

Zhuang Qiu

Assistant Professor, Academy of Language and Culture, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
Hong Kong Baptist University

zhuangqiu@hkbu.edu.hk

[Personal Website](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [ORCID](#) | Phone: +852 34115204 | Hong Kong SAR

Research Interests

I am a computational psycholinguist who studies how people and large language models represent, process, and communicate linguistic meaning, with particular attention to uncertainty, pragmatic inference, and grammatical knowledge. My research combines behavioral experiments, eye tracking, psychometrics, and computational modeling, and applies these approaches to bilingual comprehension and second-language assessment.

Positions & Appointments

2026–Present	Assistant Professor Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Hong Kong Baptist University	Hong Kong SAR
2024–2026	Assistant Professor Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, City University of Macau	Macau SAR
2022–2024	Postdoctoral Fellow Language Processing Lab, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
2016–2022	Associate Instructor/Teaching Assistant Department of Linguistics/Psychology, University of California, Davis	Davis, US
2014–2015	Instructor School of Foreign Languages, Peking University	Beijing, China

Education

2018–2022	Ph.D. Linguistics University of California, Davis	Davis, US <i>Dissertation:</i> Processing Nested Epistemic Expressions
2019–2021	M.A. Psychology University of California, Davis	Davis, US <i>Thesis:</i> Syntactic Prediction in Language Processing
2016–2018	M.A. Linguistics University of California, Davis	Davis, US <i>Thesis:</i> Processing Nested Epistemic Vocabulary: Epistemic Strength and the Order of Embedding
2013–2016	M.A. Linguistics and Applied Linguistics in Foreign Languages Peking University	Beijing, China <i>Thesis:</i> Capturing Poe in the Gothic Tales—Exploring Allan Poe’s Stylistic Distinctiveness from a Computational Stylistic Approach

2009–2013 B.A. English
Chongqing University Chongqing, China
Exchange Program at Newcastle University, UK, 2011-2012

Teaching Experience

2025 Spring Multimodality and Literacies: AI Literacy
City University of Macau Macau SAR

2024 Fall English Reading and Writing
City University of Macau Macau SAR

2022 Spring Cognitive Psychology
University of California, Davis USA

2022 Winter Semantics
University of California, Davis USA

2021 Fall Languages of the World
University of California, Davis USA

2020 Winter Introduction to Psycholinguistics
University of California, Davis USA

2020 Summer Introduction to Linguistics
University of California, Davis USA

2020 Spring Typology
University of California, Davis USA

2016–2019 Introduction to Linguistics
University of California, Davis USA

2014–2016 College English
Peking University PRC

Awards and Honors

2022 Nancy Webb Scholarship
University of California, Davis USA

2022 Grad Studies Block Grant
University of California, Davis USA

2020 Steven G. Lapointe Award
University of California, Davis USA

2010 China National Scholarship
The State Council of China China

Grants

Research Committee Direct Grants

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Co-Investigator)

Utilizing Large Language Models in Second Language English Proficiency Assessment

March 2024 – February 2025

Amount: HKD 100,000

Barbara Kwok Young Postdoctoral Researcher Travel Grants

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (PI)

Task Variation in Scalar Implicature Computation.

