Xuan Wang

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Academic Employment

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Northwestern University — August 2026–Present
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Neurodevelopmental Diversity Lab

Education

Aug.2021 – July.2026	**Ph.D.** in Linguistics	University of Kansas, USA
Jan.2023 – Present	**M.S.** in Computer Science	Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
Aug.2019 – May.2021	**M.A.** in Linguistic Studies	Syracuse University, USA
Sept.2017 – Aug.2018	**M.A.** in Applied Linguistics	Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
Sept.2015 – Sept.2016	**M.A.** in TESOL	University of Bath, UK
Sept.2011 – July.2015	**B.A.** in English Language & Literature	Beijing Language & Culture University, China

Research interests

Second Language Processing: Neural and cognitive mechanisms of language processing, individual differences and cross-linguistic transfer.

Language Development and Neurodevelopment: Language development, pragmatic language, and cross-linguistic variation, with a focus on autism and developmental language disorder.

Methods: EEG/ERPs, behavioral and standardized assessments, naturalistic language sampling, corpus analysis, and computational modeling.

Research Projects in Progress

Project 1 (Manuscript in prep): Examining the role of individual differences and syntactic constraints in the processing of reflexives in L1 and L2 English: an ERP investigation.

Project 2 (Manuscript in prep): Maternal input quality and early language outcomes in late talkers: A longitudinal analysis of lexical and syntactic development.

Project 3 (Data collection): An ERP study on Spanish-English bilinguals' processing of English reflexives.

Project 4 (Data collection) Questions under discussion and English-speaking children's quantifier spreading.

Peer-reviewed Publications

1. **Wang, X.**, Fiorentino, R., & Gabriele, A. (in press). Examining how lexical abilities impact the processing of grammatical dependencies in L1 and L2 English. *Language Learning*

2. Politzer-Ahles, S., Ozturhan, M., **Wang, X.**, Pavlyak, M. J., & Church, L. (under review). Long-lag morphological priming depends on form overlap.

3. **Wang, X.** & Minai, U. (in revision). Children's use of discourse cues to resolve ambiguity: A case study on Mandarin-speaking children's comprehension of ambiguous wh-adjuncts.

4. Goh, E., **Wang, X.**, Joyner, D., & Rusch, A (2026). Examining discourse in a large online education program: A machine-in-the-loop approach. In Proceedings of the 57th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE '26). ACM. https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3770762.3772514

5. **Wang, X.**, McMillen, S., & Shi, Y. (2025). The roles of L1 transfer, L2 exposure, and morphological salience in bilingual children's morpheme development. *Frontiers in Psychology* 16. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2025.1566442.

6. Goh, E., **Wang, X.**, Joyner, D., & Rusch, A. (2025). Public perceptions and communications of a large online graduate program. In *Proceedings of the 2025 IEEE Digital Education and MOOCs Conference (DEMOcon)*. IEEE. https://doi.org/10.1109/DEMOcon65705.2025.11282841

7. **Wang, X.** & Tragant, E. (2022). The effect of written text on comprehension of spoken English as a foreign language: A replication study. *International Review of Applied Linguistics in Language Teaching*. 60(3), 625-645. https://doi.org/10.1515/iral-2018-0350

8. **Wang, X.** (2020). L2 vocabulary learning motivation by Chinese EFL learners. In *Proceedings of ExLing 2020: 11th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics, Athens, Greece/Online: 12-14 October 2020*. ExLing Society. https://doi.org/10.36505/ExLing-2020/11/0054/000469

9. **Wang, X.** (2019). Review of *Conversation Analysis and Language Alternation* edited by Anna Filipi & Numa Markee (2018). In *Linguist List Book Review*.

