

Nick Huang

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Academic positions

2019– Senior Tutor, Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore.
On academic leave 2019–2021 for a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut. Advisor: Dr. Jon Sprouse; co-advisor: Dr. Lisa Pearl (University of California, Irvine).

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.
Linguistics thesis: *Too heavy to move*.

Selected grants and awards

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 (≈ US\$297K).
Aug 2020 National University of Singapore Development Grant. S\$4,256 (≈ US\$3K).
2019–2021 National University of Singapore Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship.
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

Under review Nick Huang, Aaron Steven White, Chia-Hsuan Liao, Valentine Hacquard, and Jeffrey Lidz. “Syntactic bootstrapping attitude verbs despite impoverished morphosyntax.” Under revision for resubmission to *Language Acquisition*.
To appear Nick Huang and Colin Phillips. “When missing NPs make double center-embedding sentences acceptable.” *Glossa*.

- To appear Nick Huang. "How subjects and possessors can obviate phasehood." *Linguistic Inquiry*.
- 2018 Nick Huang. "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, Nick Huang, 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

- To appear Nick Huang, Annemarie van Dooren, and Gesoel Mendes. "'Wanting' the future: the case of future *yao*." *Proceedings of the 32nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics*.
- 2019 Nick Huang 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

- In press Colin Phillips, Phoebe Gaston, Nick Huang, and Hanna Muller. "Theories all the way down." *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Syntax*, ed. Grant Goodall. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Manuscripts

- In prep. Nick Huang. "Nounless nominal expressions in Mandarin Chinese."
- 2021 Nick Huang, Diogo Almeida, and Jon Sprouse. "An experimental investigation of bridge effects."

Presentations

Conference talks

- 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*." The 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." The 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." The North East Linguistics Society 48th 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*." The 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." The 2011 Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, Pa. Project website at <https://ygdpc.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

- Apr 2019 Gesoel Mendes and Nick Huang. "Null subjects and ellipsis from an idiom perspective." "Sluicing and Ellipsis at 50" workshop, University of Chicago. Chicago, Ill.

- Oct 2018 Nick Huang and Gesoel Mendes. "On pronominalization and ellipsis in clausal idioms." The North East Linguistics Society 49th annual meeting, Cornell University. Ithaca, N.Y.
- Oct 2017 Annemarie van Dooren, Nick Huang, Gesoel Mendes, and Valentine Hacquard. "The future of *want*." MACSIM 7, Georgetown University. Washington, D.C.
- Apr 2017 Nick Huang and Colin Phillips. "A 'missing NP illusion' in Mandarin Chinese doubly center-embedded sentences." The 30th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, Mass.
- Oct 2016 Nick Huang, 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.

Invited presentations

- 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 Nick Huang. "Variation and learnability in *wh*-movement constraints." Department of Linguistics, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Teaching

Courses at the University of Maryland

- Spring 2018 Teaching assistant for Syntax II (Ling 312, primary instructor: Dr. Norbert Hornstein). Graded assignments for 18 students, held office hours, and gave two class lectures.
- Fall 2017 Instructor for *Island constraints and their exceptions* (Ling 419K), a biweekly syntax/psycholinguistics seminar for 10 undergraduate majors. Designed syllabus, facilitated class discussion, designed and graded assignments, held office hours, and advised students on their class presentation assignments.

Spring 2017	Teaching assistant for Syntax II (Ling 312, primary instructor: Dr. Norbert Hornstein). Graded assignments for 13 students, held office hours, and gave a class lecture.
Fall 2016	Teaching assistant for Syntax I (Ling 311, primary instructor: Dr. Tonia Bleam). Graded assignments for 23 students, held office hours, and gave a class lecture.
Spring 2016	Teaching assistant for Introductory Linguistics (Ling 200, for non-majors, primary instructor: Dr. Tonia Bleam). Taught weekly sections of ~30 students. Graded assignments and held office hours.
Fall 2015	Teaching assistant for Introductory Linguistics (primary instructor: Dr. Margaret J. Antonisse). Taught weekly sections of ~30 students. Graded assignments and held office hours.

Mentoring

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

Service and professional experience

Conference and event organising

(All conferences and events listed below were at the University of Maryland.)

2015–2017	Planning committee, Language Science Day.
2015–2016	Organising committee, Mayfest 2016 / PHLINC 3 <i>Context</i> .
2015	Co-chair, Language Science Day 2015 student organising committee.
2014–2015	Organising committee, Mayfest 2015 <i>Morphest</i> .

Committee service

(All activities listed below are/were 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, Glossa, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics, Syntax.*

Conferences The North East Linguistics Society, Society for Computation in Linguistics, North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, International Association of Chinese Linguistics.

Other grants and awards

Oct 2017 College of Arts and Humanities Travel Grant. University of Maryland, College Park.

Oct 2017 International Conference Student Support Award. University of Maryland, College Park.

Feb 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, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, CLAN, Ibex.

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