Jun Chen

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

University of Stuttgart, Germany — **Defended on September 1, 2023**
PhD student, Linguistics — *October 2017 – September 2023*

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

Grade: *summa cum laude*

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*

Maternity leave

October 2025 – November 2026

Peer-reviewed articles (8 accepted/published, 1 under review)

• **Jun Chen**, Daniel Hole, Diego Frasinelli. *De does not contribute to the exhaustivity of Mandarin cleft*.

[Under review]

• Daniel Hole, **Jun Chen**. (2026). Evidential raising in Mandarin Chinese. *Journal of East Asian Linguist* 35(17).

• Dawei Jin, **Jun Chen**. (2026). Wide scope and interpretation of why: Experiment evidence for causal interrogatives. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*, 45(1).

• **Jun Chen**, Daniel Hole. (2026). De outside the cleft: Not what you expected. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*, 45(2).

• **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.

Proceedings 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 Deinite 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

Academic Service and Coordination Activities

◇ Mentee of AdvanceScience Mentoring Program (2025-)
◇ Mentee and Mentor of ExploreScience Mentoring Program (2023-)
• Ad hoc reviewing for *Dialogue and Discourse*
• Ad hoc reviewing for *Journal of Linguistics*
• *Generative Grammar in the South* (GGS) Workshop,
May 19-21, 2022, University of Stuttgart (main 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)

Teaching (2017-)

○ Joint with Swantje Tönnis: Theoretical and empirical approaches to cleft constructions, in *European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information* (*ESSLLI*).
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]

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

- LaTeX
- 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.