

YAJUN LIU

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EDUCATION

Online Master of Science in Computer Science (part-time) <i>College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology</i>	01/2026–
PhD student in Linguistics and English Language <i>School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh</i>	09/2021–08/2025
MSc in Developmental Linguistics (Distinction) <i>School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh</i>	09/2019–08/2020
Master of Interpreting and Translation <i>School of Foreign Languages, Soochow University</i>	09/2016–06/2018
Bachelor of Arts in English Education <i>School of Foreign Languages, Henan University</i>	09/2012–06/2016

PUBLICATIONS

- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (Accepted). Mandarin bilingual speakers undergoing attrition produce more explicit referring expressions. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*.
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (2025). Beyond Crosslinguistic Influence: Mandarin Speakers with Exposure to Null-subject Languages Nonetheless Use Fewer Null Pronouns in Mandarin. *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* [Oral presentation], 878-884.
<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4h69k203>
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (Preprint). Do bilinguals avoid ambiguity? An experimental study of lexical ambiguity in spoken Mandarin. OSF.
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A., Smith, K. (Manuscript). A desire to avoid ambiguity or ease processing? Insights from an experimental study of lexical ambiguity in spoken Mandarin using online eye-tracking

WORK EXPERIENCES

Co-supervisor with Professor Kenny Smith Master's dissertation project in Evolution of Language & Cognition	03/2024 – 08/2024
Research Assistant Learning and Teaching Mandarin in Scotland Project	11/2022 – 12/2023
Tutoring and Marking Simulating Language (Python) Online Experiments for Language Scientists (jsPsych, JavaScript) Introduction to Cognitive Science (Python) Data Analysis for Psychology in R 2 (R)	01/2025 – 05/2025 09/2024 – 12/2024 09/2024 – 12/2024 09/2022 – 05/2023

SELECTED TALKS & POSTERS

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- Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Beyond Crosslinguistic Influence: Mandarin Speakers with Exposure to Null-subject Languages Nonetheless Use Fewer Null Pronouns in Mandarin. Talk at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, US, July-August 2025
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. A desire to avoid ambiguity or ease processing? Insights from an experimental study of lexical ambiguity in spoken Mandarin using online eye-tracking. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, US, July-August 2025
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Mandarin speakers undergoing attrition produce more explicit referring expressions. Poster presented at the Human Sentence Processing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, US, May 2024
- Liu, Y., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Comprehension and production don't align: Evidence from referential forms in Mandarin Chinese. Poster presented at the Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP), San Sebastian, Spain, September 2023
- Liu, Y., Luo, Q., Sorace, A. & Smith, K. Exploring the role of communicative interaction in L1 attrition: Evidence from null and overt subjects in an artificial language. Poster presented at Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium, Edinburgh, UK, October 2022.
- Liu, Y. (2021). From individual to generational attrition: Language change through communicative interaction. Talk at the Bilingualism Research Group, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, October 2021.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Wiki Admin of Centre for Language Evolution

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

05/2024 – present

Volunteer of the 30th Architecture and Mechanisms of Language Processing

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

01/2024 – 09/2024

Co-organiser of the Annual Retreat Trip of Centre for Language Evolution

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

05/2023 – 05/2024

Chair of Bilingualism Research Group

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

01/2022 – 09/2023

Deputy Chair of the 29th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

09/2022 – 06/2023

Plenaries & Workshops Coordinator of the 28th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

09/2021 – 06/2022