

Dr. Mengzhu Yan

Lecturer, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China |

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Education

Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) – Ph.D. in Linguistics (supervised by Dr. Sasha Calhoun and Prof. Paul Warren)	11/2016-07/2020
Aarhus University (Denmark) – M.A. in Linguistics (The M.A thesis received the highest grade (12/12), supervised by Prof. Ocke-Schwen Bohn and Dr. Marjoleine Sloos)	09/2014-08/2016
Henan Polytechnic University (China) – B.A. in English Studies	09/2010-06.2014

Teaching Experience

Lecturer — English Intensive Reading, Oral English and English Writing , School of Foreign Languages, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Student evaluation: ranked 15/159)	08/2020 - now
Guest lecturer — Quantitative Research in Applied Linguistics , School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington	04/2020
Writing Workshop teacher — School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington	03/2020-06/2020
Language support tutor — English Language Training for officials , Victoria University of Wellington	03/2020-04/2020
Guest lecturer — LING328 Phonetics and Phonology (Undergraduate Level) , School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington	07/2019
Guest lecturer — LING412 Topics in Theoretical and Cognitive Linguistics (Post-Graduate Level) , School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington	07/2019
Chinese Teacher — Wellington Chinese Language School	04/2019-05/2020
Tutor (Introduction to Linguistics) — School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington	07/2017-11/2018
Chinese and English Teacher — N. J. Fjordsgades Skole, Aarhus, Denmark	08/2015-12/2015
Private English Tutor — Henan, China	08/2010-12/2014
Teaching Assistant (College English) — School of Foreign Studies, Henan Polytechnic University	09/2013-06/2014

Research interests

Speech Perception, Psycholinguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Pronunciation

Research Experience

Guest Junior Editor — Laboratory Phonology

03/2019 -

Research Assistant — School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria
University of Wellington

03/2019-07/2020

- Created experimental materials, programmed experiments in Opensesame, ran experiments, analyzed results, co-author of publications

Workshop Organizer — Workshop on the Processing of Prosody across Languages and Varieties (ProsLang) <https://proslang.wordpress.com>

11/2017-12/2018

Selected publications

- **Yan, Mengzhu**, Sasha Calhoun. 2020. Rejecting false alternatives in Chinese and English: The interaction of prosody, clefting, and default focus position. *Laboratory Phonology: Journal of the Association for Laboratory Phonology*, 11(1), 17. doi: <http://doi.org/10.5334/labphon.255>
- **Yan, Mengzhu**, Sasha Calhoun, Paul Warren. 2020. Prosody or syntax? Investigating the perception of focus by Mandarin speakers. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2020*, Tokyo, Japan 2020 (pp. 347-351). International Speech Communication Association
- **Yan, Mengzhu**. 2021. Caroline Féry: Intonation and Prosodic Structure (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2017). ISBN 9781107400382 (paperback). *Phonetica*, 78 (2). 2021. 169-174. <https://doi.org/10.1515/phon-2021-2004>.
- **Yan, Mengzhu**, Sasha Calhoun. 2019. Priming effects of focus in Mandarin Chinese. *Frontiers in Psychology*. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01985
- **Yan, Mengzhu**. 2019. Review of Second Language Acquisition of Mandarin Chinese tones. *Phonetica*. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000501803>
- **Yan, Mengzhu**, Marjoleine Sloos. 2019. Perceptual cue weighting in L1 and L2 Chinese: an investigation of aspiration and frication in Chinese obstruents by Danish learners. *Chinese as a Second Language Research*. 8(1). 57-83. <https://doi.org/10.1515/caslar-2019-0003>
- Rasmussen, Sidsel, **Mengzhu Yan**. 2019. Acoustic comparison of Mandarin and Danish postalveolars. In *A Sound Approach to Language Matters: in honor of Ocke-Schwen Bohn*. Eds A.M. Nyvad, M. Hejná, M. Hjorten Sørensen, A. Højens, and A. Jespersen. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press. 65-80. [peer-reviewed]
- **Yan, Mengzhu**, Sasha Calhoun, Paul Warren. 2019. The role of prosody in priming alternatives in Mandarin Chinese. In Sasha Calhoun, Paola Escudero, Marija Tabain & Paul Warren (eds.) *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Melbourne, Australia 2019 (pp. 437-441). Canberra, Australia: Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association Inc.

- **Yan, Mengzhu**, Michael Nguyen. 2019. The spy saw a cop with a telescope: Who has the telescope? - An attempt to understand the basic building blocks of ambiguous PP-attachment sequences. *Journal of Language Works*. - *Sprogvidenskabeligt Studentertidsskrift*, 3(2), 92-104. Retrieved from <https://tidsskrift.dk/lwo/article/view/112506>

Selected presentations

- “The role of prosody and syntax in L2 perception of focus by Chinese EFL learners”. The 14th Phonetic Association of China, Lanzhou, China. 18-20 July 2021. (**Mengzhu Yan**, Sasha Calhoun)
- “Prosody or syntax? Investigating the perception of focus by Mandarin speakers”. *Speech Prosody 2020*, Tokyo, Japan 2020. (**Mengzhu Yan**, Sasha Calhoun, Paul Warren)
- “The role of prosody in priming alternatives in Mandarin Chinese”. International Congress of Phonetic Science, Melbourne, Australia. 5-9 August 2019. (**Mengzhu Yan**, Sasha Calhoun, Paul Warren)
- “Did the sailor put on the raincoat? Investigating the role of prosody and syntax in rejections of focus alternatives in Mandarin Chinese”. Language Data Analysis Summer School (LASS), University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. 29-31 January 2019.
- “What primes alternatives? Investigating syntactic and prosodic focus priming of alternatives in English and Mandarin Chinese”. Workshop on the Processing of Prosody across Languages and Varieties, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. 29-30 November 2018. (**Mengzhu Yan** & Sasha Calhoun).
- “Perceptual cue weighting of Chinese consonants in L1 and L2 Chinese”. New Sounds 2016, Aarhus, Denmark. 10-12 June 2016. (**Mengzhu Yan** & Marjoleine Sloos)

Scholarships and funding

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| • 2020-2021 Winner, Teaching competition, Huazhong University of Science and Technology | 05/2021 |
| • 2019 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Students Abroad | 05/2020 |
| • Ph.D. Marsden Grant Scholarship, Royal Society of New Zealand | 11/2016 – 11/2019 |
| • Doctoral Submission Scholarship, Victoria University of Wellington | 11/2019 |
| • IPA award, International Phonetic Association | 04/2019 |
| • Faculty Research Grant (Humanities and Social Sciences) for overseas conferences, Victoria University of Wellington | 03/2019 |
| • Faculty Research Grant (Humanities and Social Sciences) for data collection, Victoria University of Wellington | 05/2018 – 07/2018 |
| • Danish government scholarships for highly qualified non-EU/EEA students
(Covered tuition fee and stipend) | 08/2014 – 08/2016 |
| • Conference travel grant to the U.K, Aarhus University | 07/2016 |
| • Excellent Graduate Scholarship, Henan Polytechnic University | 06/2014 |
| • National Encouragement Scholarship, Henan Polytechnic University (for three years) | 06/2011 – 06/2013 |

Training

- Language Data Analysis Summer School (LASS), University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand 29/01/2019 – 31/01/2019
- Summer School "Contemporary Phonology and Phonetics", Fudan University, Shanghai 07/07/2018 – 13/07/2018
- R software sessions with Thesis Group, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington 02/2018 – 05/2018
- R club, School of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington 12/2017 – 05/2018
(<https://mindcultureevolution.com/category/r-material/>)

Technical skills

- Statistical tools: R (statistical modelling, corpus linguistics), SPSS
- Experimental tools: Opensesame (psycholinguistic experiments), E-prime (psycholinguistic experiments), Praat (Praat scripts and experiments e.g. ABX tests), DMDX
- Basic programming language: Python (computational linguistics)
- Survey tool: Qualtrics
- Office: Microsoft Office (WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT), Visio
- Annotations: Forced aligners, Praat
- Typesetting: Latex
- Reference management software: Endnote