

## Zheng SHEN

Department of English, Linguistics and Theatre Studies updated: April, 2024

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## AREAS OF INTEREST

## BROAD INTERESTS

- Theoretical and experimental syntax
- Psycholinguistics

## SPECIFIC TOPICS

- Syntactic islands
- Agreement
- Coordinate structure and Right node raising
- Ellipsis

## EMPLOYMENT

2020.1 – Assistant Professor

Department of English, Linguistics and Theatre Studies

National University of Singapore

2018.5 – 2019.12    Postdoctoral Researcher

**A General Theory of Multivaluation** (PIs: Katharina Hartmann, Peter W. Smith)

Institut für Linguistik, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

2017.10 – 2018.5    Postdoctoral Researcher

Graduate School on Nominal Modification (Spokesperson: Caroline Féry)

Institut für Linguistik, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

## EDUCATION

2011–2018 **University of Connecticut**, Storrs, CT, USA

Department of Linguistics

Ph.D. in Linguistics

Dissertation title: *Feature Arithmetic in the Nominal Domain*2009–2010    **University College London**, London, UK

Department of Linguistics

M.A. in Linguistics

Thesis title: *On Focus and Topic Interaction in Mandarin Chinese*

2005–2009 **Beijing Normal University at Zhuhai, China**

Department of Foreign Languages

B.A. in English Language and Literature

## GRANTS

MOE = Singapore Ministry of Education; AcRF = Academic Research Fund grant program

2022 - 2025	MOE AcRF Tier 1 - 'Closest Agreement and Memory' (as PI)	(150,944 SGD)
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2022 - 2024	Humanities & Social Science Seed Fund - 'Exploring structural and non-structural approaches to <i>wh</i> -dependencies' (PIs: Zheng Shen, Nick Huang)	(19,880 SGD)
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**PUBLICATIONS**(student and postdoc co-authors in *italic*)**JOURNAL PAPERS**

Yoo, Myunghye and **Zheng Shen**. in revision. Conjunction in Agreement attraction: Role of attractor structure in the computation of agreement.

**Shen, Zheng** and Nick Huang. in revision. The role of phases and specificity in definite islands.

Tan, Rachel and **Zheng Shen**. resubmitted. Wh-optionality in Colloquial Singapore English. *Journal of Linguistics*.

**Shen, Zheng** and Meghan Lim accepted. The definite DP island in wh-questions and relative clauses. *Syntax*.

**Shen, Zheng**. 2023. "Conjunction Agreement and the Coordinate Structure Constraint", *Glossa: A journal of general linguistics* 46(1), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.6382> [link]

Marušič, Franc Lanko and **Zheng Shen**. 2021. "Gender Agreement with Exclusive Disjunction in Slovenian." *Acta Linguistica Academica*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1556/2062.2021.00443> [link]

**Shen, Zheng**. 2019. "The multi-valuation agreement hierarchy." *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 4(1), 46. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.585>. [link]

**Shen, Zheng**. 2018. "Fragment answers and movement." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 36(1), pp 309-321. DOI: 10.1007/s11049-017-9372-1. [link]

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Shen, Zheng**. 2021. "Some notes on MaxShare." *The size of things I: Structure building*. Open Generative Syntax. Language Science Press. [link].

**EDITED WORKS**

**Zheng Shen**, Johannes Mursell, Anke Himmelreich, and Katharina Hartmann. in progress. *Glossa* special collection: Multivaluation in agreement.

**Zheng Shen** and Sabine Laszakovits. in press. *The size of things II: Movement, features, and interpretation*. Open Generative Syntax series. Language Science Press. [link]

Sabine Laszakovits and **Zheng Shen**. 2021. *The size of things I: Structure building*. Open Generative Syntax series. Language Science Press. [link]

**CONFERENCE PROCEEDING PAPERS**

**Shen, Zheng** and Meghan Lim. 2022. "The definite DP island in wh-questions and relative clause." *Proceedings of WCCFL* 40.

**Shen, Zheng** and Meghan Lim. 2022. "Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative DPs: An experimental approach." *Proceedings of NELS* 52.

Tieu, Lyn and **Zheng Shen**. 2022. "Children's Interpretation of Superlatives in Full and Fragment Answers." *Proceedings of BUCLD* 46. [lingbuzz link]

**Shen, Zheng**. 2021. "Agreement in Nominal Right Node Raising: An experimental approach." *Proceedings of SICOOG* 23.

**Shen, Zheng** and Peter W. Smith. 2020. "Morphological and semantic agreement beyond hybrid nouns." *Proceedings of NELS* 49.

