Nick Huang

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Academic positions

2021–	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Linguistics, and Theatre Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS).
2019–2021	Senior Tutor, Department of English Language and Literature, NUS.

Education

2014–2019	Ph.D. in Linguistics. University of Maryland, College Park, U.S. Advisors: Dr. Colin Phillips and Dr. Howard Lasnik. Dissertation: *Variation and learnability in constraints on A-bar movement*.
2007–2011	B.A., *magna cum laude*. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S. Distinction in double majors of linguistics and economics. Advisor: Dr. Raffaella Zanuttini.

Selected grants and awards

2022-2025	*The grammar and acquisition of attitude verbs*. Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund Tier 1. S$163,400.
2020-2022	*A Tagged and Annotated Corpus of Singapore English* (Bao Zhiming and Nick Huang; NH: co-PI). DSO National Laboratories, Singapore. S$399,202.
2019–2021	National University of Singapore Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship for postgraduate research at the University of Connecticut. Advisor: Dr. Jon Sprouse; co-advisor: Dr. Lisa Pearl (University of California, Irvine).
2015–2019	National Science Foundation's Research Traineeship Fellow, Language Science Center, University of Maryland, College Park. Link to program website here.
Jun 2018	Howard Lasnik Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student. Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park.

Publications and manuscripts

Articles in refereed journals

Accepted	Nick Huang, Diogo Almeida, and Jon Sprouse. "A nearly-exhaustive experimental investigation of bridge effects in English". *Language*.
Accepted	Nick Huang, Li Lin, Kunmei Han, Jiawen Hing, Luwen Cao, Vincent Ooi, and Zhiming Bao. "Treebanks and World Englishes: a Singapore English perspective". *English World-Wide*.
2024	Nick Huang. "Finiteness in a language without finite morphology: an experimental study of Mandarin Chinese". *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 42(2):533-556. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-023-09591-4

2024	Luwen Cao, Kunmei Han, Li Lin, Jiawen Hing, Vincent Ooi, <u>Nick Huang</u>, Junhong Yu, Ted Kheng Siang Ng, Lei Feng, Rathi Mahendran, Ee Heok Kua, Zhiming Bao. "Reversal of the concreteness effect can be detected in the natural speech of older adults with amnestic, but not non-amnestic, mild cognitive impairment". *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring* 16(2): e12588. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/dad2.12588
2023	Li Lin, Kunmei Han, Jiawen Hing, Luwen Cao, Vincent Ooi, <u>Nick Huang</u>, and Zhiming Bao. "Tagging Singapore English". *World Englishes* 42(4): 624–641. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/weng.12597 (NH and ZB: corresponding authors)
2022	<u>Nick Huang</u>. "How subjects and possessors can obviate phasehood." *Linguistic Inquiry* 53(3): 427–458. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00414
2022	<u>Nick Huang</u>, Aaron Steven White, Chia-Hsuan Liao, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. "Syntactic bootstrapping attitude verbs despite impoverished morphosyntax." *Language Acquisition* 29(1): 27-53. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2021.1934686
2021	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Colin Phillips. "When missing NPs make double center-embedding sentences acceptable." *Glossa* 6(1): 37. 1–28. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1292
2018	<u>Nick Huang</u>. "Control complements in Mandarin Chinese: implications for restructuring and the Chinese finiteness debate." *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 27(4), 347–376. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-018-9185-1
2017	Phoebe Gaston, <u>Nick Huang</u>, and Colin Phillips. "The logic of syntactic priming and acceptability judgments." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 40, 23–24. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X17000371

