

Yimei XIANG

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AREAS OF INTEREST

Broad: Semantics, philosophy of language, syntax-semantics interface, experimental approaches to semantics and pragmatics, Chinese & East Asian linguistics

Narrow:

- Questions, free relatives, *wh*-conditionals
- Focus, polarity items, free choice, implicatures, neg-raising, Alternative Semantics
- Binding, compositionality, Variable-free Semantics
- Quantifiers, nouns, number-marking
- Modality, attitudes

EMPLOYMENT

2018– **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ, USA
Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics

2016–17 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, USA
College Fellow, Department of Linguistics

EDUCATION

2010–16 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**
Department of Linguistics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

2006–10 **B.A. in Chinese Linguistics**
Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University, Beijing, China

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal papers

- 2023 **Quantifying-into *wh*-dependencies: Multiple-*wh* questions and questions with quantifiers.**
Linguistics and Philosophy. Online-first articles. 54p. DOI: [10.1007/s10988-022-09366-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10988-022-09366-x)
- 2022 **Relativized Exhaustivity: mention-some and uniqueness.**
Natural Language Semantics 30 (3): 311–362. DOI: [10.1007/s11050-022-09197-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11050-022-09197-3)
- 2021 **Higher-order readings of *wh*-questions.**
Natural Language Semantics 29 (1): 1–45. DOI: [10.1007/s11050-020-09166-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11050-020-09166-8)
- 2021 **A hybrid categorial approach to question composition**
Linguistics and Philosophy. 44 (3): 587–647. DOI: [10.1007/s10988-020-09294-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10988-020-09294-8)
- 2020 **Function alternations of the Mandarin particle *dou*: Distributor, free choice licenser, and ‘even’**
Journal of Semantics 37 (2): 171–217. DOI: [10.1093/jos/ffz018](https://doi.org/10.1093/jos/ffz018)
- 2017 **ONLY: An NPI-licenser and NPI-unlicenser.**
Journal of Semantics 34 (3): 447–481. DOI: [10.1093/jos/ffx006](https://doi.org/10.1093/jos/ffx006)

Dissertation

- 2016 *Interpreting questions with non-exhaustive answers.*
Ph.D. dissertation. Harvard University. MA: Cambridge.
Committee: Gennaro Chierchia (co-chair), Danny Fox, C.-T. James Huang (co-chair)

Peer-reviewed conference proceedings

- 2016 *Mandarin particle DOU: A pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.*
Christopher Piñón (ed.), *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics* (vol 11): 275–304. Paris: Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique à Paris.

Conference Proceedings with peer-reviewed abstracts

- In prep *Why surprise doesn't embed whether?: question-to-cleft reduction*
Ziling Zhu and Yimei Xiang.
Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 53, Univ of Göttingen, Göttingen.
- 2022 **Be surprised whether: question-to-cleft reduction.*
Ziling Zhu and Yimei Xiang.
Proceedings of Amsterdam Colloquium 2022. Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- 2021 *Binding without variables: Solving the under-generation problem.*
In Nicole Dreier, Chloe Kwon, Thomas Darnell, and John Starr (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 31*: 1–20. Brown University, Providence.
- 2019 *Two types of higher-order readings of wh-questions*
In Julian J. Schlöder, Dean McHugh, and Floris Roelofsen (eds.), *Proceedings of Amsterdam Colloquium 22*: 417–426. Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- 2019 *Getting quantifying-into questions uniformly: Functionality, domain exhaustivity, and quantificational variability.*
In Katherine Blake, Forrest Davis, Kaelyn Lamp, and Joseph Rhyne (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 29*: 160–179. UCLA, Los Angeles.
- 2017 *Mention-some readings of plural-marked questions: Experimental evidence.*
Yimei Xiang and Alexandre Cremers.
In Andrew Lamont and Katerina A. Tetzloff (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 47* (vol 3): 261–274, Univ of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 2016 *Solving the dilemma between uniqueness and mention-some.*
In Brandon Prickett and Christopher Hammerly (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 46* (vol 3): 285–298. Concordia University, Montréal.
- 2016 *Complete and true: A uniform analysis for mention-some and mention-all.*
In Nadine Bade, Polina Berezovskaya, and Anthea Schöller (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 20*: 815–830. Univ of Tübingen, Tübingen.
- 2015 *Mention-some readings of questions: Complexities from number marking.*
In Thomas Brochhagen, Floris Roelofsen, and Nadine Theiler (eds.), *Proceedings of Amsterdam Colloquium 20*: 438–447. Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- 2015 *A grammatical view of exhaustification with focus movement: Evidence from NPI.*
In Eva Csipak and Hedde Zeijlstra (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 19*: 657–674. Univ of Göttingen, Göttingen.

