Suyuan Liu

suyuan97@student.ubc.ca

Education

2020 -	**Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of British Colombia, Vancouver**
estimated defence date: Apr. 2026	Supervisor: Dr. Molly Babel Committee: Dr. Márton Sóskuthy, Dr. Jian Zhu, Dr. Alexis Black Dissertation: Relative contributions of perceived standardness and voice similarity on speech processing accuracy in Mandarin-English bilinguals
2025 Apr. - 2025 Sep.	**Visiting researcher, The Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS), Hong Kong Polytechnic University** Research Student Attachment Programme (fully funded) Supervisor: Dr. Yao Yao Project: Cross-generation contrast variation in Beijing and Shanghai Mandarin
2019	**B.A. in Linguistics with Honors, University of California, Los Angeles** Minor in Asian Language Study (Specialize in Japanese) Specialization in Computing Member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Publications

Manuscripts in progress

Under review (in revision)	**Suyuan Liu**, Márton Sóskuthy and Sijia Zhang. Best practices in the evaluation of forced-alignment accuracy: the case of Mandarin varieties. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.*
Under review (in revision)	**Suyuan Liu** and Molly Babel. Revisiting Coda Nasal Neutralization: Investigating the Effects of Phonetic Variation on /i/-Nasal Rhyme Contrasts in Beijing and Shanghai Mandarin. *Language and Speech.*
In prep	**Suyuan Liu**, Jian Zhu and Molly Babel. A comparison of English stop voicing classification between Transformer speech models and human listeners.

Refereed Journal Articles

2020	Faytak, Matthew, **Suyuan Liu**, Megha Sundara. Nasal coda neutralization in Shanghai Mandarin: Articulatory and perceptual evidence. Laboratory Phonology 11(1), 23. DOI

Conference Proceedings

2025 | Zhong, J., **Liu, S.**, Wells, D., Richmond, K., (2025) Pairwise Evaluation of Accent Similarity in Speech Synthesis. In Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association, INTERSPEECH (to appear). International Speech Communication Association. DOI

2024 | **Liu, S.**, Babel, M., Zhu. J., (2024) A comparison of voice similarity through acoustics, human perception and deep neural network (DNN) speaker verification systems. In Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association, INTERSPEECH (pp. 3674 - 3678). International Speech Communication Association. DOI

2023 | **Liu, S.** & Babel, M., (2023) Production and perception of Mandarin /i/-nasal rhymes. In: Radek Skarnitzl and Jan Volín (Eds.), Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (pp. 142–146). Guarant International. DOI

2023 | Cardoso, A., **Liu, S.**, Pritchard, R., Babel, M.(2023). Simultaneous vowel changes in British Columbian English. In: Radek Skarnitzl and Jan Volín (Eds.), Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (pp. 3006–3010). Guarant International. DOI

Grants, Honors and Awards

2025 | Excellence in Graduate Teaching Assistantship Award, Department of Linguistics, UBC
Nominated for the Killam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

2025 | Graduate Student Training Fund, Language Sciences, UBC (CAD1,500)

2024 | Pei-Huang Tung and Tan-Wen Tung Graduate Fellowship (CAD3,200)

2023 | IPA Student Award, International Phonetic Association (GBP600)

2023 | Dean of Arts Graduate Student Research Award, UBC (CAD1,000)

2019 | Departmental Honor, Department of Linguistics, UCLA (USD500)

2019 | Undergraduate Research and Travel Awards, Department of Linguistics, UCLA (USD900)

Invited Talks

July 2025 | **What is voice similarity?** Natural Language Processing (NLP) seminar, National Research Council Canada, Canada.

Nov. 2024 | **In Search of the Standard Mandarin Speaker.** Phonetics, Phonology, and Psycholinguistics Forum, University of California, Berkley, CA, United States.

May 2021 | **Nasal coda neutralization in Shanghai Mandarin: Articulatory and perceptual evidence.** Linguistics Salon, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

