

Angela Xiaoxue He

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Research Assistant Professor
The Brain and Mind Institute
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
4F Hui Yeung Shing, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong

angelahe@cuhk.edu.hk
angelahe.axh@gmail.com
+852-39434715
<https://angelaxiaoxuehe.com/>

Positions

- 2019 Sept- Research Assistant Professor
The Brain and Mind Institute, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2018-2019 Postdoctoral Associate, Philosophy & Linguistics, University of Southern California
Supervisor: Alexis Wellwood
- 2015-2018 Postdoctoral Associate, Language & Hearing Sciences, Boston University
Supervisor: Sudha Arunachalam

Education

- 2009-2015 PhD in Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Academic advisor: Jeffrey Lidz
Dissertation: Verb Learning Under Guidance
Committee members: Jeffrey Lidz, Alexander Williams, Colin Phillips, Rochelle Newman
- 2004-2009 BA in Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
Academic advisor: Thomas Hun-tak Lee

Grants, Awards, & Fellowships

Grants

- 2020-2022 [Knowledge Transfer Project Fund*](#), PI
Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK\$400,000
Sleep to remember—Promoting early language development by making best use of sleep
*transferred to another PI due to job change
- 2016-2017 [Dudley Allen Sargent Research Fund Faculty/Postdoc Competition](#), PI
Boston University, \$5,000
Comprehension of first and second person pronouns in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Awards

- 2017 [Peter Jusczyk Best Paper Award from the Society of Language Development](#)
Winning paper titled *Verb Learning in 14- and 18-Month-Old English-Learning Infants*
- 2016 Travel Award for the 37th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders
- 2015 [Howard Lasnik Award](#) for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student
- 2014 Society for Language Development Student Award
- 2014 Graduate Travel Award, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland
- 2014 Jacob K Goldhaber Travel Award, Graduate School, University of Maryland
- 2014 International Conference Student Support Award, University of Maryland

Fellowships

- 2014 Graduate Teaching-Assistantship, Linguistics, University of Maryland
- 2009-2014 Graduate Fellowship, Linguistics, University of Maryland, \$20,000 each year
- 2011-2013 Language Science Fellowship, University of Maryland, \$5,000 each year
- 2005-2009 Scholarship, Chinese University of Hong Kong, \$10,000 each year

Publications

Refereed Journals

1. **He, A. X.**, Huang, S., Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, A. (2020). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. *Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104205>
2. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, & Farkas, H. F. (2019). Events and processes in language and mind. *Baltic Yearbook for Cognition, Logic, and Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.4148/1944-3676.1122>
3. **He, A. X.**, & Witternberg, E. (2019). The acquisition of event nominals and light verbs. *Language and Linguistics Compass*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lnc3.12363>
4. **He, A. X.**, Kon, M. & Arunachalam, S. (2019). Linguistic context in verb learning: Less is sometimes more. *Language Learning & Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2019.1676751>
5. de Carvalho A., **He A. X.**, Lidz J., & Christophe A. (2019). Prosody and function words cue the acquisition of word meanings in 18-month-old infants. *Psychological Science*, 30(3), 319-332. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797618814131>
6. **He, A. X.**, Luyster, R., Hong, S. J., & Arunachalam, S. (2018). Personal pronoun usage in maternal input to infants at high vs. low risk for autism spectrum disorder. *First Language*, 38(5), 520-537. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0142723718782634>
7. **He, A. X.** & Arunachalam, S. (2017). Word learning mechanisms. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews on Cognitive Science*, 8(4), e1435. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1435>
This paper has been recognized as a top 20 most read paper in Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science.
8. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (2017). Verb learning in 14- and 18-month-old English-learning infants. *Lan-*

guage Learning and Development, 13(3), 335-356. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2017.1285238>

This paper has won the [Peter Juszyk Best Paper Award](#).

9. Wellwood, A., & **He, A. X.** (under review). *Furniture* really counts.

Conference Proceedings

1. Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (2018). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. *Proceedings of the 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development*.

