

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 <i>DPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics (Expected)</i> Language and Brain Laboratory Supervisors: Prof E. Matthew Husband & Prof Daniel Altshuler
2020 – 2022	University of Oxford – Oxford, UK <i>MPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics</i> Supervisor: Prof E. Matthew Husband Thesis: <i>A psycholinguistic investigation of intra-sentential explanation relations driven by resultative adjectives.</i> [link]
2016 – 2020	Jilin University – Changchun, China <i>B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature, B.A. in History</i> 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 <i>real name</i> 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. (2024) Topichood and temporal interpretation of DPs guide clause-internal, causal coherence. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 28*. [LingBuzz]

Presentations

TALK

- 2025 Jasinskaja, K. and **Yao, R.** (2025). The Right Frontier in the QUD Framework. Talk given at The 25th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics, Poland. [abstract][slides]

POSTERS

- 2025 **Yao, R.**, Altshuler, D., and Husband, E.M. (2025). Discourse expectations are sensitive to the right frontier constraint. Poster presented at the 38th annual conference on Human Sentence Processing, College Park, MD. [abstract][poster]
- 2025 **Yao, R.**, Fan, Y., and Husband, E.M. (2025). Mandarin classifier informativity gates prediction updating in maze reading. Poster presented at the 38th annual conference on Human Sentence Processing, College Park, MD. [abstract][poster]
- 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 <i>Discourse Pragmatics & Literature</i> (with Prof Daniel Altshuler). University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus, China.
2023 - 2024	Tutor for <i>Prelims Syntax</i> . University of Oxford, UK.
2023	Tutor for <i>North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition (NACLO)</i> . PalmDriver, US
11/2022	<i>Running Experiments Online: An Introduction to PCIBex Farm</i> . 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 ^A T _E X , Microsoft Office, Adobe Packages