Conference Posters and Presentations

Dec. 2025	**Suyuan Liu** and Molly Babel. Acoustic Consistency of Mandarin-English Bilingual Voices: Evidence from the Mandarin-English Language Interview (MELI) Corpus. The Joint Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Acoustical Society of Japan, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. (poster)
Nov. 2025	**Suyuan Liu** and Molly Babel. Rethinking "Standard Mandarin": Introducing the Mandarin-English Language Interview (MELI) Corpus. New Ways of Analyz(s)ing Variation 53 (NWAV 53), Ann Arbor, Michigan. (talk)
Sep. 2024	**Suyuan Liu**, Molly Babel, and Jian Zhu. Comparing voice similarity through acoustics, human perception and deep neural network (DNN) speaker verification systems. INTERSPEECH 2024, Kos Island, Greece. (poster)
Aug. 2024	**Suyuan Liu**, Molly Babel, and Jian Zhu. Comparing voice similarity through acoustics, human perception and deep neural network (DNN) speaker verification systems. 2nd Interdisciplinary Conference on Voice Identity, Marburg, Germany. (talk)
June 2024	**Suyuan Liu** and Molly Babel. Disentangling varying degree of contrast for Mandarin /in/-/iŋ/ rhymes through word-level patterns. The 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Seoul, Korea. (poster)
Jan. 2024	**Suyuan Liu**. Do speech models develop human-like perception? A comparison between English stop voicing classification by humans and wav2vec2. 97th Annual Meeting of the LSA, New York, NY, United States. (talk)
Aug. 2023	**Suyuan Liu** and Molly Babel. Perception and production of Mandarin /i/-nasal rhymes. 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic. (poster)
May. 2022	**Suyuan Liu**, Sijia Zhang and Márton Sóskuthy. Evaluating the accuracy of forced alignment across Mandarin varieties. 182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Denver, CO, United States (poster, joined online). also given at
May. 2022	4th Cascadia Workshop in Sociolinguistics. UBC, Vancouver, Canada (talk, online).
June 2021	Michelle Kamigaki-Baron, **Suyuan Liu**, Alex Nastevski, Bingqing Yu, Gillian De Boer, Jesse Hawker and Bryan Gick. How do masks affect the way we speak? Association canadienne de linguistique Canadian Linguistic Association 2021. (poster, online)
Jan. 2020	**Suyuan Liu**, Matthew Faytak and Megha Sundara. Articulation and perception of Mandarin coda nasals by Shanghainese-Mandarin bilinguals. 94th Annual Meeting of the LSA, New Orleans, LA, United States. (talk)

Teaching Experience

Teaching Training

May 2024	Course Design Intensive for Faculty, UBC
May 2024	The Teaching Practicum at the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL), UBC. CIRTL Practitioner.
May 2023	Completion of the Summer Teaching Institute at the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL), UBC
Mar. 2023	Completion of the Instructional Skills Workshops at UBC

Guest Lectures

Apr. 2024	**Accent and accent modification.** LING 209: Clinical Topics in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
Apr. 2024	**Biofeedback.** LING 209: Clinical Topics in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
Mar. 2024	**Do speech models develop human-like perception?** COGS 401: Seminar in Cognitive Systems, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. also given at
Nov. 2023	COGS 200: Introduction to Cognitive Systems, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
Oct. 2023	LING/PSYC 370A: Psycholinguistic, University of Victoria (online).

Teaching Assistant

2025-2026	
T1	TA for LING313 Introduction to Phonetics and Speech Science
2024-2025	
T1	TA for LING313 Introduction to Phonetics and Speech Science
2023-2024	
T1	TA for LING200 Linguistic Theory and Analysis I
T2	TA for LING314 Articulatory phonetics
2022-2023	
T1	TA for LING100 Intro to Language and Linguistics
T2	TA for LING314 Articulatory phonetics
Summer	TA for LING200 Linguistic Theory and Analysis I
2021-2022	
T1	TA for LING313 Introduction to Phonetics and Speech Science
T2	TA for LING100 Intro to Language and Linguistics
Summer	TA for LING200 Linguistic Theory and Analysis I

Research Mentorship Experience

June 2024 – Sep. 2024	Yuan, A. & Agama, D., Supervised on corpus audio processing, transcription correction, and forced-alignment quality control for the Mandarin-English bilingual interview (MELI) corpus.
Aug. 2022 – Feb. 2023	Al-Shami, J., Influence of lexical items on color perception. The Research EXperience program (REX) at UBC

Employment

Nov. 2022 – Jan. 2025	**UBC Language Sciences Institute**, Graduate Student Representative Organizing social events, organizing Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellow Research Day, connect departments and individuals doing language-related research
Sep. 2021 – Aug. 2024	**Language Latitudes: Expanding Our Understanding of Language Attitudes (SSHRC funded)**, Graduate Research Assistant Project Team: Dr. Amanda Cardoso, Dr. Molly Babel, Dr. Marie-Eve Bouchard, Dr. Erez Levon, Sarah Lafleur, Line Lloy Organizing three public events, one academic workshop, and workshop series in collaboration with the Vancouver Independent School for Science and Technology (VISST)
Aug. 2019 – Aug. 2020	**HERE North America, LLC**, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese Annotator
Aug. 2018 – Sep. 2018	**Perception Experiment of Hani Language**, Field Work Research Assistant Project Leads: Dr. Meng Yang, Dr. Megha Sundara, and Dr. Patricia Keating

Service

Aug. 2022 – Sep. 2024	**University of British Columbia, Linguistics Department**, Graduate Student Coordinator on Research Seminar and Colloquia series

Languages

Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Advanced, JLPT N1)

Computing

Python, R, LaTeX, `Praat`, C++