

Jun Chen

Curriculum Vitae

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Updated on May 2025

Education

University of Stuttgart, Germany

Postdoctoral researcher, Linguistics

Defended on September 1, 2023

October 2017- October 2023

Thesis Title:

On *shi* and *de* in Mandarin: clefts and beyond

Supervisor: Professor Dr. Daniel Hole

Second Supervisor: Professor Dr. Edgar Onea

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS)
Summer School

August 2019

Yale University

M.A., Linguistics

September 2015-June 2017

Linguistic Society of America (LSA)
Summer Institute

July 2015

State University of New York at Buffalo

B.A., Linguistics (Honors)

September 2011-June 2015

Honors Thesis:

Relative Discourse Prominence Correlates with Semantic Change: Evidence from Chinese

Supervisor: Professor Dr. Jürgen Bohnemeyer

State University of New York at Buffalo

B.S., Economics

September 2010-May 2014

State University of New York at Buffalo

B.A., Finance

September 2010-May 2014

Peer-reviewed articles (6 accepted/published, 1 under revision, 1 under review)

Under review:

1. **Jun Chen**, Daniel Hole. *De does not contribute to the exhaustivity of Mandarin cleft.*
2. Dawei Jin, **Jun Chen**. *Wide scope and interpretation of why: Experiment evidence for causal interrogatives.* [Under revision]

- **Jun Chen**, Daniel Hole. *De outside the cleft: Not what you expected*. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*. [Accepted, awaiting publication]
- **Jun Chen**, Sean Papay. (2023). Sentence-final particle *de* in Mandarin as an informativity maximizer. In A. Pavlova, M. Pedersen, R. Bernardi (Eds.) *Selected Reflections in Language, Logic, and Information*, LNCS, Vol. 14354. 24–43. Springer.
- Dawei Jin, **Jun Chen**. (2022). Towards the copular status of clefts– Evidence from diachrony. *Acta Linguistica Academica* Vol. 69: Issue 3. 301–333. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Dawei Jin, **Jun Chen**. (2019). Meaning change from superlatives to definite descriptions. In collection of M. Cennamo and C. Fabrizio (Eds.) *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory: Selected papers from the 22nd International Conference on Historical Linguistics*. Vol. 348. 479–500. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Dawei Jin, **Jun Chen**. (2019). Scalarity, degree reading, and maximality in a Mandarin numeral construction. *Language and Linguistics* Vol. 20: Issue 2. 148–179. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- **Jun Chen**, Dawei Jin. (2018). Meaning Change in Mandarin Chinese: A Numeral Phrase Construction from Adjectives to Superlatives to Definite Descriptions. *Linguistics*, Vol. 56: Issue 3, 599–651. Berlin: de Gruyter.

Invited talks

- 2024. ‘De outside the cleft: An evidential operator in the C domain’. Chinese Linguistics in Leiden, Institute of Area Studies, Leiden University.
- 2024. ‘Exhaustivity from *wh*-questions and *it*-clefts—are they (really not) related?’ Syntax-Semantics Colloquium, Department of Linguistics, University of Potsdam.

Books

- Dawei Jin, **Jun Chen**. (2022). Copula in focus constructions - A case study of syntactic change in historical Chinese. Shanghai: Zhongxi Shuju.

Proceeding papers (7 in total)

- **Jun Chen**, Dawei Jin. (2025). Clefts can address *wh*-questions in referential anchoring contexts. In D. Panizza and F. Longo (Eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung*. Vol. 29. Sicily.
- **Jun Chen**, Sean Papay. (2021). Sentence-final particle *de* in Mandarin as an informativity maximizer. In D. Gutzmann and S. Repp (Eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung*. Vol. 26. Cologne.
- **Jun Chen**, Dawei Jin. (2021). Towards the biclausal status of Chinese clefts: Evidence from diachrony. In J. Benz and Y. Chen (Eds.) *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics (PWPL)* Vol. 28: Issue 1.
- **Jun Chen**, Sean Papay. (2021). Sentence-final *de* in Mandarin as an informativity maximizer.

In M. Y. Pedersen and A. Pavlova (Eds.) *Proceedings of 32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI) 2021 Student Session*. 75-83.

• **Jun Chen.** (2017). Towards a copular approach to Chinese clefts—Evidence from diachronic syntax. *Proceedings of 29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI) 2017 Student Session*.

• **Jun Chen.** (2017). Meaning Change from Superlatives to Definite Descriptions: A Semantic Perspective. In J. Kantarovich, T. Truong, and O. Xherija (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Chicago Linguistics Society* 52. 117-131.

• **Jun Chen.** (2016). Discourse Prominence Induces Semantic Change: Evidence from Chinese, In S. Cho (Eds.) *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*: Vol. 22: Issue 1, Article 9.

Awards

- ESSLLI 2017 Student Grant
- Linguistic Association of Great Britain (LAGB) 2017 Bursary
- Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Summer Institute 2015 Fellowship
- University at Buffalo Undergraduate Research Excellence Award

Conference Presentations (22 in total)

• **Clefts can address *wh*-questions in referential anchoring contexts**
Sinn und Bedeutung 29, Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale, Italy, September 17-19, 2024

• **Reassessing the argument-adjunct asymmetry in *wh*-in-situ islands in Mandarin: An experimental investigation**
Theoretical East Asian Linguistics workshop, Taipei, May 16-18, 2023

• **Complex NP island effects are stronger in *why*-questions: An experimental study**
Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB), Annual Meeting, United Kingdom, September 6-9, 2021

• **Sentence-final particle *de* in Mandarin as an informativity maximizer**
Sinn und Bedeutung 26, University of Cologne, Germany, September 08-10, 2021

• **Sentence-final *de* in Mandarin as an informativity maximizer**
Student Session of 32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI) August, 4-6, 2021

• **The Mandarin Chinese *shi...de* construction: Its syntax, semantics and division of labor**
Kleinwalsertal Retreat, SFB 732: Incremental Specification in Context Integrated Research Training Group, University of Stuttgart, Germany, July 01-02, 2021

• **Towards the biclausal status of Chinese clefts: Evidence from diachrony**
Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC) 45, University of Pennsylvania, Mar. 19-21, 2021.