Articles in conference proceedings

2024	Serene Siow and <u>Nick Huang</u>. "Learning factivity via syntax and pragmatics: a corpus study." *Proceedings of the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development*, by Hayat Abdullah Ali AlThagafi and Jupitara Ray, volume 2, 522-535. Somerville, Mass.: Cascadilla Press.
2024	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Zheng Shen. "The role of main verbs in subextraction of wh-phrases from NPs'. *Proceedings of GLOW in Asia XIV*, ed. Xiangyu Li et al., 107-118. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong.
2022	<u>Nick Huang</u>, Yu'an Yang, Valentine Hacquard and Jeffrey Lidz. "Learning subcategorization properties of attitude verbs in wh in-situ languages." *Proceedings of the 46th Boston University Conference on Language Development*, ed. Ying Gong and Felix Kpogo, volume 1, 338-350. Somerville, Mass.: Cascadilla Press. (NH and YY: joint first authors)
2020	<u>Nick Huang</u>, Annemarie van Dooren, and Gesoel Mendes. "'Wanting' the future: the case of future *yao*." *Proceedings of the 32nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics*, ed. Kaidi Chen, volume 2, 189-205. Storrs, Conn.: University of Connecticut.
2020	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Gesoel Mendes. "On pronominalization and ellipsis in clausal idioms." *Proceedings of the 49th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society*, ed. Maggie Baird and Jonathan Pesetsky, volume 2, 123–130. Amherst, Mass.: GLSA.

2018	Nick Huang. "The bound possessor effect: a new argument for the phasehood of definite DPs." *Proceedings of the 48th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society*, ed. Sherry Hucklebridge and Max Nelson, volume 2, 39–52. Amherst, Mass.: GLSA.
2018	Nick Huang, Chia-Hsuan Liao, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. "Learning attitude verb meanings in a morphosyntactically-poor language." *Proceedings of the 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development*, ed. Anne B. Bertolini and Maxwell J. Kaplan, 359-373. Somerville, Mass.: Cascadilla Press.
2015	Nick Huang. "Syntactic tense in Chinese: evidence from *jiang*." *Proceedings of the 27th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics*, ed. Hongyin Tao et al., volume 2, 406–423. Los Angeles: UCLA.

Articles in edited volumes

2021	Colin Phillips, Phoebe Gaston, Nick Huang, and Hanna Muller. "Theories all the way down." *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Syntax*, ed. Grant Goodall. 587–616. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620.023

Manuscripts and in-progress work

In preparation	Jakob R. E. Leimgruber, Wilkinson Daniel Wong Gonzales, Mohamed Hafiz, Jun Jie Lim, Nick Huang, and Mie Hiramoto. "Young Singaporean English: Current Developments in CSE Morphosyntax in a Digital World." Under contract for the "Cambridge Elements in World Englishes" series published by Cambridge University Press.
2022	Nick Huang, Jia Wen Hing, Li Lin, and Zhiming Bao. "A tagged and annotated corpus of Singapore English". NUS manuscript.

Presentations

Invited presentations

May 2024	"Experimental linguistics from an attitude verb perspective". Center for Sustainable Development of Linguistic Diversity in Taiwan, National Tsing Hua University, Taoyuan, Taiwan.
Sep 2023	"*Think of the children*: The grammar of Chinese attitude verbs and implications for language acquisition". Department of Linguistics, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
Dec 2022	"Linguistic experience in our theories of language: an attitude verb perspective". 7th Asian Junior Linguists conference. International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.
Mar 2022	"The syntax of Chinese attitude verbs: complications and implications for language acquisition". Institute of Linguistics. National Tsing Hua University. Taoyuan, Taiwan.
Feb 2022	"Cross-linguistic variation in a grammaticality illusion". Department of English Language and Literature. Dongguk University. Seoul, South Korea.
Sep 2021	"Probing the limits of linguistic experience in our theories of language". Virtual Psycholinguistics Forum. Chinese University of Hong Kong. Hong Kong.