- 2014 **Neg-raising: Focus and implicatures.**
In Urtzi Etxeberria, Anamaria Fălăuş, Aritz Irurtzun, and Bryan Leferman (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 18*: 487–503. Univ of the Basque Country, Vitoria-Gasteiz.
- 2013 **Neg-raising and aspect: Evidence from Mandarin.**
In *Univ of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*. Vol. 19 (1): 257–266. Univ of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania.

Unpublished manuscripts

- 2014 **Obligatory neg-raising in Mandarin: Negatives and aspects.**
Manuscript, Harvard University.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations (* = colloquium, * = keynote)

- 2022 Relativized exhaustivity: Mention-some and uniqueness
Logic Colloquium. Logic Group, University of Connecticut. March 11.
- 2022* Relativized exhaustivity: Mention-some and uniqueness
Theoretical Linguistics at Keio (TaLK). Keio University, Tokyo. March 3–5.
- 2021 Relativized exhaustivity: Mention-some and uniqueness
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York. November 8.
- 2020* Higher-order readings of *wh*-questions and the conjunction–disjunction asymmetry
Colloquium. MIT. September 25.
- 2020* Higher-order readings of *wh*-questions and the conjunction–disjunction asymmetry
Linguistics Seminar Series. Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. September 21.
- 2019 Higher-order readings of *wh*-questions
Linguae Seminar, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris. November 28.
- 2019 A variable free approach to *wh*-dependency
Workshop of Complex multiple *wh*- constructions. Univ of Nantes. November 25-26.
- 2019 Attitudes held of questions: Completeness and false answer sensitivity
Workshop of Complement clauses and attitude reports. New York University. November 1.
- 2019* Not Exhaustivity: Completeness and false answer sensitivity in questions
Workshop of Exhaustivity in questions and answers — Experimental and theoretical approaches.
Tübingen University. June 13–14.
- 2019 Higher-order readings of *wh*-questions
Oberseminar Colloquium. Univ of Göttingen. June 11.
- 2018 Interpreting mention-some questions
Huazhong Agricultural University. December 27.
- 2018 Composing questions: Reviving the categorial approach
Wuhan University. December 26.
- 2018 Function alternations of the Mandarin particle *dou*
Central China Normal University. December 24.
- 2018 Function alternations of the Mandarin particle *dou*
Tsinghua University. December 16.

