

Suyuan Liu

suyuan97@student.ubc.ca

Education

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2026 | Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Supervisor: Dr. Molly Babel Committee: Dr. Márton Sóskuthy, Dr. Jian Zhu, Dr. Alexis Black Dissertation: Where Ideology Meets the Signal: Language Standardness, Voice Similarity, and Intelligibility in Bilingual Speech Processing |
| 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

Language Corpus

| | |
|------|--|
| 2026 | Suyuan Liu and Molly Babel (2026), MELI: Mandarin-English Language Interview, Borealis, V1. DOI |
|------|--|

Manuscripts in progress

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 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. <i>Language and Speech</i> . |
| In prep | Suyuan Liu , Jian Zhu and Molly Babel. A comparison of English stop voicing classification between Transformer speech models and human listeners. |
| In prep | Suyuan Liu . Speech Intelligibility at the Interface of Ideology and Signal: Evidence from Standardness and Voice Similarity. |

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2026 | **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*. 159 (4): 3164–3180. DOI
- 2020 | Faytak, Matthew, **Suyuan Liu**, Megha Sundara. Nasal coda neutralization in Shanghai Mandarin: Articulatory and perceptual evidence. *Laboratory Phonology* 11(1), 23. DOI

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

- 2026 (to appear) | **Liu, S.** & Babel, M. (to appear). Rethinking “Standard Mandarin”. In University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics 32(2): Selected Papers from NWAV 53.
- 2026 | **Liu, S.** & Babel, M. (2026). Introducing MELI: The Mandarin-English Language Interview Corpus. In Proceedings of the Fifteenth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2026) (pp. 5896–5904). European Language Resources Association (ELRA). DOI
- 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 (pp. 2290-2294). 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

- 2026 | Awardee to the Language, Conflict, and Peacebuilding Writing Workshop, Linguistic Society of America, hosted by the University of Washington
- 2026 | Best talk at the Language Sciences Postdoctoral and Graduate Research Day, UBC
- 2025 | Excellence in Graduate Teaching Assistantship Award, Department of Linguistics, UBC
- 2025 | 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)

Grants, Honors and Awards (continued)

| | |
|------|--|
| 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

| | |
|------|---|
| 2026 | (Mis)Understanding and (Un)Intelligibility in Language: Implications for Conflict and Peacebuilding. Organized session moderated by Alicia Beckford Wassink, presented with Molly Babel at the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States. |
| 2025 | What is voice similarity? Natural Language Processing (NLP) seminar, National Research Council Canada, Canada. |
| 2024 | In Search of the Standard Mandarin Speaker. Phonetics, Phonology, and Psycholinguistics Forum, University of California, Berkeley, CA, United States. |
| 2021 | Nasal coda neutralization in Shanghai Mandarin: Articulatory and perceptual evidence. Linguistics Salon, Fudan University, Shanghai, China. |

Conference Posters and Presentations

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Aug. 2026 | Suyuan Liu. Why “Mandarin” Don’t Exist: The Diversity Behind a Singular Label. Methods in Dialectology and Language Diversity XIX (MethodsXIX), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. |
| June 2026 | Suyuan Liu and Molly Babel. Automatic Transcription for Corpus Phonetics: Evaluating Whisper on Mandarin–English Sociolinguistic Interviews. CorpusPhon, Montréal, Québec, Canada. (talk) |
| June 2026 | Suyuan Liu and Molly Babel. The Effects of Language Standardness and Voice Similarity on Bilingual Speech Intelligibility. LabPhon20, Montréal, Québec, Canada. (poster) |
| May 2026 | Suyuan Liu and Molly Babel. Introducing MELI: the Mandarin-English Language Interview Corpus. Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, Palma, Mallorca, Spain. (poster) |
| 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) |

Conference Presentations (continued)

- 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)
- 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/-/ij/ 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)

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 – June 2026 | Yuan, A., Agama, D., Li, J., and Ong, S. 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 |
| 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 |
| 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++

References

- Dr. Molly Babel** Professor, Department of Linguistics
University of British Columbia
2613 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4, Canada
Email: Molly.Babel@ubc.ca
- Dr. Márton Sós-kuthy** Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics
University of British Columbia
2613 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4, Canada
Email: marton.soskuthy@ubc.ca
- Dr. Yao Yao** Associate Professor, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
11 Yuk Choi Rd., Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR
Email: y.yao@polyu.edu.hk