

Yiqian Wang

yiqian_wang@g.harvard.edu

Rising second year PhD student from the Linguistics Department at Harvard

- **Education:**

- 2020-2024: Tsinghua University
 - B.A. in English Language and Literature
 - Certificate of Interdisciplinary Honors Program in Logic
- 2024-now: Harvard University
 - PhD student in Linguistics Department

- **Summer school and visiting experience:**

- July 2022: the 2nd Tsinghua Logic Summer School
- January-July 2023: Visiting Undergraduate Student at Harvard University
- July 2024: the 4th Tsinghua Logic Summer School
- June 2025: North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information
- July-August 2025: Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute

- **Research interests:**

Semantics and pragmatics, and related questions in cognitive science, philosophical logic, and computational linguistics

Broadly speaking, I am interested in meanings of natural language. On the one hand, language seems extremely expressive: we can use language to communicate novel ideas from one mind to another mind, in a wide range of things, from mathematics to storytelling. On the other hand, our acquisition of language and communication via language seems relatively at ease, which suggests there are certain underlying regularities that help us process language. I want to leverage tools from formal semantics and pragmatics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, information theory, and cognitive science to better understand this intriguing tension between expressivity and complexity in natural language meaning, and to uncover more structures of meaning.

Right now, I am thinking about the typology of inferences. How are they like? How could they be? Why are they the way they are? I plan to approach these questions starting from presupposition projection, the principle of maximize presupposition, and the typology of presupposition triggers.

- **Research projects:**

- (2024-2025) **Presupposition filtering in disjunction:** The role of exclusive interpretation
 - Accepted as a talk at Sinn und Bedeutung 30 (September 2025) and the 11th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (September 2025)

- (2023 winter) **Visual statistical learning**: Generalization of the covariance between features and the stability of features
- (2023 summer) **Contrastive inference in Mandarin**: How definiteness marking in grammar affects pragmatic reasoning
- (2022 spring) **Mechanism of metaphor processing**: Influence of familiarity with the target domain on the effectiveness of metaphor
- **Teaching Experience:**
 - 2023 Fall: Teaching assistant of *Logic, Computation and Games*, taught by Professor Johan van Benthem at Tsinghua University
 - 2022 Fall: Teaching assistant of *Modal Logic and its Applications*, an open course offered by Tsinghua University on XuetangX