Xixian Liao

CONTACT INFORMATION

🌐 xixianliao.github.io

@ xixianliao@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

since 04/2024	Research Engineer Life Sciences - Language Technologies Barcelona Supercomputing Center - Centro Nacional de Supercomputación, Spain
2017–2018	Chinese-Spanish Interpreter & Translator *Bilateral Seminar of Infrastructure Between China and Uruguay* *Seminar on Ocean Railway Construction for Perú-Brasil* Ministry of Commerce, China

EDUCATION

10/2019–04/2024	Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics Universitat Pompeu Fabra Supervisors: Gemma Boleda, Laia Mayol	Barcelona, Spain
05/2022–08/2022	Visiting graduate student University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh, UK
10/2018–07/2019	M.A. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (GPA: 8.68/10) Universitat Pompeu Fabra Supervisors: Carina Silberer, Gemma Boleda	Barcelona, Spain
10/2014–07/2018	B.A. in Hispanic Philology (GPA: 9.58/10, with honors) Beijing Jiaotong University	Beijing, China
09/2016–06/2017	Exchange student Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Madrid, Spain

PUBLICATIONS

To appear	Liang, J. and Liao, X. (To appear). How does grammatical category influence conceptual categorization: The case of Chinese classifiers. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society 2024*.
Accepted	Liao, X., Boleda, G., Rohde, H., and Mayol, L. (2024). Comparing models of pronoun production and interpretation via observational and experimental evidence. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*.
2024	Dong, Y., Liao, X., and Webber, B. (2024). Syntactic preposing and discourse relations. In Graham, Y. and Purver, M., editors, *Proceedings of the 18th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 2790–2802, St. Julian's, Malta. Association for Computational Linguistics.

2023	He, Y., Liao, X., Liang, J., and Boleda, G. (2023). The impact of familiarity on naming variation: A study on object naming in Mandarin Chinese. In *Proceedings of the 27th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning*, pages 456–475.
2021	Aina*, L., Liao*, X., Boleda, G., and Westera, M. (2021). Does referent predictability affect the choice of referential form? A computational approach using masked coreference resolution. In *Proceedings of the 25th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning*, pages 454–469.
2022	Liao, X. Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. In Gutzmann, D. . S. R., editor, *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26*, pages 544–556, Universität zu Köln.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Article in revision	Xixian Liao, Thomas Brochhagen, Gemma Boleda, and Laia Mayol. The role of referent predictability in pronoun production: Insights from a Bayesian meta-analysis.

SUPERVISION

MASTER'S THESES

08/2023	Co-supervisor (Principal supervisor: Bonnie Webber) Student: Yunfang Dong, MSc in Speech and Language Processing, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Science, The University of Edinburgh.
07/2023	Co-supervisor (Principal supervisor: Gemma Boleda) Student: Yunke He, MSc in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Department of Translation and Language Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

PRESENTATIONS

PEER REVIEWED

2023	The Impact of Familiarity on Naming Variation: A Study on Object Naming in Mandarin Chinese. *The SIGNLL Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) 2023*. Singapore, Dec 6-7.
2023	Bayesian pronoun interpretation in English corpus passage completions. *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Pittsburgh. March 9-11.
2021	Does referent predictability affect the choice of referential form? A computational approach using masked coreference resolution. *Deep Learning Barcelona Symposium 2021*. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Dec 22–23.
2021	Does referent predictability affect the choice of referential form? A computational approach using masked coreference resolution. *The SIGNLL Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) 2021*. Barceló Bávaro Convention Centre, Dominican Republic, Nov 10–11.

2021	Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Sinn und Bedeutung 26*. University of Cologne, Sept 8–10.
2021	Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Student session in European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI) 2021*. Virtually, Aug 4–13.

INVITED TALKS

2022	Predictability and pronoun production: an online passage continuation study and a Bayesian meta-analysis (two studies in progress). *PSYCHOLINGUISTICS COFFEE*. University of Edinburgh, June 15.

WORKSHOPS

2021	Referent predictability and referential choice. *UR-Ling workshop*. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Nov 12.
2021	Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Workshop on Computational and Experimental Explanations in Semantics and Pragmatics, European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information*. Virtually, Aug 9–10.

OTHER

2020	Coherence-driven predictability and referential form: evidence from English corpus data. *Seminari GLiF*. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Dec 17.

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS

FELLOWSHIPS

since 05/2020	FI SDUR grant (competitive Ph.D. fellowship) Awarding body: Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts i de Recerca (AGAUR), Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia)

SCHOLARSHIPS

09/2019–04/2020	CSC scholarship (competitive Ph.D. scholarship) Awarding body: Chinese Scholarship Council

GRANTS

05/2022–08/2022	Research abroad-grant Funding of a research stay at the University of Edinburgh Awarding body: Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts i de Recerca (AGAUR), Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia)

TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

TEACHING

10/2023–12/2023	Computational Semantics (1 MA seminar) (teaching assistant to Prof. Gemma Boleda) Language of instruction: English

Teaching assessment by students: 9.4/10
Content: WordNet, (contextualized) embeddings, large language models, transfer learning

10/2023–12/2023	Information and Communications Technology (2 BA seminars) (teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel) Language of instruction: Spanish Content: HTML, Corpus, Regular Expressions
10/2022–12/2022	Information and Communications Technology (2 BA seminars) (teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel) Language of instruction: Spanish Teaching assessment by students: 9.8/10
10/2021–12/2021	Information and Communications Technology (2 BA seminars) (teaching assistant to Prof. Tianqi Zhang) Language of instruction: Spanish Teaching assessment by students: 9.5/10
01/2021–04/2021	Semantics and Pragmatics (1 MA seminar) (teaching assistant to Prof. Martina Wiltschko) Language of instruction: English Teaching assessment by students: 9.05/10
10/2020–12/2020	Information and Communications Technology (1 BA seminar) (teaching assistant to Prof. Núria Bel) Language of instruction: Spanish Teaching assessment by students: 9.5/10

SERVICE IN THE FIELD

12/2023	Reviewer: ACL ARR (Rolling Review for the Association for Computational Linguistics)
08/2022	Co-chair of the Student Session of the 34th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (track: Language and Computation) National University of Ireland Galway
04/2022, 07/2023	Co-organizer of REtreat for Students in Computational Linguistics (REST-CL) Universitat Pompeu Fabra
10/2020–12/2021	Co-organiser of the GLiF research group seminar (with Sebastian Buchczyk) Universitat Pompeu Fabra

PARCITIPATION IN FUNDED PROJECTS

since 09/2022	Member Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación, Agencia Estatal de Investigación, "Experimental Studies on Discourse Structure (ExpeDiS)" (ID: *PID2021-122779NB-I00*) PI: Laia Mayol
10/2021–09/2022	Member Ministerio de Ciencia e Inovación, "The Question Under Discussion and its Linguistic Effects (QUDLE)" (ID: *PGC2018-094029-A-I00*) PI: Laia Mayol

SUMMER SCHOOLS & COMPLETED COURSES

08/2022	33rd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Galway, Ireland
07/2021–08/2021	32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Held virtually
09/2020–06/2021	The FIDU (Initial Training in University Teaching) Programme in Translation and Language Sciences Universitat Pompeu Fabra
05/2021	Statistics for Language studies Universitat Pompeu Fabra
02/2021	From Draft to Submission: Publishing an Article or Book Chapter in English Universitat Pompeu Fabra
09/2020	Machine Learning Coursera, Stanford, online

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (IELTS C1), Spanish (DELE C1)

SKILLS

Python, R, HTML, Java, Visual Basic