

# Yibing Shi

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## EDUCATION

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- 2020-present **PhD in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics**  
University of Cambridge  
*Thesis:* Tones and Tone Sandhi in Xiangshan Wu Chinese: Phonetic Evidence, Phonological Analysis, and Diachronic Insights  
*Supervisors:* Prof. Brechtje Post & Prof. Francis Nolan  
*Thesis description:* Tone sandhi—contextual tonal alternation in connected speech—is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by syntax, prosody, historical change, etc. While most research adopts a synchronic lens, this thesis argues for a diachronic perspective to explain patterns in Xiangshan and other Northern Wu Chinese dialects. Methodologically, it integrates machine learning with a novel vision-aided auditory paradigm to address challenges of subjectivity and labour in bottom-up prosodic research.
- 2019-2020 **MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics by Thesis**  
University of Cambridge  
*Thesis:* Tone and Tone Sandhi in Xiangshan Chinese  
*Supervisor:* Prof. Francis Nolan
- 2018-2019 **M.A. in Chinese Linguistics and Language Acquisition**  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)  
Cumulative GPA: 3.87/4.0      Rank: 1<sup>st</sup> out of 43  
*Thesis:* Disyllabic tone sandhi in Ningbo Wu: on the phonology-syntax interface  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Shuxiang You
- 2014-2018 **B.A. in Linguistics and Language Application**  
City University of Hong Kong (CityU of HK)  
Cumulative GPA: 3.87/4.3      Major GPA: 4.01/4.3      Rank: 1<sup>st</sup> out of 116  
*Thesis:* Phonology-syntax interplay with respect to Tone 3 Sandhi in Mandarin Chinese  
*Supervisor:* Prof. Wai Sum Lee

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2018-2019 **Research Assistant, Laboratory of Theoretical Psycholinguistics**  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)  
*Supervisor:* Prof. Haihua Pan  
Conducted eye-tracking experiments, designed experiment materials, and entered and analysed data. Contributed mainly to the project “*The processing mechanisms of information structure: an interdisciplinary study of focus processing*”.
- 2015-2017 **Research Assistant, Language and Cognition Laboratory**  
City University of Hong Kong (CityU of HK)  
*Supervisor:* Prof. Chunyu Kit  
Learned experiment design of eye-tracking in natural reading process with an SR Research Eyelink 1000 system. Designed and conducted experiments, and performed data analysis.

## ACADEMIC TRAINING

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- 2019 **6<sup>th</sup> Advanced Phonetics and Phonology Course**  
Fudan University, Shanghai, China  
Intensive training (50+ hours) in phonetics, phonology, and speech perception, combining theory and hands-on analysis with leading international scholars.
- 2016 **Summer School of Cognitive Neuroscience**  
National Central University, Taiwan  
Intensive training in neurolinguistic theoretical models and cognitive models of language processing; hands-on experience with neuroimaging methods, including ERP and fMRI, in language-related experimental contexts.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2024 **Shi, Y., Nolan, F., & Post, B. (2024).** Exploring the variations in disyllabic lexical tone sandhi in Xiangshan Chinese. In *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2024* (pp. 557-561).
- 2023 **Shi, Y., Nolan, F., & Post, B. (2023).** Polysyllabic Tone sandhi and morphosyntax in Xiangshan Wu Chinese. In *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI)* (pp. 34-38).
- 2023 **Shi, Y., Post, B., & Nolan, F. (2023).** The phonetics and phonology of corrective focus in Xiangshan Wu Chinese: interaction with disyllabic tone sandhi. In *Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)* (pp. 1643-1647).

## CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

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- Accepted **Shi, Y., Nolan, F., & Post, B.** A diachronic perspective on left-dominant and right-dominant tone sandhi in Northern Wu Chinese: evidence from Xiangshan. [Poster presentation]. *The Third International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI)*, 16-18 May 2025. Munich, Germany.
- 2024 Yang, L., **Shi, Y.**, & Gao, C. An introduction to recursion in syntax and (mis)mappings to phonology. [Oral presentation]. *Recursion workshop*. 18 Jun 2024. University of Cambridge, U.K.
- 2024 **Shi, Y., Nolan, F., & Post, B.** Exploring the variations in disyllabic lexical tone sandhi in Xiangshan Chinese. [Poster presentation]. *Speech Prosody 2024*. 1-6 Jul 2024. Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2023 **Shi, Y., Nolan, F., & Post, B.** Polysyllabic tone sandhi and morphosyntax in Xiangshan Wu Chinese. [Oral presentation]. *The Second International Conference on Tone and Intonation*. 18-20 Nov 2024. Singapore.
- 2023 **Shi, Y., Post, B., & Nolan, F.** The phonetics and phonology of corrective focus in Xiangshan Wu Chinese: interaction with disyllabic tone sandhi. [Poster presentation]. *The 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*. 7-11 Aug 2023. Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2023 **Shi, Y., Post, B., & Nolan, F.** Production of corrective focus in Xiangshan Chinese. [Oral presentation]. *The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-29)*. 27-29 May 2023. Macau.
- 2022 **Shi, Y., Post, B., & Nolan, F.** Perception of corrective focus in Xiangshan Wu Chinese. [Poster presentation]. *Cambridge Language Sciences Annual Symposium 2022*. 24 Nov 2022. University of Cambridge, U.K.
- 2022 **Shi, Y.** Corrective focus and tone sandhi in Xiangshan Wu Chinese. [Poster presentation]. *The Third International Conference 'Prominence in Language'*. 2-3 Jun 2022. Cologne, Germany.
- 2022 **Shi, Y.** Tone sandhi, morphosyntax, and corrective focus in Xiangshan Wu Chinese. Presented at the *Phonetics and Phonology Seminar Series*. 10 May 2022. University of Cambridge, U.K.

- 2021 **Shi, Y.** Tone sandhi in (Ningbo and Xiangshan) Chinese Wu. Presented at the *Phonetics and Phonology Seminar Series*. 16 Feb 2021. University of Cambridge, U.K.

## TEACHING & ORGANISING

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### Teaching

- 2025 **MPhil Experimental Phonetics and Phonology Seminar: Word Prosody**  
University of Cambridge  
Designed and independently delivered a graduate-level seminar on advanced topics in *Word Prosody*, with a focus on lexical tones and tone sandhi. The course included theoretical analysis of tonal systems and practical training in f0 analysis using k-means clustering.
- 2023 **Lecture: Word Prosody (Li6 Phonetics)**  
University of Cambridge  
Prepared teaching materials and delivered lecture on *Word Prosody* for Phonetics course Li6.
- 2020-2023 **Undergraduate Supervision: Li6 Phonetics**  
University of Cambridge  
Provided small-group undergraduate supervision for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> years ~16 students in phonetics.

### Organising

- 2025 **Co-organiser, Interdisciplinary Workshop on Recursion**  
University of Cambridge  
Co-organised a one-day workshop exploring recursion across linguistic subfields, featuring invited talks and student presentations from syntax, phonology, phonetics, language acquisition, and computational linguistics. Contributed to programme design, speaker coordination, and thematic framing of the event.
- 2021-2023 **Co-organiser, Tone and Intonation Reading Group**  
University of Cambridge  
Initiated and co-led a reading group focused on classic and contemporary research in tone and intonation. Organised and moderated regular meetings (weekly, then monthly), fostering cross-disciplinary discussion among students and researchers in phonetics and phonology.

## AWARDS

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- 2024 Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Research Area Workshops fund (£500)
- 2019 Award for Outstanding MA Graduates, CUHK (HK\$8,000)
- 2018-2019 Dean's List, Faculty of Arts, CUHK
- 2017 HKSAR Government Scholarship (HK\$80,000)
- 2016 HKSAR Government Scholarship (HK\$80,000)
- 2014-2018 Dean's List, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, CityU of HK

## SKILLS

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Language	Mandarin Chinese & Xiangshan Wu Chinese (native) English & Cantonese (advanced proficiency) Spanish (basic)
Experimental	Praat, Eyelink
Data analysis	R, SPSS, Python
Programming	R (advanced), Python (basic)