Smith, Peter W., Beata Moskal, Katharina Hartmann, and **Zheng Shen**. 2019. "Feature resolution, feature conflicts and the structure of *either ... or*." *Proceedings of SinFontJA* 10.

**Shen, Zheng**. 2017. "On multi-valued Ns and Ts in number concord and agreement." *Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*. (extended version of Shen 2017)

- Shen, Zheng.** 2017. “Multi-value asymmetry in number agreement and concord.” *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 23. Proceedings of the 40th Penn Linguistics Conference.*
- Shen, Zheng.** 2016. “No Clash Constraint in nominal RNR number agreement.” *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 22. Proceedings of the 39th Penn Linguistics Conference, Article 27.*
- Tieu, Lyn and **Zheng Shen.** 2016. “The littlest linguists and their superlatives: a first experiment.” *Proceedings of the 50th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.*
- Shen, Zheng.** 2015. “The third reading of the most expensive photo of Abby.” *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 21: Iss. 1, Proceedings of the 38th Penn Linguistics Conference, Article 29.*
- Tieu, Lyn and **Zheng Shen.** 2015. “Searching for absolute and relative readings of superlatives: a second experiment.” *Proceedings of the 39th Boston University Conference on Language Development.*
- Hsieh, I-Ta Chris and **Zheng Shen.** 2015. “The ‘Associative Reading’ of DPs and the quantity vs. quality distinction.” *Proceedings of The Semantics of African, Asian and Austronesian Languages 2.*
- Shen, Zheng.** 2014. “On the relative readings with NP internal focus of superlatives.” *Proceedings of the 31st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. Robert E. Santana-LaBarge, 409-418. Somerville, MA: Cascadia Proceedings Project.

## DISSERTATION

- Shen, Zheng.** 2018. “Feature Arithmetic in the Nominal Domain.” Doctoral dissertation, University of Connecticut.

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| FEB. 2024 | “Processing closest agreement with disjunction subjects” HSP, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. (with <i>Beth Chan</i> )  |
| FEB. 2024 | “Wh-island effects and d-linking effects in wh-in situ questions” 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. (with <i>Beth Chan</i> )                       |
| FEB. 2024 | “Processing closest agreement with disjunction subjects” HSP, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. (with <i>Beth Chan</i> )  |
| FEB. 2024 | “The role of main verbs in subextraction of wh-phrases from NPs” GLOW in Asia 14, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. (with <i>Nick Huang</i> )   |
| DEC. 2023 | “Processing closest agreement with disjunction subjects” AMLaP Asia 2023, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. (with <i>Myung Hye Yoo</i> )  |
| AUG. 2023 | “Processing closest agreement with disjunction subjects” the 4th International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-4), Seoul. (with <i>Myung Hye Yoo</i> )                      |
| AUG. 2023 | “Conditions on wh-the-hell licensing: Evidence from Colloquial Singapore English” the 4th International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-4), Seoul. (with <i>Beth Chan</i> ) |
| MAY 2023  | “Effect of creation verbs in Chinese and English.” the 29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-29), Macau. (with <i>Nick Huang</i> )                          |
| APR. 2023 | “Effects of creation verbs in English and Chinese.” The Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 13, Taiwan. (with <i>Nick Huang</i> )   |
| APR. 2023 | “The definiteness effect in wh-fronting and wh-in situ languages.” GLOW 46, Vienna. (with <i>Nick Huang</i> )  |
| MAR. 2023 | “Cross-linguistic differences in definiteness effects” Presented at the Workshop on Locality in Theory, Processing, and Acquisition, UPenn. (with <i>Nick Huang</i> )                                      |
| MAR. 2023 | Evaluating information structure and semantics approaches to locality in Colloquial Singapore English. The Human Sentence Processing conference 2023.  |
| MAR. 2023 | “Effects of creation verbs on wh-dependencies in English and Chinese.” The Human Sentence Processing conference 2023. (with <i>Nick Huang</i> )  |

