

Meilin Zhan

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology — Ph.D. in Cognitive Science	expected 2020
University of California, San Diego — M.A. in Linguistics	2016
University of Edinburgh — M.Sc. in Applied Linguistics with distinction	2013
Guangdong University of Foreign Studies — B.A. in English Linguistics	2012

Research & Teaching Experience

Doctoral researcher — Computational Psycholinguistics Laboratory, MIT 2016 -present

- Build computational models of natural language production and comprehension
- Analysis of large datasets using R and Python (NLP, Bayesian modeling, statistics)
- Design and implement behavioral experiment online (JavaScript, Amazon Mechanical Turk)
- Contribute to theoretical and applied domains in the processing and acquisition of natural language

Teaching assistant — UC San Diego & MIT 2015, 2017

- Computational Psycholinguistics (MIT), Computational Linguistics (UCSD), topics: speech perception, text classification, language models, hierarchical models, logistic regression, statistical learning and others
- Assisted the instructor in preparing and grading exams, programming assignments, and other problem sets
- Held weekly office hour to provide students hands-on help in programming and statistics

Publications & Conference Presentations

2017. **Zhan, Meilin**, Roger Levy and Edward Gibson. Rational Inference and Sentence Interpretation in Mandarin Chinese. The 30th Annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing.

2016. **Zhan, Meilin**, Roger Levy and Andrew Kehler. Bayesian Pronoun Interpretation in Mandarin Chinese. Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, pp. 2393-2398. (Also presented as talk at LSA 2017, as poster at CUNY 2016, and as talk at NACCL 2016)

2015. **Zhan, Meilin**. The Resolution of Pronouns and Reflexives in L2 English: L1 Influence and General L2 Effects. *Studies in English Language and Literature*, 35, 1-17.

2014. **Zhan, Meilin**. Anaphora Resolution in Advanced Second Language Speakers of English. The 33rd Annual Second Language Research Forum.

Language Skills

• **Programming:** R, Python, JavaScript, Java • **Natural Languages:** Mandarin, English, Cantonese

Selected Coursework

Quantitative Methods and Computational Models, Cognitive Science, Probabilistic Models of Cognition, Quantitative Methods in Psychology I, II, Semantics, Phonetics

Honors & Awards

MIT Henry E. Singleton Fellowship, 2017

Berkeley Data on the Mind Workshop Scholarship, 2017

MIT Nancy Garvey Fellowship, 2016

UC San Diego Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, 2015

UC San Diego Department Research & Travel Grant, 2014

University of Edinburgh Language Science Highly Commended Dissertation Award, 2013

Scotland China Education Network Research Grant, 2013

Uni. of Edinburgh Most Innovative Topic Prize at Understanding Internationalization Conference, 2013

Guangdong University of Foreign Studies Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award, 2012