• **Sentence-final *de* does not contribute to cleft exhaustivity in Mandarin Chinese**
Focus Alternatives: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives (FATEP), Humboldt University, Berlin,

Germany, Feb. 22-23, 2020

- **Toward the copular status of Chinese clefts– Evidence from diachronic syntax**

The 12th International Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL-12), University of Macau, China, Jul. 9-10, 2019

- **Locus of the exhaustiveness reading in Chinese cleft sentences**

Exhaustivity in Questions and Answers - Experimental and theoretical approaches, Tübingen University, Germany, 13.-14. June 2019

- **Experimental Investigation of cleft exhaustivity**

Retreat for Students in Semantics and Pragmatics (ReSSP 2018). Olot, Spain, 5-7 October 2018

- **An experimental investigation of exhaustivity and its trigger in Mandarin focus constructions**

Kleinwalsertal Retreat, SFB 732: Incremental Specification in Context Integrated Research Training Group, University of Stuttgart, Germany, June 14-16, 2018

- **Copula and cleft constructions in ancient Chinese– A case study of the diachronic development of three copulas**

Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB), Annual Meeting, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, September 4-7, 2017

- **Towards a copular approach to Chinese clefts—Evidence from diachronic syntax.**

2017 European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI) Student Session, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France, July 17-28, 2017

- **Toward a presuppositional account of the Cantonese cleft construction**

25th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL 25), Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, June 25- 27, 2017

- **Negative Islands and Indefinite Constraints on Mandarin Chinese Sentence-Final *Le***
the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) Annual Conference, Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China, July 17-19, 2016

- **Meaning Change from Superlatives to Definite Descriptions: A Semantic Perspective**

Chicago Linguistics Society 52, April 21-23, 2016

- **Formal Semantics Meets Grammaticalization: A compositional account of the meaning change in Chinese quantificational NP (Cancelled)**

the 9th Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL 9), University of Stuttgart, Germany, September 24-26, 2015

- **Discourse Prominence and Semantic Bleaching: A functional explanation of the superlative-definiteness pathway in Chinese**

the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) Annual Conference, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea Republic, August, 2015

- **Discourse Prominence and Semantic Bleaching: A functional explanation of the superlative-definiteness pathway in Chinese**

International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL), University of Naples, Naples, July 2015

- **Discourse Prominence and Semantic Bleaching: A functional explanation of the superlative-definiteness pathway in Chinese**

Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC) 39, University of Pennsylvania, April 2015

- **Numeral Nominal Phrase as a Special Case of Referring Expressions** *Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium (UnderLing), April 2014*

Teaching (2017-)

- Joint with Swantje Tönnis: Theoretical and empirical approaches to cleft constructions, in *European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLI)*. July 29 – August 2, 2024. Leuven, Belgium.
- Theoretical and empirical approaches to cleft constructions [Summer term 2025]
- Semantics I [Summer term 2024, 2022]
- Structural courses: Japanese [Summer term 2024]
- Syntax I [Winter term 2024/25, 2023/24, 2022/23]
- Joint with Sean Papay: Constructed languages [Winter term 2023/24]
- Stepping into Minimalist Syntax: from basics to interfaces (Master Seminar) [Summer term 2023]
- Formal approaches to discourse particles and speaker-oriented meanings [Summer term 2020]
- Typology I [Winter term 2019/20, 2020/21]
- Professional reading, writing and presenting (Master seminar) [Winter 2021/22]
- Information structure [Winter term 2018/19]
- Contrastive linguistics: Chinese [Summer term 2021, 2018, Winter term 2017/18]
- Structural courses: Chinese [Summer term 2019, 2020, 2022]

Academic Service

- Ad hoc reviewing for *Journal of Linguistics*
- *Generative Grammar in the South (GGS) Workshop*, May 19-21, 2022, University of Stuttgart (co-organizer)
- *Multiple questions about sluicing Workshop* (co-organizer)
- Monday Colloquia Series, Department of Linguistics, Yale University (co-organizer)
- Friday Lunch Talk Series, Department of Linguistics, Yale University (co-organizer)

Membership

Linguistics Society of America (LSA)
Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS)
Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB)

Fieldwork

Fieldwork on Binyang Ping

Binyang, Guangxi Province, China

2016

Fieldwork on Miyako Ryukyuan

Miyako Island, Okinawa, Japan

2014

Organized by Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang) and the Linguistics Dynamics Project, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Skills

Natural Languages

- Mandarin (native)
- English (fluent)
- Japanese (fluent)
- German (fluent)
- Cantonese (conversational)

Programming Languages

- L^AT_EX
- R
- Python
- HTML

Internships

- Linguistic consultant, Raydon Corporation. [2017]
 - Checking for cultural appropriateness of product content.
 - Co-designing conversational scenarios in authentic Chinese language settings.
 - Providing support to other functional groups to ensure authenticity.
 - Providing additional translation tasks.
- Translator, Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP. [2016]
 - Translating legal documents and conversational materials from Japanese to English.
 - Proofreading translations by others.
- Intern at the auditing department, KPMG [2014]
 - Completed a detailed semiannual analytical report of auditing within a team.
 - Coordinating schedules for group meetings of marketing department heads of the auditing section.