**YAJUN LIU**

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**EDUCATION**

Online Master of Science in Computer Science (part-time) 01/2026–

*College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology*

PhD student in Linguistics and English Language 09/2021–08/2025

*School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh*

MSc in Developmental Linguistics (Distinction) 09/2019–08/2020

*School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh*

Master of Interpreting and Translation 09/2016–06/2018

*School of Foreign Languages, Soochow University*

Bachelor of Arts in English Education 09/2012–06/2016

*School of Foreign Languages, Henan University*

**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) 01/2025 – 05/2025

Online Experiments for Language Scientists (jsPsych, JavaScript) 09/2024 – 12/2024

Introduction to Cognitive Science (Python) 09/2024 – 12/2024

Data Analysis for Psychology in R 2 (R) 09/2022 – 05/2023

**SELECTED TALKS & POSTERS**

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