May 2021	"Clarifying the role of linguistic experience in our theories of language". Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore. Singapore.
Mar 2021	"Cross-linguistic variation and its lessons for learnability". Colloquium at the Department of Linguistics & Languages. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
Nov 2019	"Toward a better theory of bridge verbs." Yale Linguistics Friday Lunch Talk. Department of Linguistics, Yale University. New Haven, Conn.
Jul 2019	"Drawing rich inferences from sparse input: Two cross-linguistic case studies." Computation and Psycholinguistics Lab, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
Apr 2019	"Missing XP effects." "Prosody and Sentence Processing" graduate seminar at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, N.Y.
Apr 2019	"Sparse input, rich inferences: connecting comparative syntax and learnability concerns." Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore. Singapore.
Mar 2019	"Sparse input, rich inferences: connecting comparative syntax and learnability concerns." Integrated Language Science and Technology program, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Pa.
Feb 2019	"Variation and learnability in *wh*-movement constraints." Department of Linguistics, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Conference talks

*Mar 2025	Nick Huang and Jiajia Cai. "Clausal complements and tone sandhi in Chaozhou: implications for the Chinese finiteness debate". To be presented at the Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 14, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.
Jan 2024	Serene Siow and Nick Huang. "Assessing the feasibility of bootstrapping factivity through syntax and pragmatics". Linguistic Society of America annual meeting. New York, NY.
May 2023	Zheng Shen and Nick Huang. "Effect of creation verbs in Chinese and English". 29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics. Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau.
May 2023	Zheng Shen and Nick Huang. "Creation verbs and the definiteness effect in English and Chinese". 13th Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics. National Taiwan National University, Taipei.
Apr 2023	Zheng Shen and Nick Huang. "Cross-linguistic differences in definiteness effects". Workshop on Locality in Theory, Processing, and Acquisition. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Penn.
Apr 2023	Zheng Shen and Nick Huang. "The definiteness effect in wh-fronting and wh-in situ languages". 46th Generative Linguistics in the Old World Colloquium. University of Vienna and University of Graz, Vienna.
May 2022	Nick Huang, Diogo Almeida, and Jon Sprouse. "How good are leading theories of bridge verbs? An experimental evaluation". 40th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. Stanford University.

Sep 2020	Nick Huang. "Nominal expressions without nouns in Mandarin." The 32nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, University of Connecticut. Storrs, Conn.
Sep 2020	Nick Huang, Annemarie van Dooren, and Gesoel Mendes. "Wanting the future: the case of desire and future *yao*." 32nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, University of Connecticut. Storrs, Conn.
Mar 2020	Nick Huang. "'Nounless' nominal expressions in Mandarin Chinese: Implications for classifier semantics and nominal syntax." 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, University of British Columbia. Vancouver.
Nov 2019	Annemarie van Dooren, Nick Huang, Gesoel Mendes. "Polysemous *want*: Language change from a synchronic perspective." Formal Diachronic Semantics 4, Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio.
Nov 2017	Nick Huang, Chia-Hsuan Liao, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. "Selection properties of Mandarin attitude verbs and consequences for syntactic bootstrapping." SelectionFest, Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft. Berlin, Germany.
Nov 2017	Nick Huang, Chia-Hsuan Liao, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. "Learning attitude verb meanings in a morphosyntactically-poor language via syntactic bootstrapping." The 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston, Mass.
Oct 2017	Nick Huang. "The bound possessor effect: a new argument for the phasehood of definite DPs." 48th North East Linguistics Society annual meeting, University of Iceland. Reykjavík, Iceland.
Apr 2017	Nick Huang. "Restructuring control predicates can appear in biclausal configurations: a reply to Cinque and Grano." ECO5 student conference, University of Connecticut. Storrs, Conn.
Apr 2015	Nick Huang. "Syntactic tense in Chinese: evidence from *jiang*." 27th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles.
Jan 2011	Nick Huang, Zachary Maher, Sabina Matyiku and Raffaella Zanuttini. "Toward an atlas of micro-syntactic variation in varieties of English." Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, Pa. Project website at `https://ygdp.yale.edu/`.
Apr 2010	Nick Huang. "Clausal complements and a 'finite'/'non-finite' distinction in Chinese." Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium. Ithaca, N.Y.

Conference posters

*Dec 2024	Serene Siow, Rachel Dudley, and Nick Huang. "To *see* is to *know* but what if we just *look*?" To be presented at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing in Asia 2024. NUS.
Mar 2024	Nick Huang and Zheng Shen. "The role of main verbs in subextraction of wh-phrases from NPs'. GLOW in Asia. City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
Nov 2023	Serene Siow and Nick Huang. "Learning factivity via syntax and pragmatics: a corpus study". 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston, Mass.