- 2018 A hybrid categorial approach to question composition
NYU Semantics Group. September 25.
- 2018 A hybrid categorial approach to question composition
Workshop of Multiple *wh*- constructions and their kin. Univ of Nantes. September 17–18.
- 2018 Quantifying into questions
Workshop of Multiple *wh*- constructions and their kin. Univ of Nantes. September 17–18.
- 2018 A hybrid categorial approach to question composition
Rutgers University. Feb 7.
- 2018* Complete and true: Attitudes held of questions
Colloquium. Rutgers University. Feb 6.
- 2017 Alternations of logical functions: Mandarin particle *dou* as a pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.
School of English Studies, Beijing Language and Culture University. July 5.
- 2017 Sensitivity to false answers in interpreting questions under attitudes.
School of Foreign Languages, Tsinghua University. July 4.
- 2017* Reviving the categorial approach: What does a question denote?
Department of Chinese, Peking University. July 3.
- 2017* Semantics bootcamp: Questions
Department of Chinese, Peking University. July 2.
- 2017 What does a question denote?
The First Forum for International Young Scholars. School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. June 28.
- 2017 Alternations of logical functions: Mandarin particle *dou* as a pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.
School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. June 27.
- 2017 Composing complex questions: Multi-*wh* questions and questions with quantifiers.
The Discourse and Philosophy (DIP) Colloquium. Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. March 17.
- 2017 Sensitivity to false answers in interpreting questions under attitudes.
Inquisitive Semantics seminar, Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. March 17.
- 2016 Mandarin particle *dou*: A pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.
Workshop of Exhaustivity and Cognitive Architecture, MIT. September 10.
- 2016 Sensitivity to false answers in indirect questions.
Workshop of Attitudes and Questions, Center for Formal Epistemology, Carnegie Mellon University. June 10–11.
- 2015 Deriving disjunctive mention-all answers.
Inquisitive Semantics closing workshop Questions in Semantics and Logic. Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. December 15.
- 2015 Solving the dilemma between uniqueness and mention-some.
Department of Linguistics, University College London. September.
- 2015 Uniqueness, mention-some, and mention-all.
Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS), Berlin. June.
- 2015 Uniqueness, mention-some, and mention-all.
The DFG Meeting: Questions in Discourse, Univ of Göttingen. June.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- 2023 Why *surprise* doesn't embed *whether?*: question-to-cleft reduction
North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 53, Univ of Göttingen, Göttingen. January 12–14. [With Ziling Zhu]
- 2022 **Be surprised whether*: question-to-cleft reduction. [Poster]
Amsterdam Colloquium 2022. Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam. December 19–21. [With Ziling Zhu]
- 2021 Binding without variables: Solving the under-generation problem. [Poster]
Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 31, Brown University (Virtual). May 7–9.
- 2019 Two types of higher-order readings of *wh*-questions.]
Amsterdam Colloquium 22. ILLC, University van Amsterdam. Dec 18–20.
- 2019 Getting quantifying-into questions uniformly: Functionality, exhaustivity, and QVE. [Poster]
Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 29, UCLA. May 17–19.
- 2017 *Wh*-items quantify over polymorphic sets.
Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 53. Univ of Chicago, Chicago. May 25–27.
- 2017 Composing questions: A hybrid categorial approach.
Workshop of Compositionality at the Interfaces, Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 40, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL). March 14.
- 2016 Mentions-some readings of plural-marked questions: Experimental evidence.
North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 47, Univ of Massachusetts, Amherst. October 14–16. [with Alexandre Cremers]
- 2016 Deriving the ambiguity of mention-some questions by pre-exhaustifications.
Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting 90, Washington. January 7–10.
- 2015 Mention-some readings of questions: Complexities from number-marking.
Amsterdam Colloquium (AC) 20, Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. December 16–18.
- 2015 Solving the dilemma between uniqueness and mention-some.
North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 46, Concordia University, Montréal. October 16–18.
- 2015 Mandarin *dou* as a pre-exhaustification operator: Quantification and free choice.
European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL) 9, Univ of Stuttgart. September 24–26.
- 2015 Mandarin *dou* as a pre-exhaustification operator: Quantification and free choice"
Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) 2015, University College London, London. September 15–18.
- 2015 Complete and true: A uniformed analysis for mention-some and mention-all.
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 20, Univ of Tübingen. September 9–12.
- 2015 Sensitivity to false answers. [Poster]
Experimental Pragmatics (XPRAG) 2015, Univ of Chicago and Northwestern University, Chicago. July 16–18.
- 2015 Mention-all versus mention-some: Exhaustivity and sensitivity to false answers.
Experimental and crosslinguistic evidence for the distinction between implicatures and presuppositions" (ImPres), ZAS, Berlin. July 1–3.
- 2015 Multiple exhaustifications and multiple scalar items.
Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC) 39, Univ of Pennsylvania. March 20–22.