<http://www.lingref.com/buclid/42/BUCLD42-03.pdf>

2. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (2015). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium*. <https://repository.upenn.edu/pwpl/vol21/iss1/32/>

In Preparation

1. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. Event endstate conceptualization in infants and adults.

2. **He, A. X.**, & Wellwood, A. Learning is biased: "Most" is easy but "least" is hard

3. †Clancy, H. E., & **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. It's in your box. Can you find it? Personal pronoun comprehension in children with autism spectrum disorder.

Note: †student advisee

4. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & A. Williams. Representing entities as event participants in infancy.

5. Wellwood, A., Pietroski, P. & **He, A. X.**. Graded plurals and indeterminacy.

6. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. When a gorp is not an object: Learning nouns that denote events.

Invited Presentations

Brown Bag Meetings & Research Seminars

1. **He, A. X.** (May 2019). *Gleebest* of the *blicks* are doing a *gorp!* — Inferring word meanings from the syntax. Semantics Babble (<http://idiom.ucsd.edu/ivano/SemBabble/>), research group at University of California, San Diego.

2. **He, A. X.** (Apr 2019). How do young learners orient themselves in the word learning maze? Developmental Brown Bag, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

3. **He, A. X.** (Mar 2019). How do young children "decipher" the meanings of "tough words"? Research seminar at the Dept. of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China.

4. **He, A. X.** (Dec 2017). Tackling those tough words: acquisition of verbs, abstract nouns, and pronouns. Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences Colloquium Series, Boston University.

5. **He, A. X.** (Nov 2017). What do we learn from acquisition of "tough" words? – Bringing linguistic, cognitive and social development together. Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston University.

6. **He, A. X.** (May 2017). Towards optimal input: Information and processing load in verb learning. Communication Sciences & Disorders Research Day, Boston University.

7. **He, A. X.** (Apr 2016). The role of sentence parsing, event analysis, and their relation in verb learning. Language and Cognition workshop, Harvard University.

Internal Interdisciplinary Talks

1. **He, A. X.** (Apr 2019). Parse to learn while learning to parse: Verb learning and language processing in 3-year-olds. Language Processing Lab, PI: Elsi Kaiser, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Southern California.

2. **He, A. X.** (June 2015). Guided verb learning. Project on Child Development laboratory, PI: Sandra Waxman, Northwestern University.

3. **He, A. X.** (Oct 2013). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping of verb learning. Language Science Center, PI: Colin Phillips, University of Maryland.

Refereed Conference Presentations

Note: presenter, †student advisee

Talks

1. †Clancy, H., **He, A. X.**, Luyster, R., & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2019). “It’s in your box!”—Personal pronoun comprehension in children with ASD. The 44th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

2. Wellwood, A., Pietroski, P. & **He, A. X.** (July 2019). Graded plurals and indeterminacy. Society for Philosophy & Psychology annual meeting (SPP), University of California, San Diego.

3. Wellwood, A., & **He, A. X.** (June 2019). Evaluating comparatives with superordinate mass nouns. The Canadian Linguistics Association Annual Meeting (CLA-ACL), Vancouver BC.

4. †Clancy, H., **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Apr 2019). Personal pronoun comprehension in children with ASD. Linguistics and Cognitive Science Student Conference. Newark, DE.

5. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Nov 2018). Sleep consolidates syntactically-derived verb meanings in 2-year-olds. The 43rd Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

6. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Jan 2017). How much information is too much: Informativity and processing cost in verb learning. The 91st annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Austin, TX.

7. Perkins, L., **He, A. X.**, Williams, A., Dudley, R., Björnsdóttir, S. & Lidz, J. (Mar 2016). Can intransitive clauses name 2-participant events? A new test of participant-to-argument matching in verb learning. The 29th annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.

8. **He, A. X.**, & Lidz, J. (Jan 2016). What infants learn about a verb depends on its subject. The 90th annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), DC.