July 2023

Amount: HKD 23,000

Publications**Published**

1. Liu, J., Qiu, Z., & Lin, M. Y. (2026). Integrating GenAI with genre-based pedagogy and the PAA model in a college writing course: Enhancing critical engagement in an AI-mediated learning ecology, *Linguistics and Education*. Volume 92, 101487. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.linged.2025.101487>
2. Chen, C., Qiu, Z., & Cai, Z. (2026). Automated Scoring of L2 English Speaking Proficiency with Multimodal LLMs. In *2026 8th International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICNLP 2026)*. 450-454. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/11527899>
3. Qiu, Z. (2025). Defining a tricycle: Critical interaction with AI through intercultural lenses. In F. Dervin & H. R'boul (Eds.), *Lingua ex machina: AI, multilingualism, and interculturality*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003684411-9>
4. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. G. (2025). Grammaticality representation in ChatGPT as compared to linguists and laypeople *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 12(1), 1-15. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-025-04907-8>
5. Qiu, Z., Felton, C., Houghton, Z., & Jasbi, M. (2025). Experimental Paradigms on Scalar Implicature Estimation. *Experiments in Linguistic Meaning*, 3, 308-318. <https://journals.linguisticsociety.org/proceedings/index.php/ELM/article/view/5807>
6. Qiu, Z. (2025). From Perception to Communication: A Theory of Types for Action and Meaning by Robin Cooper. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 235, 112-114. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378216624002121>
7. Buchanan, E. M., Cuccolo, K., Heyman, T., et al. (2025). Measuring the semantic priming effect across many languages. *Nature Human Behaviour*. [Contributing author: Z. Qiu, listed among other co-authors]. 182–201. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-025-02254-x>
8. Yao, Y., & Qiu, Z. (2025). Do Multimodal Large Language Models Have “Good Taste”? An Evaluation of MLLMs via the Visual Aesthetic Sensitivity Test. In *Proceedings of the 39th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation*, Association for Computational Linguistics. 413–418. <https://aclanthology.org/2025.paclic-1.37/>
9. Qiu, Z., Yan, P., & Cai, Z. (2024). Large Language Models For Second Language English Writing Assessments: An Exploratory Comparison. In *Proceedings of the 38th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation*, Association for Computational Linguistics. 363-370. <https://aclanthology.org/2024.paclic-1.36.pdf>
10. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (2024). Evaluating Grammatical Well-Formedness in Large Language Models: A Comparative Study with Human Judgments. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics*, Association for Computational Linguistics. 189-198. <https://aclanthology.org/2024.cmlc-1.18.pdf>

[tps://aclanthology.org/2024.cmcl-1.16/](https://aclanthology.org/2024.cmcl-1.16/)

11. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (2023). Does ChatGPT Resemble Humans in Processing Implicatures? In *Proceedings of the 4th Natural Logic Meets Machine Learning Workshop*, Association for Computational Linguistics. 25-34. <https://aclanthology.org/2023.naloma-1.3/>
12. Qiu, Z., & Ferreira, F. (2022). “He May Certainly Have Forgotten”: Processing of Nested Epistemic Expressions. *Discourse Processes*. 591-618. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0163853X.2022.2077064>
13. Ferreira, F., & Qiu, Z. (2021). Predicting syntactic structure. *Brain Research*, 1770, 147632. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brainres.2021.147632>
14. Qiu, Z., & Su, Q. (2014). “Guo1” and “Guo2” in Chinese Temporal System. In *Proceedings of the 28th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation*, Association for Computational Linguistics. 568-574. <https://aclanthology.org/Y14-1065.pdf>

Under Review

- Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (Under review). Contextual Flexibility in Pragmatic Implicature Processing: Comparing Humans and ChatGPT, *Language & Cognition*.

Presentations

Invited Talks

1. Qiu, Z. (2026, Mar). *Large Language Models for Second Language English Writing Assessment: Prompt Engineering versus Fine-Tuning*. Invited talk at the 8th International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICNLP 2026).

Conference Talks

1. Chen, C., Qiu, Z., & Cai, Z. (2026, Mar). Automated Scoring of L2 English Speaking Proficiency with Multimodal LLMs. 2026 8th International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICNLP 2026).
2. Xu, Z., Qiu, Z., Langsford, S., & Cai, Z. (2026 Mar). Measuring Orthographic Retrieval Failure in Children: A Cross-Validated 30-Item Test of Chinese Character Amnesia. 39th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 2026)
3. Yao, Y., & Qiu, Z. (2025, Dec). Do Multimodal Large Language Models Have “Good Taste”? An Evaluation of MLLMs via the Visual Aesthetic Sensitivity Test. 39th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information, and Computation (PACLIC 2025).
4. Qiu, Z., Yan, P., & Cai, Z. (2024, Dec). Large Language Models For Second Language English Writing Assessments: An Exploratory Comparison. 38th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information, and Computation (PACLIC 2024).
5. Qiu, Z., Felton, C., Houghton, Z., & Jasbi, M. (2024, Jun). The Effect of Experimental Paradigms on Scalar Implicature Estimation. 3rd Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) Conference. Online Short Talk.
6. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (2023, Jun). Processing Implicatures in ChatGPT: A Pragmatic Turing Test. Natural Logic Meets Machine Learning Workshop, 15th International Conference on Computational Semantics.
7. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (2023, Jun). Does ChatGPT Resemble Humans in Judgements of Grammatical Acceptability? CogSci 2023 Hong Kong Meetup & Workshop.

