

# Runyi Yao

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Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD

## Research interests

- Broad Psycholinguistics, Experimental Semantics & Pragmatics  
Narrow Predictive Processing, Sentence & Discourse Comprehension, Causal Inferences

## Education

- 2022 – Present **University of Oxford** – Oxford, UK  
*DPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics (Expected)*  
Language and Brain Laboratory  
Supervisors: Prof E. Matthew Husband & Prof Daniel Altshuler
- 2020 – 2022 **University of Oxford** – Oxford, UK  
*MPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics*  
Supervisor: Prof E. Matthew Husband  
Thesis: *A psycholinguistic investigation of intra-sentential explanation relations driven by resultative adjectives.* [link]
- 2016 – 2020 **Jilin University** – Changchun, China  
*B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature, B.A. in History*  
Kuang Yaming Honors Program in Humanities, College of Humanities  
GPA: 3.83/4.00 Ranking:1/29

## Experiences

### ACADEMIC VISITING

- 07/2024 – 12/2024 **Short-term junior research fellow**, University of Cologne (Cologne, Germany)  
PI: Dr Katja Jasinskaja  
Project: Prominence in Language (SFB 1252)
- 2019 Fall **Visiting undergraduate student**, Leiden University (Leiden, Netherlands)

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- 2020 Summer **Research assistant**, Language and Cognition Lab, UCL (London, UK)  
PI: Prof. Gabriella Vigliocco  
Project: Ecological Language (ECOLANG)
- 2019 Fall **Research Assistant**, Leiden University Center for Linguistics (Leiden, Netherlands)  
PI: Prof Marina Terkourafi  
Project: Pragmatic Functions and Speech Acts behind the Phrase *real name* in the Chinese Online Discourse in #MeToo Campaign.
- 2019 Summer **Mitacs research intern**, Child Language and Speech Studies Lab, University of Toronto (Mississauga, Canada)  
PI: Prof Elizabeth K. Johnson  
Project: Developmental sociolinguistics (Children's perceptions of accents)

2019 Spring **Corpus Annotator (remote)**, Institute of Big Data and Language Education Studies, Beijing Language and Culture University (Beijing, China)  
PI: Prof Endong Xun  
Project: Performed syntactic annotations for Beijing Language and Culture University corpus (BCC Corpus)

#### INTERNSHIP

2022 Summer **Research Intern**, Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)  
Project: Supporting Students' Academic Transition

## Publications

2024 **Yao, R.**, Husband, E.M. and Altshuler, D. (forthcoming) Topichood and temporal interpretation of DPs guide clause-internal, causal coherence. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 28*. [LingBuzz]

## Presentations

#### POSTERS

2024 **Yao, R.**, Fan, Y. and Husband, E.M. and (2024). Rapid prediction updating driven by Mandarin classifiers in Maze Reading. Poster presented at the 3rd Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Asia, Singapore. [abstract] [poster]

2024 **Yao, R.**, Husband, E.M. and Altshuler, D. (2024). Implicit questions-under-discussion raise expectations only in at-issue main clauses. Poster presented at the 37th annual conference on Human Sentence Processing, Ann Arbor, MI. [abstract] [poster]

2023 **Yao, R.**, Husband, E.M. and Altshuler, D. (2023). Topichood and temporal interpretation of DPs guide clause-internal, causal coherence. Poster given at the 28th annual Sinn und Bedeutung Conference, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany. & the 10th biannual XPrag Conference, Paris, France.[abstract] [poster] [slides]

2023 **Yao, R.**, Sasaki, K., Altshuler, D. and Husband, E.M. (2023). Asymmetric processing effects of intra-sentential explanation coherence. Poster given at the 29th annual Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, San Sebastian, Spain. [abstract] [poster]

2023 **Yao, R.**, Sasaki, K., Altshuler, D. and Husband, E.M. (2023). Explanation coherence inside sentences, but only offline. Poster given at the 36th Human Sentence Processing Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, US. [abstract] [poster]

#### INVITED TALK

2024 **Yao, R.**. Establishing Causal Relations in Discourse Processing. Talk given at Linguistischer Arbeitskreis Köln, University of Cologne, Germany, Oct 2024. [slides]

