

Curriculum Vitae
Boer Fu

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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

- 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 UR underlearning of Mandarin tone 3 sandhi words. Proceedings of CLS 58: The 58th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society. [[pdf](#)]
- 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

- 2024 Tone-tune alignment in Mandarin pop music. Poster presentation at Expression, Language, and Music (ELM) 2, Storrs, CT, United States. [[pdf](#)]
- 2023 Variation in Mandarin prenuclear glide segmentation? Talk at the 13rd Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL), Taipei, Taiwan. [[pdf](#)]
- 2023 Variation in Mandarin prenuclear glide segmentation. Talk at the 59th 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 40th 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 58th 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 96th 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 96th 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 96th 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, SQL, Praat, PCIBex, LaTeX, RDF, SPARQL

Last updated: January 2025