

Muxuan He

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EDUCATION

- Fall 2021-
Expected **University of Southern California**
Ph.D. program in Linguistics (GPA: 4.0)
Summer 2026 Dissertation: *Resource-rational Language Comprehension*
Committee: Elsi Kaiser (Chair), Deniz Rudin, Alexander LaTourrette
- Fall 2023 **University of Southern California**
M.A. in Linguistics (GPA: 4.0), *specialized in Psycholinguistics*
Thesis: *“Just right” is not always right: Asymmetrical effects of informativity in affirmative and negative sentences*
Committee: Elsi Kaiser (Chair), Deniz Rudin, Zuzanna Fuchs
- 2017-2020 **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** Shanghai, China
M.A. in Linguistics (with honors), *specialized in Second Language Acquisition* (GPA: 3.85)
- 2013-2017 **Central South University** Changsha, China
B.A. in English Language (with honors), *specialized in Corpus Linguistics* (GPA: 3.9)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2026 **He, Muxuan, & Elsi Kaiser.** “Just-Right” Is (Not) Always Right: Joint Effects of Typicality and Informativity During Real-Time Sentence Processing. *Cognitive Science*, 50: e70217. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.70217>
- 2024 **He, Muxuan, Zheng, L., & Chang, H.** L2 Chinese Acquisition of the Scope of Negation by Korean-speaking Learners. *Chinese Teaching in the World* 38(1), 111-125.

Conference Proceedings

- 2026 **He, Muxuan, Deniz Rudin, & Elsi Kaiser.** Revisiting the context-update potential of negation at the level of speaker rationality. To appear in *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 30.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan, & Elsi Kaiser.** Affirmatives vs. Negatives: A complementary relation in probabilistic sentence processing. *Proceedings of Chicago Linguistic Society* 58.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan, & Elsi Kaiser.** Communication form modulates sentence interpretation: (A)typicality inferences from descriptions vs. direct speech. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 47.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous.** Modeling sentence polarity asymmetries: Fuzzy interpretations in a possibly wonky world. *Society for Computation in*

Linguistics 8(1): 22.

- 2024 Hao, Hailin, **Muxuan He**, & Zuzanna Fuchs. Greta is a female director: When gender stereotypes interact with informativity expectations. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (Vol. 46)*.
- 2023 Hao, Hailin, & **Muxuan He**. *Can Large Language Model Surprisal Capture the Informativity Bias in Human Language Processing?*. In International Symposium on Distributed Computing and Artificial Intelligence (pp. 178-185). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **He, Muxuan**, Deniz Rudin & Elsi Kaiser. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 30. *Revisiting the context-update potential of negation at the level of speaker rationality*. Talk at Special session on negation, 2025, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. *CogSci. Communication form modulates sentence interpretation: (A)typicality inferences from descriptions vs. direct speech*. Talk at Cognitive Science Society, 2025, San Francisco, USA.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. *CogSci. Irrational Speaker or Wonky World: Modeling Prior Revision and Prior Update*. Poster presented at Cognitive Science Society, 2025, San Francisco, USA.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. *SCiL 8. Modeling sentence polarity asymmetries: Fuzzy interpretations in a possibly wonky world*. Talk presented at Society for Computation in Linguistics 8, 2025, University of Oregon, USA.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. *HSP 38. What's described vs. what's uttered: Communication form modulates effects of typicality*. Poster presented at Human Sentence Processing 38, 2025, University of Maryland, USA.
- 2025 **He, Muxuan**, Elsi Kaiser, & Khalil Iskarous. *NAACL 2025. Modeling Pragmatic Accommodation: A [Rational, Irrational] Speaker in a [Wonky, Normal] World*. Virtual poster presented at Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics (CMCL), NAACL, 2025, New Mexico, USA.
- 2024 **He, Muxuan**, & Elsi Kaiser. *CLS 58. Affirmatives vs. Negatives: A complementary relation in probabilistic sentence processing*. Talk presented at Chicago Linguistic Society 58, 2024, University of Chicago, USA.
- 2024 Hao, Hailin, **Muxuan He**, & Zuzanna Fuchs. *CogSci. Greta is a female director: When gender stereotypes interact with informativity expectations*. Poster presented at Cognitive Science Society, 2024, Netherlands.
- 2024 Hao, Hailin, **Muxuan He**, & Zuzanna Fuchs. *CAMP. Are Informativity-Based Linguistic Predictions Driven by Gender Stereotypes?* Poster presented at the California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, 2024, Stanford, USA.