Oct 2023	Serene Siow and <u>Nick Huang</u>. "Believe what you see: Children's interpretations of perception verbs used for beliefs". Many Paths to Language workshop. Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, the Netherlands.
Mar 2023	Zheng Shen and <u>Nick Huang</u>. "Effects of creation verbs on wh-dependencies in English and Chinese". 2023 Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Pittsburgh.
Mar 2023	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Colin Phillips. "'Under/overconnection' effects in thematic relations in center-embedding". 2023 Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Pittsburgh.
Mar 2022	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Colin Phillips. "Language statistics vs. interference in processing center-embedding illusions: insights from Mandarin Chinese". 2022 Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of California, Santa Cruz.
Mar 2022	<u>Nick Huang</u>, Diogo Almeida, and Jon Sprouse. "An experimental evaluation of three leading theories of bridge verbs". 2022 Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of California, Santa Cruz.
Jan 2022	Yu'an Yang and <u>Nick Huang</u>. "How do learners know attitude verbs select what in wh-in situ languages?". 2022 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.
Nov 2021	<u>Nick Huang</u>. "The prediction and processing of Mandarin null objects". The 3rd International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics. Hsinchu, Taiwan.
Nov 2021	<u>Nick Huang</u>, Yu'an Yang, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. "Learning subcategorization properties of attitude verbs in wh in-situ languages". 46th Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston, Mass.
Apr 2019	Gesoel Mendes and <u>Nick Huang</u>. "Null subjects and ellipsis from an idiom perspective." "Sluicing and Ellipsis at 50" workshop, University of Chicago. Chicago, Ill.
Oct 2018	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Gesoel Mendes. "On pronominalization and ellipsis in clausal idioms." 49th North East Linguistics Society annual meeting, Cornell University. Ithaca, N.Y.
Oct 2017	Annemarie van Dooren, <u>Nick Huang</u>, Gesoel Mendes, and Valentine Hacquard. "The future of *want*." MACSIM 7, Georgetown University. Washington, D.C.
Apr 2017	<u>Nick Huang</u> and Colin Phillips. "A 'missing NP illusion' in Mandarin Chinese doubly center-embedded sentences." 30th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, Mass.
Oct 2016	<u>Nick Huang</u>, Chia-Hsuan Liao, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. "Syntactic bootstrapping with minimal verbal morphology: Learning Mandarin Chinese attitude verb meanings." MACSIM 6, the City University of New York. New York, N.Y.

Teaching

Courses at the National University of Singapore

- How to Get Humans and Machines to Talk to Each Other (HS2914, interdisciplinary course co-taught with Dr. Vik Gopal of Statistics & Data Science)

- Psycholinguistics (EL3206, for undergraduate students).

- Grammar and Language Processing (EL4880F, for advanced undergraduate students).

- Approaches to Language (ELC5104; survey course for graduate students in the MA by coursework program).

- The Nature of Language (EL1101E, introductory linguistics; NH: tutor; Dr. Leslie Lee: primary instructor).

(This list excludes honours thesis supervision and independent study modules, where individual undergraduate and graduate students propose their own research project under the supervision of a faculty member.)

Courses at the University of Maryland

Spring 2018	Teaching assistant for Syntax II (Ling 312, primary instructor: Dr. Norbert Hornstein).
Fall 2017	Instructor for "Island constraints and their exceptions" (Ling 419K, a syntax/psycholinguistics seminar)
Spring 2017	Teaching assistant for Syntax II (Ling 312, primary instructor: Dr. Norbert Hornstein).
Fall 2016	Teaching assistant for Syntax I (Ling 311, primary instructor: Dr. Tonia Bleam).
Spring 2016	Teaching assistant for Introductory Linguistics (Ling 200, for non-majors, primary instructor: Dr. Tonia Bleam).
Fall 2015	Teaching assistant for Introductory Linguistics (primary instructor: Dr. Margaret J. Antonisse).