- 2014 Obligatory neg-raising in Mandarin: Negatives and aspects.
Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL) 9, Univ of Nantes. September 25–26.
- 2014 A grammatical view of exhaustification with focus movement: Evidence from NPI.
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 19, Univ of Göttingen. September 15–17.
- 2014 Focus structure and NPI-licensing. [Poster]
Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 37, KU Leuven HUBrussel. April 2–11.
- 2013 Neg-raising: Focus and implicatures. [Poster]
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 18, Univ of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz. September 11–13.
- 2012 Neg-raising and aspect: Evidence from Mandarin. [Poster]
Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC) 36, Univ of Pennsylvania. March 23–25.

Other Presentations (selected)

- 2018 Complete and true: Attitudes held of questions
Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop. Univ of Chicago. Feb 2.
- 2018 A hybrid categorial approach to question composition
Linguistics and Philosophy Workshop. Univ of Chicago. Jan 26.
- 2017 Sensitivity to false answers in interpreting questions under attitudes.
PhiLing Workshop. Northwestern University. November 10.
- 2017 Composing pair-list readings: Multi-*wh* questions versus questions with quantifiers.
Workshop in honor of David Pesetsky's 60th birthday. MIT. February 11. [Poster]
- 2014 A semantic approach to the distribution of mention-some questions.
The DFG Meeting: Questions in Discourse, Univ of Göttingen. September 18–20.

TEACHING

As primary instructor (at Rutgers University)

- 2022–23 Semantics, Undergraduate, Fall 2022.
Pragmatics, Undergraduate, Fall 2022.
(Parental leave in Spring 2023)
- 2021–22 Semantics II, Graduate, Spring 2022.
Semantics, Undergraduate, Spring 2022.
(Sabbatical leave in Fall 2021)
- 2020–21 Intro to Linguistic Theory. Undergraduate, Fall 2020.
Semantics II, Graduate, Spring 2021.
Pragmatics, Undergraduate, Spring 2021.
- 2019–20 Qualifying Paper Workshop. Graduate, Spring 2020.
Semantics. Undergraduate, Spring 2020.
Semantics I. Graduate, Fall 2019.
Semantics. Undergraduate, Fall 2019.
- 2018–19 Semantics of Questions. Graduate seminar, Spring 2019.
Semantics I. Graduate, Fall 2019.
Pragmatics. Undergraduate, Fall 2018.

As primary instructor (at Harvard University)

- 2016–17 **As College Fellow**
Knowledge of Meaning. Undergraduate semantics, Spring 2017.
Word Structure. Undergraduate morphology, Spring 2017.
Semantics of Questions. Graduate seminar, Fall 2016.
- 2012–14 **As Graduate Teaching Fellow**
Mathematical Methods in Linguistics. Sophomore tutorial, Spring 2013/2014.
The Meaning of Negation. Junior tutorial, Fall 2012/2013.
Intensional Semantics. Junior tutorial, Fall 2013.
Chinese Phonology and Phonetics. Sophomore tutorial, Spring 2013.

As teaching fellow (at Harvard)

- 2012–14 Knowledge of Meaning. Primary instructor Andreea C. Nicolae. Spring 2014.
Language, Structure, and Cognition. Primary instructor Li Julie Jiang. Fall 2012.

ADVISING

As dissertation committee chair:

- Ongoing • Chaoyi Chen. Title TBD. (Free relatives; co-chair with Mark Baker)

As dissertation committee member:

- Ongoing • Akane Ohtaka. Title TBD.
 • Zeqi Zhao (Univ. of Göttingen). Title TBD.
- Defended • Ang Li. 2022. Comparing alternatives.
 • Shiori, Ikawa. 2022. On agree feeding interpretation: honorification, empathy, and switch reference.
 • Morgan Moyer. 2020. The question of questions: Resolving (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions.