9. de Carvalho, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Christophe, A. (Nov 2015). 18-month-olds use the relationship between prosodic and syntactic structures to constrain the meaning of novel words. The 40th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

10. de Carvalho, A., **He, A. X.**, Dautrichel, I., Lidz, J. & Christophe, A. (Sept 2015). Phrasal prosody helps infants to access the syntactic structure of sentences and to constrain the acquisition of novel

word meanings. Workshop on the role of prosody in early speech perception, the 12th Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition conference (GALA), Nantes, France.

11. **He, A. X.**, & Lidz, J. (Nov 2014). Development of the verb-event link between 14 and 18 months. The 39th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

12. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (May 2014). Thematic interpretation and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 22nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) & the 26th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL), College Park, MD.

13. Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Mar 2014). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. The 38th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), Philadelphia, PA.

Symposium Talks

1. Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (Nov 2017). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. Paper at the 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston University, Boston, MA. In the Sunday Closing Symposium titled "Event Concepts and Early word learning"; Chairs: Jeffrey Lidz & Alexander Williams.

2. **He, A. X.**, Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, S., (Oct 2017). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. Paper at the 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR. In the symposium titled "Memory consolidation and learning across early childhood"; Chair: **Angela Xiaoxue He**.

3. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (July 2017). How we conceptualize the ends of events (and what it might mean for verb acquisition). Paper at the 14th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL). Lyon, France. In the symposium titled "Encoding Events in Language and Cognition"; Chair: Ercenur Ünal.

4. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (May 2016). When one cue is better than two: trade-off between processing load and informativity in verb learning and verb extension tasks. Paper at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA. In the symposium titled "How real-time processing abilities affect the trajectory of language acquisition"; Chair: Sudha Arunachalam.

5. de Carvalho, A., Dautriche, I., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J., Christophe, A. (May 2016). The acquisition of word meanings: interactions between parsing and learning. Paper at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA. In the symposium titled "How real-time processing abilities affect the trajectory of language acquisition"; Chair: Sudha Arunachalam.

6. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). When participant structure and argument structure do not match: Participant structure construction in adults and prelinguistic infants. Paper at the 13th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In the symposium titled "The Role of Grammar and Extralinguistic Cognition in Verb Learning"; Chair: **Angela Xiaoxue He**.

Posters

1. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2019). Can you do a "gorp" for five minutes? Learning nouns that denote event concepts. The 2nd International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-2), Beijing, China.

2. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (June-July 2018). Exploring the conceptual origin of a linguistic behavior: Event endstate representation in infancy. The XXI ICIS Biennial Congress, Philadelphia, PA.

3. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2018). Verb learning mediated by sentence processing—understanding both the learning process and the learning outcome. The 31st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
4. Williams, A., Perkins, L., **He, A. X.**, Björnsdóttir, S., & Lidz, J. (Nov 2017). A new test of one-to-one matching between arguments and participants in verb learning. The 42th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA.
5. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Oct 2017). Eye gaze reveals where verb learners trip. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.
6. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Oct 2017). Event nominal acquisition benefits from linguistic context. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, OR.
7. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Aug 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.
8. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). How much information is too much when introducing new verbs: Insights from typically-developing 3-year-olds. The 37th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
9. **He, A. X.**, Kim, N., Hong, S. J., Luyster, R. & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). Pronouns in maternal input to infants at high- vs. low-risk for autism spectrum disorder. The 37th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
10. **He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 29th annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.
11. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic interpretations and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.
12. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). Verb learning and the perception of three-participant events in infants and adults. Poster presented at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.
13. **He, A. X.**, Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic role assignment in resultative constructions in English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 13th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
14. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Jan 2014). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 88th annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Minneapolis, MN.
15. **He, A. X.**, Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Nov 2013). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: a prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.
16. **He, A. X.** & Lidz, J. (Nov 2011). Mapping intransitive verbs onto self-propelled actions. The 36th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, MA.

