   **Yenan Sun**, Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. Two positions of reduplication morpheme (RED) in Chinese Adjectival Compounding. Poster presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 49), Ithaca.

2018   **Yenan Sun**. Two strategies of *sameness*: Chinese *tong* and *xiangtong*. Talk given at the 20th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 20), Seoul, Korea.

2018   Jackie Yan-Ki Lai, **Yenan Sun**. On Apparent Parasitic Gaps in Mandarin Chinese. Talk given at the 20th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 20), Seoul, Korea.

2018   Mingya Liu, **Yenan Sun**, Anastasia Giannakidou. Numeral *yi* 'one' as domain restrictor in Mandarin Chinese. Talk given at the 10th International Conference of the European Association of Chinese linguistics (EACL 10), Milan, Italy.

2018   **Yenan Sun**, Eszter Ronai, Alan Yu & Ming Xiang. The role of contextual-pragmatic information in speech perception: an eye-tracking study. Poster presented at the 31st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 31), UC Davis.

2018   **Yenan Sun**, Laura Stigliano, Eszter Ronai, Amara Sankhagowit, Anisia Popescu, Alan Yu, Ming Xiang. 2018. The role of contextual-pragmatic information in speech perception: an eye-tracking study. Poster presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 92), Salt Lake City.

2017   **Yenan Sun**. Two Kinds of Quantificational Domains: Mandarin *mei* with or without *dou*. Talk given at the 53rd annual meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 53), Chicago.

2015   **Yenan Sun**. Is Chinese *mei* a quantifier? Talk given at the 4th Syntax and Semantics in China (SSiC 2015), Xi'an, China.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

2024   **Yenan Sun**, Lawrence Y. L. Cheung & Jackie Yan-Ki Lai. Removing variable telicity with Mandarin le. Talk given at the CUHK-UChicago Forum on Comparative Linguistics, Hong Kong, March 15.

2019   **Yenan Sun**. *Only* with movement: Where does Mandarin *zhiyou* move? Talk given at the University of Chicago *Morphology and Syntax Workshop*, Chicago.

2018   **Yenan Sun**. Two strategies of *sameness*: Chinese *tong* and *xiangtong*. Talk given at the University of Chicago *Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop*, Chicago.

Grants & Awards

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR (AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)

UG   Introduction to Chinese Linguistics (中國語言學概論) [2022, 2023, 2024]

UG   Comparative Grammar in Chinese and English (漢英比較語法) [2022, 2024, 2025]

UG   The Study of Chinese Semantics (漢語語義學研究) [2023, 2026]

UG   Independent Research (專題研究) [2023, 2024]

MA   Study of Chinese Morphology and Syntax (漢語構詞與句法研究) [2022, 2025]

MA   The Study of Semantics and Pragmatics in Chinese (漢語語義與語用研究) [2024]

CPC   Chinese Language Communication and Application I (中國語文傳意與應用（一）) [2022]

CPC   Chinese Language Communication and Application II (中國語文傳意與應用（二）) [2023]

INSTRUCTOR (AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

2021   Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics. Spring 2021.

TEACHING ASSISTANT (AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

2019 - 2020	Introduction to Linguistics
	Elementary Logic
	Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics

Supervision

| 2024 - | Ng, Ka-Hin. MPhil student. |

Service & Activities

| 2025 | Asssociate Editor, Current Research in Chinese Linguistics |

Reviewing	**For journals (Invitation year)**
	Natural Language and Linguistic Theory (2025)
	Journal of Chinese Linguistics (2024)
	Language (2024)
	Current Research in Chinese Linguistics (2024)
	Linguistic Inquiry Squib (2024)
	Linguistics Vanguard (2023)
	Linguistics and Philosophy (2023, 2025)
	Languages (2023)
	Studies in Chinese Linguistics (2023)
	Language and Linguistics (2022, 2024)
	For conferences (Invitation year)
	The 48th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (2024)
	The 14th Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia (2023)
	The 54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (2023)
	The 97th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2023)
	The 53rd-59th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 53-CLS 59)

| Organizer | 2024, The CUHK-UChicago Forum on Comparative Linguistics (CUUC) |
| | 2018, 54th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 54) |

| Member | United College, CUHK, Diversity Committee. |

| Member | The 20th Executive Committee of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK), Communication officer. |