Conferences presentations & talks

1. **Wang. X**; Fiorentino. R; Gabriele. A (2026) An ERP investigation of sensitivity to binding constraints in a second language: Evidence from Mandarin-speaking learners of English. To be presented at 2026 Boston University Conference on Language Development*2026* Nov 6-8, 2026
2. **Wang. X**; Fiorentino. R; Gabriele. A (2026) Examining the processing of reflexives in a second language: ERP Evidence from Mandarin-Speaking Learners of English. Presented at *2026 Bilingualism Forum* Oct 22-23, 2026
3. **Wang. X**; Gabriele. A; Fiorentino. R. (2025) Investigating sensitivity to binding constraints in L1 and L2 English using event-related potentials. Poster presented at *2025 Society for the Neurobiology of Language Meeting* September 12-14, 2025
4. **Wang, X**; Shi, Y (2025) Examining mother-child interaction input quality and its impact on late talkers' lexical and syntactic development. Poster presented at *Cognitive Science 2025 Conference* July 30–August 2, 2025
5. Minai, U; Nobuki, A; Ozturhan, M; **Wang, X**; Williams Osbuohien, L; Monteleone, A (2025) Probing discourse cues facilitating children's quantifier comprehension: the effectiveness of Question Under Discussion disambiguation. Poster presented at *Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting* May 1–3, 2025
6. **Wang, X** (2025) Children's use of discourse cues to resolve structural ambiguity: A case study on Mandarin-speaking children's comprehension of ambiguous wh-adjuncts. Invited talk at *Child Language Proseminar, University of Kansas* March 27, 2025
7. **Wang. X**; Gabriele. A; Fiorentino. R (2025) Examining sensitivity to subject-verb agreement in a second language (L2): An event-related potential (ERP) investigation. Poster presented at *2025 Cognitive Neuroscience Meeting* March 29-April 1, 2025
8. Politzer-Ahles, S; Ozturhan, M; **Wang, X**; Church, L (2025) Long-lag morphological priming depends on form overlap. Poster presented at *2025 Human Sentence Processing* University of Maryland, College Park, March 27-29, 2025
9. **Wang. X**; Gao. N; Shi. Y; Minai, U; (2024) The role of discourse in Mandarin-speaking children's comprehension of ambiguous wh-adjuncts. Poster presented at *2024 Boston University Conference on Language Development* November 7-10, 2024
10. **Wang. X**; Gabriele. A; Fiorentino. R. (2024) Examining sensitivity to binding constraints by L1 Chinese-speaking learners of English: an ERP study. Poster presented at *2024 Human Sentence Processing Conference* May 16-18, 2024
11. Politzer-Ahles. S; Özturhan, M; **Wang. X**; Church. L. (2024) Long-lag morphological priming depends on form overlap. Poster presented at *Highlights in the Language Sciences Conference 2024*. July 8-11, 2024
12. **Wang. X**; McMillen. S; Shi. Y. (2023) Cross-linguistic influences and morphological salience in bilingual children's morpheme acquisition. Paper presented at *2023 Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium* October 20-22, 2023
13. **Wang. X**; Shi. Y. (2023) A CHILDES study on cross-linguistic influences and morphological salience in bilingual children's morphological development. Paper presented at *Ninth Annual Symposium on Language Research at UC Davis* May 26, 2023
14. **Wang. X**. L2 vocabulary learning motivation self-regulation: A mixed-method study of advanced EFL Learners in China. Poster presented at *American Association for Applied Linguistics 2021* March 20-23, 2021
15. **Wang. X**. L2 vocabulary learning motivation by Chinese EFL learners. Paper presentation at *ExLing 2020: 11th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics* Athens, Greece/Online: 12-14 October 2020.

Teaching

LING 110 Language and Mind (Online, Instructor of Record)	University of Kansas
LING 110 Language and Mind (In person, Graduate Teaching Assistant)	University of Kansas
LING 325 Syntax 1 (In person, Graduate Teaching Assistant)	University of Kansas
LING 320 Language and Culture in Society (Online, Instructor of Record)	University of Kansas
CHI 101 Introductory Chinese (In person, Instructor of Record)	Syracuse University
CHI 102 Intermediate Chinese (In person, Instructor of Record)	Syracuse University
CHI 200 Conversation in Chinese (In person, Instructor of Record)	Syracuse University

Professional Services

Reviewer for the journal *Language Acquisition*
Reviewer for the journal *Glossa: Psycholinguistics*
Reviewer for the journal *Second Language Research*
Reviewer for *Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium 2025*
Reviewer for *Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2026*
Editor of *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*
Member of *KU Social Media Committee*
Ad hoc committee member of *KU Cognitive Science CIP Code Working Team*

Honors, Awards, & Grants

(External) Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant 2025	Language Learning journal
Frances Ingemann Research Grant	University of Kansas
Excellence in Teaching Award	University of Kansas
Applied Humanities Summer Fellows 2025	University of Kansas
Ph.D. full scholarship: Tuition + Stipend	University of Kansas
BUCLD 50 Paula Menyuk Award	Boston University
BUCLD 49 Paula Menyuk Award	Boston University
HSP Conference 2025 Travel Grant	University of Maryland
Travel Grant for 2023 Symposium on Language Research	UC Davis
Best Abstract Award in 2023 Symposium on Language Research	UC Davis
Outstanding M.A. Student	Syracuse University
Certificate in University Teaching	Syracuse University
Master full Scholarship: Tuition + Stipend	Syracuse University
GSO Travel Grant	Syracuse University
2020 CAS Summer Fellowship	Syracuse University

Skills & Languages

Data Collection: **Eye-tracking; EEG; Paradigm, PsychoPy; Gorilla**
Statistical Analysis: **RStudio; SPSS; Python**
Programming Languages: **Python; R; LaTeX; MATLAB; Java**
Natural Languages: **Mandarin; Cantonese; English (Advanced); Spanish (Beginner)**

Professional Membership

Society for the Neurobiology of Language
Cognitive Neuroscience Society
Linguistic Society of America
The Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Human Sentence Processing
American Association for Applied Linguistics