As qualifying paper committee chair:

- Ongoing • Lu Ye. Title TBD. (Bias in Mandarin polar questions)
- 2021–22 • Ziling Zhu. **Be surprised whether*: question-to-cleft reduction
- 2020–21 • Akane Ohtaka. *Wh-ka* and *wh-demo* in Japanese.
 • Sreekar Roghotham Matam. Disjunctions and polarity. (Disjunctive *ledda* in Telugu)
- 2019–20 • Jillian Harper. John's *former* ambiguity. (Temporal adjectives in possessive constructions)
 • Chaoyi Chen. Concessive readings of scalar particles.

As qualifying paper committee member:

- 2020–21 • Chaoyi Chen. Chinese verbal reduplication and the one-result principle.
 • Ziling Zhu. Do Mandarin count classifiers individuate: Experimental evidence from a quantity judgment task.
- 2019–20 • Anna Alsop (NYU Linguistics). The pragmatics of free choice *any*.
 • Megan Gotowski. *Quoi*-Sluices in French.
- 2018–19 • Akane Ohtaka. Null argument constructions in Japanese.
 • Lydia Newkirk. *Benché* and the subjunctive.
 • Christopher Oakden. The computational properties of tonal geometry.

SERVICE

Editorial position

Since 2022 Editorial board member, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*

Since 2022 Editorial board member, *Natural Language Semantics*

Since 2020 Editorial board member, *Semantics & Pragmatics*

Reviewing

Journals (Count new submissions only)

- *Linguistics and Philosophy*: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- *Journal of Semantics*: 2015×2, 2016×2, 2017×2, 2019, 2022
- *Natural Language Semantics*: 2020×2, 2021
- *Semantics and Pragmatics*: 2020
- *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*: 2019, 2020
- *Snippets*: 2020
- *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*: 2016, 2018, 2019
- *Linguistic Inquiry*: 2018
- *Language and Linguistics (Academia Sinica)*: 2018×4
- *Pragmatics*: 2018
- *Journal of Pragmatics*: 2018
- *Journal of Linguistics*: 2016
- *Syntax*: 2016
- *Semantics-Syntax Interface*: 2015

Conference abstracts (regular)

- North East Linguistic Society (NELS): since 2016
- Amsterdam Colloquium: since 2017
- Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW): since 2017
- Semantics of African, Asian, and Austronesian Languages (TripleA): since 2017
- Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB): since 2017
- Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT): since 2018
- Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique (CSSP): since 2019
- West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL): since 2021

Conference abstracts (ad hoc)

- Exhaustivity in questions and answers (ExQA): 2019
- Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS): 2018
- Encontro Internacional de Sintaxe e Semântica & Interfaces (EISSI): 2018
- Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB): 2017, 2023
- Non-At-Issue Meaning and Information Structure (NAIS): 2017
- GLOW-in-Asia: 2017
- Linguistic Society of America (LSA): 2017
- Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (ITAL): 2016
- ESSLLI/WeSSLLI Student Session: 2014, 2020

Service to Rutgers University

2021–22 • Faculty advisor, Senior Projects Evaluation Committee, Dept of Linguistics

2020–21 • Member, Graduate Admission Committee, Dept of Linguistics

2019–20 • Member, Search Committee for tenure-track faculty of semantics, Dept of Linguistics

2018–19 • Member, Graduate Admission Committee, Dept of Linguistics

- Member, Search Committee for lecturer of semantics, Dept of Linguistics

- Faculty advisor, Senior Projects Evaluation Committee, Dept of Linguistics

Service to Harvard University

- 2014–15
- Departmental Teaching Fellow (pedagogy mentor for graduate instructors), The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning