

Education

- Jun 2027 **PhD in Linguistics,**
(expected) **University of Massachusetts Amherst.**
- 2026 - 2027 **Visiting Student at MIT Linguistics.**
- 2022 **BA, The University of Hong Kong,**
Major in Linguistics and Computer Science.

Publications

- In Revision **Lam, S.Y.** and Momma, S. (2026). Discourse-prominent entities are not cognitively more prominent. In Revision for *Journal of Memory and Language*.
- 2026 **Lam, S.Y.**, Zeng, Q., Voigt, R. (2026). Encoder-only and decoder-only models understand abstract argument structure differently. In *Proceedings of the 2026 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*.
- 2025 **Lam, S.Y.#**, Zeng, Q.#, Wu, J., Voigt, R. (2025). Leveraging Human Production-Interpretation Asymmetries to Test LLM Cognitive Plausibility. In *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 2: Short Papers)* (pp. 158-171).
- 2024 **Lam, S.Y.** and Hwang, H. (2024). Pronoun interpretation is more subject-biased than expected by the Bayesian Model. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*. 40(2), 270-289. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2024.2427073>
- 2024 **Lam, S.Y.*** (2024). A phonological analysis of the onset velar nasal merger in Hong Kong Cantonese. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 9(1), 5727. <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v9i1.5727>
- 2023 **Lam, S.Y.#**, Zeng, Q.#, Zhang, K.#, You, C, Voigt, R. (2023). Large Language Models Are Partially Primed in Pronoun Interpretation. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023* (pp. 9493-9506). (# indicates equal contribution)
- 2022 **Lam, S.Y.** and Hwang, H. (2022). How does topicality affect the choice of referential expressions? Evidence from Mandarin. *Cognitive Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13190>
- 2022 Hwang, H., **Lam, S.Y.**, Ni, W., Ren, H. (2022). The role of grammatical role and thematic role predictability in reference form production in Mandarin Chinese. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.930572>

Manuscripts in preparation

- In Prep **Lam, S.Y.**. Two kinds of External Possession in Cantonese.
- In Prep **Lam, S.Y.** and Biezma, M. Cantonese particles and dynamic discourse models.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 **Lam, S.Y.#**, Zeng, Q.#, Wu, J., Voigt, R. (2025). Leveraging Human Production-Interpretation Asymmetries to Test LLM Cognitive Plausibility. [Poster presentation]. Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2025.
- 2025 **Lam, S.Y.**, and Ozaki, S. (2025). Investigating the source of passive ellipsis clause penalty. [Poster presentation]. 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Maryland, March 26 - 29, 2025.

- 2024 **Lam, S.Y.**, Momma, S. and Dillon, B. (2024). Evidence that thematic role is the major determinant of antecedent activation [Poster presentation]. 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Michigan, May 16 - 18, 2024.
- 2024 **Lam, S.Y.** (2024). A phonological analysis of the onset velar nasal merger in Hong Kong Cantonese. [Poster presentation]. LSA Annual Meeting. New York, NY. January 4 - 7, 2024.
- 2023 **Lam, S.Y.**[#], Zeng, Q.[#], Zhang, K.[#], You, C, Voigt, R. (2023). Large Language Models Are Partially Primed in Pronoun Interpretation [Poster Presentation]. Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023. ([#] indicates equal contribution)
- 2023 Hwang, H. and **Lam, S.Y.** (2023). The influence of action continuity on reference form in Mandarin and English [Poster presentation]. 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of Pittsburgh, March 9 - 11, 2022.
- 2022 **Lam, S.Y.** and Hwang, H. (2022). *Topichood Effects on Different Types of Referential Forms: Evidence from Mandarin* [Poster presentation]. 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University of California, Santa Cruz (Virtual), March 24 - 26, 2022.
- 2021 **Lam, S.Y.** and Hwang, H. (2021). *Interpretation of null pronouns in Mandarin Chinese does not follow a Bayesian model* [Short-talk presentation]. 34th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference. University of Pennsylvania (Virtual), Mar 4-6, 2021. [Abstract]

Teaching and Mentoring

As an instructor

Fall 2024 **LING201: Introduction to Linguistic Theories (On-line).**

As a discussion section leader

Spring 2026 **LING429H: Advanced Computational Linguistics**, Instructor: Gaja Jarosz.

Fall 2025 **LING201: Introduction to Linguistic Theories**, Instructor: Faruk Akkuş.

Spring 2024 **LING201: Introduction to Linguistic Theories**, Instructor: Kyle Johnson.

Fall 2023 **LING101: People & Their Language**, Instructor: Rajesh Bhatt.

Mentoring

Summer 2026 **Mentees:** Anne Xing and Chloe Buckellew

- Mentored and collaborated with two undergraduate researchers on a joint psycholinguistics project, guiding them through hypothesis development, experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation.

Training

Fall 2026 "Dynamic Teaching Strategies for Engagement," (3.25 hours) Graduate School Teaching Academy, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Awards

2025 **38th Human Sentence Processing Conference Travel Award**, USD375.

2023 **36th Human Sentence Processing Conference Travel Award**, USD400.

2020-2021 **Dean's Honors List**, The University of Hong Kong.

2020-2021 **Common Core TransDisciplinary Undergraduate Research**, HKD11500 (USD1479).

- Project: Exploring the mechanisms of Chinese zero pronoun interpretation and production in human and computer processing: Focusing on the role of topichood".

2020-2021 **Teaching Development and Language Enhancement Grant (TDLEG)**, HKD8000 (USD1029).

- Project: A Bayesian approach to model pronoun processing in Mandarin Chinese: a discourse pro-drop language

2018 **HKU Centenary Scholarships for Surveying Students**, HKD10000 for 3 awardees.

- For recognition of emerging leadership

Non-degree Education

Sep 2024 **The Eighth Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology**, University of Postdam, Advanced Bayesian data analysis.

Sep 2023 **The Seventh Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology**, University of Postdam, Introduction to Bayesian data analysis.

Jun 2023 **Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute**, UMass Amherst.

29 Jul – 6 **Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) Summer School**,

Aug, 2021 *Attended courses: Semantic Universals and Experimental methods in Semantics.*

Service

Organizer

2026 Organizing committee, The 9th Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL-9)

2024 Student organizer, UMass Amherst Psycholinguistics workshop

2023 Organizing committee, 27th International Conferences for Yue Dialects, 2023

2023 Co-editor, Proceedings of the 53rd Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS53)

2023-2024 Co-organizer, UMass Amherst Linguistics Colloquium Series

Ad-hoc reviewer

Journal Linguistics Vanguard

Conference International Conferences for Yue Dialects

Skills

Languages Mandarin (native), Cantonese (native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Intermediate)

Programming R (including rstan), Python, Javascript, Java, C++ (Descending in proficiency)

Experimental tools PCIBex (JavaScript/HTML/CSS), jsPsych, Praat, Penn Forced Aligner