

Fengyue (Lisa) Zhao | *Curriculum Vitae*

Address: Department of Linguistics
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Phonetics, phonology, computational and experimental approaches.

EDUCATION

- 2022 - ... **PhD in Linguistics**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Cognitive Science minor
- 2018 – 2022 **B.A. in Linguistics**, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
Thesis: *Probabilistic Listener: A Case of Chinese Mandarin Reflexive ziji Ambiguity Resolution*
Advisors: Dr. Brian Dillon, Dr. Ming Xiang
- 2018 – 2022 **B.S. in Mathematics**, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
Statistics and Data Science Concentration, Computer Science minor

PUBLICATIONS

- In prep **Fengyue Zhao** & Sam Tilsen. Syllable Position and Stress Influence Randomly Temporally Perturbed Auditory Feedback.

THESES

- 2025 **Fengyue Zhao**, Jennifer Kuo, & Marten van Schijndel. *The Role of Contextual Variation in Learning Cantonese Tones from Naturalistic Speech*. Cornell University.
- 2024 **Fengyue Zhao** & Sam Tilsen. *Syllable Position and Stress Influence Temporally Perturbed Auditory Feedback*. Cornell University.
- 2022 **Fengyue Zhao**, Brian Dillon & Ming Xiang. *Probabilistic Listener: A Case of Chinese Mandarin Reflexive ziji Ambiguity Resolution*. University of Massachusetts Amherst.

PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS

- 2025 **Fengyue Zhao**, Jennifer Kuo. *Distributional Learning Across Contexts: Learning Cantonese Tones in Naturalistic Speech*. The 3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI 2025). May 16 - 18. Institute for Phonetics and Speech Processing, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany. (Talk)
- 2024 **Fengyue Zhao**, Sam Tilsen. *Syllable Position Prominence in Unsupervised Neural Network Segment Categorization*. Proceedings of the 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, June 27-29, 2024, HIPCS, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea, (Eds. T. Cho, S. Kim, J. Holliday and S. Lee-Kim).
- 2023 **Fengyue Zhao**, Brian Dillon, Ming Xiang. *Probabilistic Listener: A Case of Chinese Mandarin Reflexive ziji. Ambiguity Resolution*. 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 36). March 9 - 11. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 *Distributional Learning Across Contexts: Learning Cantonese Tones in Naturalistic Speech*. The 3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI 2025). (Talk)
- 2024 *Syllable Position Prominence in Unsupervised Neural Network Segment Categorization*. The 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon 19).
- 2023 *Probabilistic Listener: A Case of Chinese Mandarin Reflexive ziji. Ambiguity Resolution*. 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 36).
- 2022 *Probabilistic Listener: A Case of Chinese Mandarin Reflexive ziji Ambiguity Resolution*. 16th Annual Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (CULC 16). (Talk)
- 2022 *Probabilistic Listener: A Case of Chinese Mandarin Reflexive ziji Ambiguity Resolution*. Sixth Annual Berkeley Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium (SLUGS 6). (Talk)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2025 C.V. Starr Fellowship (\$30,000), Cornell University
- 2025 Cognitive Science Travel Award (\$500), Cornell University
- 2025 Conference Grant Award (\$700), Cornell University
- 2024 Cognitive Science Travel Award (\$1000), Cornell University
- 2024 Conference Grant Award (\$700), Cornell University

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| 2022 | Sage Fellowship (\$70,000), Cornell University |
| 2022 | Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with Greatest Distinction, UMass Amherst |
| 2021 | Research and Arts Scholarship (\$2000), Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science |
| 2021 | Education Abroad Merit Scholarship (\$1100), UMass Amherst |
| 2018 | Chancellor's Merit Scholarship (\$32,000), UMass Amherst |

TEACHING

As an instructor

Fall 2024 **Intermediate Chinese for Students of Chinese Heritage**, Cornell University

As a teaching assistant

Spring 2025 **Computational Linguistics 1**, Cornell University

Spring 2024 **Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology**, Cornell University

Fall 2023 **Introduction to Cognitive Science**, Cornell University

Spring 2022 **Calculus for Life and Social Sciences II**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fall 2021 **Calculus for Life and Social Sciences II**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fall 2018 **Elementary Chinese**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019 - 2020 **Research Assistant**, PI: Dr. John Kingston, Phonetics Lab, UMass Amherst

NON-DEGREE EDUCATION

Summer **Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute**, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA

2023 4-week summer institute in Linguistics

Apr. - Aug. **Exchange program**, University of Konstanz, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

2021 Literaturwissenschaft und Sprachwissenschaft (Literature and Linguistics)

EDITED VOLUME

- 2024 **Senior Editor.** Proceedings of the 34rd Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT 34). University of Rochester
- 2023 **Junior Editor.** Proceedings of the 33rd Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT 33). Yale University

SERVICE

- 2022-2025 **President,** Cornell phonetics and phonology student reading group (Ph2)
- 2024-2025 **Web Administrator,** Cornell Linguistics Circle
- 2023, 2024 **Proctor,** North American Computational Linguistics Open competition (NACLO)
- 2022-2024 **Social Committee,** Cornell Linguistics Circle
- 2022-2024 **Open House Organizer,** Cornell Linguistics Circle
- 2019-2020 **Chinese Translator,** The Massachusetts Daily Collegian, UMass Amherst
- 2019-2020 **International Student Ambassador,** UMass Amherst Admissions
- 2018, 2019 **Language and Math Teaching Volunteer,** Himalayan Children Care, Nepal

SKILLS

Human languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Cantonese (receptively native), German (conversationally fluent)

Artificial languages: Python (PyTorch, TensorFlow, SciPy, SQLite, Scikit-learn); R(tidyverse, dplyr, ggplot2, lme4, brms); MATLAB(Signal Processing Toolbox, Deep Learning Toolbox); Bash scripting; Git; SQL

Experiment Software: Praat, PCIBex, PsychoPy, Labvanced

MEMBERSHIP

Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

Association for Laboratory Phonology (ALP)

International Phonetic Association (IPA)