Undergraduate honours theses advising

2024	Wong Zi Shu
2023	Luqman Hakeem

Mentoring

Jun–Jul 2018	Phoebe Cao (high school research assistant, Thacher School; subsequently University of Chicago) for an English corpus annotation project.
Jun–Dec 2017	Scott Kaplowitz (University of Maryland undergrad) for an English corpus annotation project and an experiment design project.
Jun–Sep 2017	Yuhan Zhang (Tsinghua University undergrad; 2024 Harvard linguistics Ph.D.) for a Mandarin Chinese corpus annotation project.

Service and professional experience

Editorial positions

2023–	Member of editorial board of *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.

Conference and event organising

At the National University of Singapore

2024	Organising committee (with Drs. Aine Ito, Zheng Shen, and Cynthia Siew), Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing in Asia.
2024	Co-faculty advisor (with Dr. Yanbing Er), COEDA (Coalition of English Departments in Asia) Conference 2024.
2023	Organising committee, Overseas Singaporean Academics' Engagement Event, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
2023	Faculty organiser, 8th Asian Junior Linguists conference (hybrid conference).

At the University of Maryland

2015–2017	Planning committee, Language Science Day.
2016	Organising committee, Mayfest 2016 / PHLINC 3 *Context*.
2015	Co-chair, Language Science Day 2015 student organising committee.
2015	Organising committee, Mayfest 2015 *Morphest*.

Other service

At the Department of English, Linguistics, and Theatre Studies, NUS

2024–	Masters of Arts program coordinator committee.
2023–	Co-faculty coordinator for COEDA (Coalition of English Departments in Asia), which organises an annual student conference between five Asian universities.
2022–	Department welfare representative.

At the University of Maryland

2017–2019	Member, Professional Development and Communications student committee, UMD Language Science Center. Worked with students, faculty, and other university staff to organise workshops on academic publishing, online presence, career planning, conflict resolution.
Spring 2017	Student member, Department of Linguistics Chair Review Committee, College of Arts and Humanities.
2016–2017	Co-chair (with Rachel Adler), Professional Development and Communications student committee, UMD Language Science Center.
2015	Working group co-leader (with Nur Basak Karatas), "Syntactic processing by adult L1 and L2 speakers," Winter Storm 2015 (a two-week professional and research workshop), UMD Language Science Center.

Reviewing

Journals	*Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Chinese Language and Discourse, Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory* (but declined) , *Frontiers in Communication, Frontiers in Psychology* (but declined), *Glossa, Glossa Psycholinguistics, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, Language Acquisition, Language Learning, Languages, Linguistic Inquiry, Linguistic Vanguard, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Natural Language Semantics, Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics, Scientific Reports, Snippets, Syntax, The Linguistic Review*
Conferences	Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing in Asia, Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Generative Linguistics in the Old World - Asia, North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, North East Linguistics Society, International Association of Chinese Linguistics, International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics, Society for Computation in Linguistics, Workshop on Modality in Underdescribed Languages.

Other grants and awards

2023	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Writing Fellowship (one-semester teaching release for Academic Year 2024/2025), National University of Singapore (NUS).
2022-2024	*Exploring structural and non-structural approaches to wh-dependencies* (Zheng Shen and Nick Huang; NH: co-PI). NUS. S$19,880.
2021-2025	NUS faculty start-up grant. S$39,892.
2020-2021	NUS Development Grant. S$4,256
2017	College of Arts and Humanities Travel Grant. University of Maryland, College Park.
2017	International Conference Student Support Award. University of Maryland, College Park.
2015	Jacob K. Goldhaber travel grant. University of Maryland, College Park.

Skills

Languages	Native competence: English (including colloquial Singapore English), Mandarin Chinese Heritage speaker: Chaozhou (Teochew, Southern Min) Some speaking and reading knowledge: Indonesian / Malay
Experimental/ quantitative	Formal behavioral experiments (e.g. acceptability judgments and self-paced reading), corpus analysis.
Software	Python, R, LaTeX, Microsoft Office, CLAN, Ibex, Qualtrics.

Last updated January 2025.