2024 **Yao, R.** & Fan, Y. Online prediction update: evidence from Chinese classifiers. Talk given at Languages of China: Past, present and future Workshop, All Souls College, Oxford, UK, May 2024. [slides]

2023 **Yao, R.** Temporal interpretation of DPs guide clause-internal coherence, but only offline. Talk given at the Oxford Syntax-Semantics Workshop, Oxford, UK, May 2023. [handout]

## Honors and awards

- 2024 **Short-term Junior Fellowship**, Collaborative Research Centre (SFB 1252), University of Cologne (€10,800)
- 2024 **HSP 2024 Travel Award**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor & National Science Foundation (\$400)
- 2023 **Fieldwork and Travel Bursary**, Philological Society (£915)
- 2023-2024 **Wolfson College Travel Grant**, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (£1200)
- 2023 **HSP 2023 Travel Award**, University of Pittsburgh & National Science Foundation (\$400)
- 2022-2024 **Postgraduate Student Research Grant**, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford (£1,500)
- 2021 **Vision Scholar**, Vision Academy (¥60,000)
- 2020 **First Grade Outstanding Graduate Scholarship**, Jilin University (¥2,000)
- 2020 **Valedictorian**, Jilin University
- 2019 **Mitacs Globalink & Outstanding Undergraduate Overseas Program Scholarship**, Mitacs & CSC (\$7,500)
- 2019 **Lv Zhenyu Scholarship** (Best performance in the Humanities Division), Jilin University (¥2,000)
- 2018 **National Scholarship** (The highest level scholarship in China), Chinese Ministry of Education (¥8,000)
- 2018 **Third Prize, Competition on Computer Design for Undergraduates**, Chinese Ministry of Education
- 2017 **Outstanding Student Leader**, Jilin University

## Professional services

### ORGANIZING

- 2023 & 2024 **Organizing committee**, The 2nd & 3rd Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics (LingO 2023 & LingO2024), University of Oxford, UK
- 2020 - 2021 **Co-organizer**, Oxford Chinese Student and Scholars Association Research Seminars Series, University of Oxford, UK
- 2019 **Student co-organizer**, The 2nd National Symposium on Academics and Educations Among Everest Program, Jilin University, China

### REVIEWING

- 2023 & 2024 The 2nd & 3rd Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics (LingO 2023 & LingO2024)

### TEACHING

- 2024 summer Teaching Assistant for *Discourse Pragmatics & Literature* (with Prof Daniel Altshuler). University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus, China.

- 2023 - 2024 Tutor for *Prelims Syntax*. University of Oxford, UK.
- 2023 Tutor for *North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition (NACLO)*. PalmDriver, US
- 11/2022 *Running Experiments Online: An Introduction to PCIBex Farm*. Lab Skills Workshop, Phonetics Lab, University of Oxford, UK. [slides]

#### LEADERSHIP

- 2024 - 2025 **Elected member of governing body**, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2023 - 2024 **Postgraduate student representative**, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford

### Outreach

- 2024 **Outreach Assistant**, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford
- 2024 **Marker**, UK Linguistics Olympiad
- 2021 **Volunteer**, The 18th International Linguistics Olympiad
- 2017-2018 **Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Union**, Jilin University
- 2017 **Volunteer & Editor**, Hangzhou Disabled Persons Federation & Zhejiang Vocational College of Special Education ;Project: Barrier-free Film—Narrate films for the blind;
- 2017 **Volunteer & Commentator**, Zhejiang Museum

### Professional memberships

- 2023 – Present The Philological Society
- 2023 – Present Society for Human Sentence Processing
- 2021 – Present Experimental Psychology Society
- 2020 – Present Oxford Linguistics Society
- 2020 – 2021 Cognitive Science Society

### Skills

- Language** English (Full professional proficiency), Mandarin Chinese (Native), German (Basic), Cantonese (Intermediate), Classical Chinese (Advanced reading & writing knowledge)
- Programming** R, Python, Mathematica
- Experimental** Experiment Builder, EyeLink, Data Viewer, PCIBex
- Others** Praat, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X , Microsoft Office, Adobe Packages