- 2023 **He, Muxuan, & Elsi Kaiser.** *How informative do we need to be? Asymmetry effects of informativity in the processing of affirmative and negative sentences.* Talk presented at AMLaP 2023, San Sebastián, Spain.
- 2023 Hao, Hailin, & **Muxuan He.** *Can Large Language Model Surprisal Capture the Informativity Bias in Human Language Processing?.* Poster presented at AMLaP 2023, San Sebastián, Spain.
- 2023 Hao, Hailin, & **Muxuan He.** *Can Large Language Model Surprisal Capture the Informativity Bias in Human Language Processing?.* Virtual talk presented by Hailin Hao at DACI 2023.
- 2023 **He, Muxuan, & Elsi Kaiser.** *Not Too Surprising, Not Too Boring? The Goldilocks Effects of Likelihood on Real-time Processing.* Virtual poster presented at HSP 2023, University of Pittsburgh, USA.
- 2023 **He, Muxuan, & Elsi Kaiser.** *Not Too Surprising, Not Too Boring? The Goldilocks Effects of Likelihood on Real-time Processing in English.* Virtual talk presented at the California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, 2023, UCLA.
- 2022 **He, Muxuan.** *-men or not -men: It does not seem to be a question.* Talk presented at NWAV Asia-Pacific7, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.
- 2021 **He, Muxuan.** *The Syntax-semantics Interface in L2 acquisition: The scope of Negation in Tagalog-Chinese interlanguage Grammars.* Virtual Poster presented at ICTEAP-3, National Tsing Hua University.
- 2019 **He, Muxuan.** *Acquiring the Scope of Negation in L2 Chinese: An Interface Approach.* Talk presented at *Acquisition of Chinese: Bilingualism and Multilingualism*, University of Cambridge, UK.
- 2018 **He, Muxuan.** *The Syntactic Distribution of bu and mei: A Syntax-semantics Interface Approach.* Talk presented at ICFL 8, Zhejiang University, China.
- 2018 **He, Muxuan, & Hui Chang.** *The Acquisition of the Scope of Negation in L2 Chinese: An Interface Approach.* Talk presented at the 8th International Symposium on Second Language Acquisition Research, Qingdao, China.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-
2019 **Research Assistant** at Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Supervisor: Chang Hui
Sentence Processing of L2 Chinese Learners: An Eye-tracking Project
Funded by China's National Social Science Fund
- Summer
2016 **Lead Investigator** at Fuxing, Hunan, China
Field work on the language deficit of left-behind children
Funded by Central South University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022-2025 **Teaching Assistant** at University of Southern California
LING 115 Language and Society (Fall 2025, Spring 2025)
LING 285 Human Language and Technology (Spring 2024)
LING 275 Language and Mind (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
- Summer 2016 **Lecturer** at Shanghai Jiaotong University
English as Second Foreign Language

SERVICE

- 2022-2025 **Abstract Reviewer** @Cog Sci 2025-2026, @CLS 61-62, @CAMP 6-8
Student Organizer @ ESLLI and @ TEAL at USC
Student Mentor @ SCiL 8

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships

- Apr 2026** Summer Writing and Research Grant, University of Southern California
- July 2025** Student Travel Award, Society for Computation in Linguistics
- May 2025** Dornsife Ph.D. Academy Research Fund, University of Southern California
- Mar 2025** EASC Summer Fellowship, University of Southern California
- July 2024** Linguistics Department Summer Research Funding, University of Southern California
- Sep 2023** GSC Professional Development Fund, University of Southern California
- 2022-2025** Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California
- 2021/2026** Ph.D. Student Fellowship, University of Southern California
- Jun 2019** Kaiyuan Encouragement Scholarship (for academic excellence), Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Dec 2015** National Encouragement Scholarship (for academic excellence), Central South University

MEMBERSHIPS

Cognitive Science (2025, 2026) , ACL (2025, 2026)

SKILLS

- Languages** Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)
- Technical** Python, R, Praat, SQL