

## 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.  
Linguistics thesis: *Too heavy to move*.

## Selected grants and awards

- Mar 2022 *The grammar and acquisition of attitude verbs*. National University of Singapore. 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 post-graduate 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

- To appear Nick Huang. “Finiteness in a language without finite morphology: an experimental study of Mandarin Chinese”. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-023-09591-4>

- 2023 Li Lin, Kunmei Han, Jiawen Hing, Luwen Cao, Vincent Ooi, Nick Huang, 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 Nick Huang. "How subjects and possessors can obviate phasehood." *Linguistic Inquiry* 53(3): 427–458. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1162/ling\\_a\\_00414](https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00414)
- 2022 Nick Huang, 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 Nick Huang 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 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 Serene Siow and Nick Huang. "Learning factivity via syntax and pragmatics: a corpus study." *Proceedings of the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development*.
- 2022 Nick Huang, 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 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*, ed. Kaidi Chen, volume 2, 189-205. Storrs, Conn.: University of Connecticut.
- 2020 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

- 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

- 2021 Nick Huang, Jia Wen Hing, Li Lin, and Zhiming Bao. "A tagged and annotated corpus of Singapore English". NUS manuscript.

### Presentations

#### Invited presentations

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

### Conference talks

- 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

- Nov 2023 Serene Siow and Nick Huang. "Learning factivity via syntax and pragmatics: a corpus study". To be presented at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston, Mass.
- Mar 2023 Zheng Shen and Nick Huang. "Effects of creation verbs on wh-dependencies in English and Chinese". 2023 Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Pittsburgh.
- Mar 2023 Nick Huang and Colin Phillips. "'Under/overconnection' effects in thematic relations in center-embedding". 2023 Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Pittsburgh.
- Mar 2022 Nick Huang 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 Nick Huang, 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 Nick Huang. "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 Nick Huang. "The prediction and processing of Mandarin null objects". The 3rd International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics. Hsinchu, Taiwan.
- Nov 2021 Nick Huang, 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 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." 49th North East Linguistics Society 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." 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.

## 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) for an English corpus annotation project and an experiment design project.  
Jun–Sep 2017      Yuhan (Claire) Zhang (Tsinghua University; linguistics Ph.D. at Harvard University) for a Mandarin Chinese corpus annotation project.

### **Service and professional experience**

#### **Editorial positions**

2023–2026      Member of editorial board of *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.

#### **Conference and event organising**

At the National University of Singapore

2023-2024      COEDA (Coalition of English Departments in Asia) Conference 2024 (co-faculty advisor with Dr. Yanbing Er, NUS).  
2023      8th Asian Junior Linguists conference, at NUS and over Zoom. 17-18 November 2023.

At the University of Maryland

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

#### **Other service**

At the National University of Singapore

2022–      Department welfare representative, Department of English, Linguistics, & Theatre Studies.

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 Psychology* (but declined), *Glossa*, *Glossa Psycholinguistics*, *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*, *Languages*, *Language Acquisition*, *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 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

- Jul 2022 *Exploring structural and non-structural approaches to wh-dependencies* (Zheng Shen and Nick Huang; NH: co-PI). National University of Singapore. S\$19,880.
- Sep 2021 National University of Singapore faculty start-up grant.
- Aug 2020 National University of Singapore Development Grant. S\$4,256
- 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office, CLAN, Ibex, Qualtrics.

Last updated Jan 2024.