8. Chu, J., Zhou, S., Qiu, Z., & Salinas, M. (2022, May). Lying with Implicatures: The Differences Between Truth and Lies in Children. 8th Annual UC Davis Symposium on Language Research.
9. Qiu, Z. (2018, May). A Study on the Epistemic Strength of Nested Epistemic Vocabulary. 5th Annual UC Davis Symposium on Language Research.
10. Qiu, Z., & Su, Q. (2017, Jul). Capturing Poe in the Gothic Tales—Exploring Allan Poe’s Stylistic Distinctiveness from Computational Stylistic Approach. Corpus Linguistics International Conference 2017.
11. Qiu, Z., & Su, Q. (2014, Dec). “Guo1” and “Guo2” in Chinese Temporal System. 28th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC 2014).

Poster Presentations

1. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (2024, May). Do Large Language Models Resemble Humans in Grammaticality Judgement? The 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
2. Qiu, Z., Felton, C., Houghton, Z., & Jasbi, M. (2024, Jan). Experimental Paradigms Influence Scalar Implicature Estimation. The 6th California Meeting on Psycholinguistics.
3. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., & Cai, Z. (2023, Dec). Examining ChatGPT’s Grammatical Intuition: Convergence with Linguistic Experts and Laypeople. Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Asia 2023 (AMLaP Asia 2023).
4. Qiu, Z., Duan, X., Cai, Z., & Zhao, N. (2023, Sep). Pragmatic Implicature Processing in ChatGPT. Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2023 (AMLaP 29).
5. Qiu, Z., Felton, C., Houghton, Z., & Jasbi, M. (2023, Jul). Task Variation in Scalar Implicature Computation. The 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
6. Qiu, Z., Ferreira, F., & Morgan, E. (2023, Mar). Epistemic Modals and Evidential Parentheticals Interact in Language Comprehension. The 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
7. Rehrig, G., Barker, M., Cotter, B., Liu, Z., Qiu, Z., & Ferreira, F. (2022, Mar). Trade-offs Between Memory Retrieval and Planning in Language Production. The 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
8. Ferreira, F., Rehrig, G., Barker, M., Beier, E., Chantavaran, S., Cotter, B., Qiu, Z., Lowder, M., & Karimi, H. (2021, Mar). Back to the Future: Do Influential Results from 1980s Psycholinguistics Replicate? The 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
9. Qiu, Z., & Ferreira, F. (2020, Mar). “He May Certainly Have Forgotten”: The Processing of Nested Epistemic Expressions. The 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Professional Service

Editorial Boards

- 2026 Editorial Board Member, Springer book series on AI, Intercultural Communication, and Education.

Program Committee

- 2026 International Program Committee (Technical Committee Member), 8th International Conference on Natural Language Processing, ICNLP 2026.

Peer Review*Journals*

2026 Jan	Journal of Pragmatics
2025 May	Information Processing and Management
2025 Jan	Applied Psycholinguistics
2024 Jul	Journal of Memory and Language
2023 Dec	Language and Cognition

Conferences

2026 July	The 60th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-60)
2026 Mar	8th International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICNLP 2026)
2024 May	Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP 2024)
2024 Feb	37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 2024)
2023 Nov	California Meeting on Psycholinguistics
2023 Jun	Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Asia (AMLaP Asia 2023)

Skills

Data Science	Corpus analysis, stylometry, data wrangling, visualization, and statistical modeling using frequentist or Bayesian approach
Programming	R (advanced statistical techniques); Python (NLP tasks); LaTeX/Overleaf
Psychometrics	Designing, conducting, and evaluating surveys and assessments
Eye Tracking	Extensive experience conducting experiments using eye-tracking methods
Languages	Native speaker of Mandarin Chinese and near-native English (highly proficient)

References

Available upon request.