

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Boer Fu**

MIT Linguistics and Philosophy  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, 32-D970  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
E-mail: [boerfu@mit.edu](mailto:boerfu@mit.edu)  
Website: [www.fuboer.net](http://www.fuboer.net)

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Phonology, phonetics, experimental phonology, Mandarin Chinese

**EDUCATION**

- 2017-2023    Ph.D. in Linguistics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Dissertation: Uncovering Mandarin Speaker Knowledge with Language Game Experiments
- 2013-2017    B.A. in Linguistics (*cum laude*)  
University of California, Los Angeles
- Honors thesis: Khalkha Mongolian vowel harmony: An optimality theoretic analysis.

**PAPERS**

- To appear    UR underlearning of Mandarin tone 3 sandhi words. Proceedings of CLS 58: The 58th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society. [[pdf](#)]
- 2023    The segment status of the Mandarin glide: A language game experiment. Proceedings of the 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology. DOI: <https://journals.linguisticsociety.org/proceedings/index.php/amphonology/article/view/5449>
- 2022    Contrast preservation in Mandarin r-suffixation: A comparative study of Beijing and Liaoning dialects. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 7(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.5801>
- 2021    Negative yes/no questions in Mandarin: Evidence for VERUM. Generals paper, MIT. [[pdf](#)]
- 2017    Welsh vowel mutation: A new optimality theoretic analysis. ms., MIT. [[pdf](#)]
- 2016    Khalkha Mongolian vowel harmony: An optimality theoretic analysis. Honors thesis, UCLA. [[pdf](#)]

**PRESENTATIONS**

- 2023 Variation in Mandarin prenuclear glide segmentation? Talk at the 13<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL), Taipei, Taiwan. [[pdf](#)]
- 2023 Variation in Mandarin prenuclear glide segmentation. Talk at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS), Chicago, IL, United States. [[pdf](#)]
- 2022 The segment status of the Mandarin glide: A language game experiment. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2022, Los Angeles, United States. [[pdf](#)]
- 2022 The size of morphemes in Mandarin: Perspectives from tonal UR learning. Talk at the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), Stanford, United States (virtual). [[pdf](#)]
- 2022 UR underlearning of Mandarin tone 3 sandhi words. Talk at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS), Chicago, IL, United States. [[pdf](#)]
- 2022 Prenuclear glide in Mandarin Chinese: Is it a segment? Poster presentation at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), Washington, D.C., United States. [[pdf](#)]
- 2022 Prosodic evidence for syntax in biased questions in Mandarin. Poster presentation at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), Washington, D.C., United States. With Danfeng Wu. [[pdf](#)]
- 2022 Numeral allomorphy of ‘one’ and ‘two’ in Mandarin Chinese. Poster presentation at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), Washington, D.C., United States. With Danfeng Wu. [[pdf](#)]
- 2021 Negation scoping and focus in Mandarin biased questions: A VERUM account. Talk at the 2021 Annual Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS) 2021, Freiburg, Germany (virtual). [[pdf](#)]
- 2019 Contrast preservation in Mandarin r-suffixation. Poster presentation at Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM) 27. Manchester, United Kingdom. [[pdf](#)]
- 2016 “Successful verb” marker *zhao* in northern Mandarin Chinese: Passive sentence construction. Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (SCULC) 2016, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

**TEACHING**

- Fall 2021 Teaching assistant, 24.901 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology. [Undergraduate course]  
Instructor: Donca Steriade
- Fall 2019 Teaching assistant, 24.961 Introduction to Phonology.

[Graduate course]  
Instructors: Edward Flemming, Michael Kenstowicz

Spring 2019 Teaching assistant, 24.9000 How Language works.  
[Undergraduate course]  
Instructor: Kai von Fintel

## FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2019 Obermayer Prize for Writing on the History of Innovation  
*A competition for MIT graduate students to write for the general public on the history of an innovation. My winning entry is a piece on the history of the London Underground and the Boston subway.* [\[link\]](#)  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2017 Departmental Honors  
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2017 Undergraduate Research Fellows Program  
University of California Los, Angeles
- 2015 Kurnitz Writing Award, Third Place  
*A writing competition for international students at UCLA. My winning entry is a short Kafkaesque story titled "A Flight to New York".*  
University of California, Los Angeles

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

- 2015-2016 UCLA Speaker Variability Database  
Supervisor: Patricia Keating  
University of California, Los Angeles

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2020 Linguistics graduate student representative  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2019-2020 Co-organizer, MIT Phonology Circle  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2019 Student co-organizer, NELS 50  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2018-2019 Co-organizer, MIT Ling-Lunch  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2016 Co-organizer, Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference  
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2015 Volunteer, North America Conference on Chinese Linguistics 27  
University of California, Los Angeles

**NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

- 2023-           Vocabulary Author, Data Scientist Associate Sr., JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
                  Brooklyn, NY
- 2016            Intern, Scottish Parliament  
                  Edinburgh, UK
- 2016            News Writer, Department of Electrical Engineering  
                  University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014            Intern, Great Sports Radio  
                  Shanghai, China
- 2014            Teacher, New Oriental Education & Technology Group  
                  Shanghai, China

**LANGUAGES**

Native:         Mandarin Chinese  
Near-native:   English, Shanghainese  
Intermediate:  French, Spanish

**COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS**

Python, R, Praat, PCibex, LaTeX, RDF, SPARQL

*Last updated: December 2023*