Peer Review Activity

Book Sections

Semantics in Language Acquisition in Trends in Language Acquisition Research

2016

Journals

Canadian Journal of Linguistics	2018
Child Development	2019
First Language	2019
Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics	2017, 2019
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology	2015
Language	2020
Language, Cognition and Neuroscience	2016
Language Learning and Development	2018
Natural Language & Linguistic Theory	2018
PLOS ONE	2017

Conferences

BUCLD: Boston University Conference on Language Development	2016-2020
CUNY: CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure	2015
CSS: Cognitive Science Society Meeting	2016-2019
IASCL: International Association for the Study of Child Language	2020

Other Research Experience

2012-2015	Graduate student trainee, Language and Music Cognition Lab, University of Maryland Supervisor: Bob Slevc
2009	Research Assistant, Childhood Bilingualism Research Center, Chinese University of Hong Kong Supervisors: Virginia Choi-yin Yip & Angel Chan
2009	Research Assistant, Language Acquisition Lab, Chinese University of Hong Kong Supervisor: Thomas Hun-tak Lee

Teaching

Instructor

Spring 2018	SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required), Boston University
Spring 2017	SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required), Boston University
Spring 2016	SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required), Boston University

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2015	LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland
Fall 2014	LING444: Child Language Acquisition, Prof. J. Lidz, University of Maryland
Spring 2013	LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland
Fall 2012	LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland
Spring 2012	LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland
Fall 2011	LING444: Child Language, Prof. J. Lidz, University of Maryland
Spring 2011	LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. T. Blears, University of Maryland
Fall 2010	LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. M. Antonisse, University of Maryland

Guest Lecturer

Fall 2019	LING6920: Topics in Language Acquisition, Prof. V. Yip, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Fall 2019	LING4201: Neurolinguistics, Prof. G. Feng, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Lab/Workshop Consultant

Spring 2019	PHIL246: Foundations of Cognitive Science, Prof. A. Wellwood, University of Southern California <i>Note: provided consulting for lab sections on experimental methods</i>
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Mentoring

*Note: *students who further pursued academic or related career*

Master Student Supervision

Fall 2019	<i>Lan Zhang</i> at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
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Undergraduate Thesis Supervision

2019-2020	<i>MeiLam Ho</i> at the Chinese University of Hong Kong <i>Gender differences in the interpretation of sentence-final particles in Cantonese</i>
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Professional Affiliations & Service

Memberships

2015-Pres.	Cognitive Development Society (CDS)
2014-Pres.	Society for Language Development (SLD)
2014-Pres.	International Congress for the Study of the Child Language (IASCL)
2014-Pres.	International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL)
2014-Pres.	International Congress on Infant Studies (ICIS)
2013-Pres.	Cognitive Science Society (CSS)

2012-Pres. Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

Academic Event Organizer

2012 Lead Organizer
Language Science Day*, University of Maryland, College Park
Note: *annual social and scientific event of the language science community on campus

Internal Committees

2012-2013 IGERT* Student Executive Committee, member
Note: *NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program on Biological and Computational Bases of Language Science

2012-2013 Philosophy and Linguistics Group (PHLING), member

2011-2012 Department of Linguistics Grad Student Association, student representative

2011 IGERT Lunch Talk Series & Social Events Committee, member

Outreach

2017-2019 Founder and contributing author of the WeChat* special column [Cognitive Science**](#)
Note: *widely used social media in China
Note: **disseminates cognitive science-related knowledge to general public; updated weekly

2011 Contributor to Infant and Child Studies Tent @ Maryland Day*
Note: *all-day event to expose the public to linguistic and cognitive science

2010 Contributor to High School Outreach*, Language Science Center, University of Maryland
Note: *event where we host visits to the UMD campus and the language science labs from several local high schools

Skills

Languages

Mandarin (native), English (advanced), Cantonese (intermediate), French (beginner), ASL (beginner)

Programming Languages

R, HTML5/CSS, LaTeX, Unix/Shell, JavaScript

Experiment-related techniques

Habituation-Switch program, Tobii Eyetracker, Amazon mTurk, Qualtrics, Psyscope, Praat, FinalCut, GIMP