- MAY. 2022 “The definite DP island in *wh*-questions and relative clauses” Presented at the 40th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 40), Stanford University. (with *Meghan Lim*)
- MAR. 2022 “The definite DP island in *wh*-questions and relative clauses” Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, UCSC. (with *Meghan Lim*)
- NOV. 2021 “Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative NPs: An experimental approach.” Paper presented at the 9th International Conference on Formal Linguistics, Fudan University. (with *Meghan Lim*)
- NOV. 2021 “Coordinate Structure Constraint Violating Movement and Closest Conjunct Agreement.” Talk at the 9th International Conference on Formal Linguistics, Fudan University.
- NOV. 2021 “Children’s interpretation of superlatives in full and fragment answers.” Poster presented at the 46th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD-45), Boston University. (with Lyn Tieu)
- OCT. 2021 “Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative NPs: An experimental approach.” Poster presented at the NELS 52, Rutgers University. (with *Meghan Lim*)
- SEPT. 2021 “On CSC-violating movement in BCS.” Talk at Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS-16), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- AUG. 2021 “Extraction from definite, indefinite, and superlative NPs: An experimental approach.” Talk at the 23rd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 23), Sogang University, South Korea. (with *Meghan Lim*)
- AUG. 2021 “A couple might not be enough for the internet.” Talk at the 23rd Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 23), Sogang University, South Korea.
- MAY. 2021 “Coordinate Structure Constraint and Conjunction Agreement.” Paper presented at Agreement in Multi-valuation Constructions, Frankfurt, Germany.
- JAN. 2021 “Coordinate Structure Constraint and Conjunction Agreement.” Poster presented at LSA 2021.
- SEPT. 2020 “Gender Agreement with Exclusive Disjunction in Slovenian.” Paper presented at SinFonIJA 13, Budapest, Hungary. (with Franc Lanko Marušič)
- AUG. 2020 “Person and Number Agreement with Exclusive Disjunction in German.” Paper presented at SICOGG 22, Seoul, South Korea.
- MAY. 2020 “Gender agreement with exclusive disjunction in Slovenian.” Paper presented at the 29 Annual Meeting of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics, University of Washington. (with Franc Lanko Marušič)
- MAR. 2020 “Closest Conjunct Agreement in Right Node Raising as minimized ungrammaticality.” Poster presented at the 33rd Annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, UMass, US.
- AUG. 2019 “Colliding features: two types of closest conjunct agreement.” the Alphabet of Universal Grammar, London, the U.K.
- NOV. 2018 “Morphological and Semantic Agreement with Multiple Values.” Multiple Agreement across Domains 2018 (MAD 2018), Berlin, Germany. (with Peter W. Smith)
- OCT. 2018 “Agreement in Nominal Right Node Raising: an experimental approach.” the 11th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA 11), Kraków, Poland.
- OCT. 2018 “Morphological and Semantic Agreement beyond Hybrid Nouns.” the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 49), Cornell University. (with Peter W. Smith)
- AUG. 2018 “Agreement in Nominal Right Node Raising: an experimental approach.” the 20th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar, Seoul, South Korea.
- APR. 2018 “Interpretive restrictions on superlatives in full vs. fragment answers.” the 41st GLOW, Budapest. (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAR. 2018 “The agreement hierarchy and multi-valuation.” Current Issues in Comparative Syntax, the National University of Singapore.

- FEB. 2018 “Relative readings of superlatives in full vs. fragment answers: An experimental investigation.” Linguistic Evidence 2018, University of Tübingen. (with Lyn Tieu)
- DEC. 2017 “Children can access absolute and relative readings of superlatives.” the Australian Linguistic Society 2017, University of Sydney. (with Lyn Tieu)
- OCT. 2017 “The multi-valuation agreement hierarchy.” Resolving Conflicts Across Borders workshop & SinFonIJA 10.
- OCT. 2017 “Feature resolution, feature conflicts and the structure of either... or.” Resolving Conflicts Across Borders workshop & SinFonIJA 10. (with Peter W. Smith, Beata Moskal, Katharina Hartmann)
- SEPT. 2017 “Aiming high: children’s knowledge of absolute and relative readings of superlatives.” the 13th International Conference of the Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition. (with Lyn Tieu)
- AUG. 2017 “Cross-Domain Multi-Valuation as Agreement Hierarchy.” the 19th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar.
- APR. 2016 “An asymmetry between multi-valued Ns and Ts.” the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 34.
- APR. 2016 “On multi-valued Ns and Ts in number concord and agreement.” the 52nd Annual Meeting of Chicago Linguistics Society, University of Chicago.
- MAR. 2016 “Multi-value asymmetry in number agreement and concord.” the 40th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
- JAN. 2016 “A superlative argument for syntactic movement in fragment answer.” LSA 2016 Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- SEPT. 2015 “Fragment answers and movement - a superlative argument.” 2015 Annual Meeting of Linguistic Association of Great Britain (LAGB), University College London, London, UK.
- JUN. 2015 “Number agreement across borders in nominal RNR.” Agreement Across Borders Conference (AAB), University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia.
- JUN. 2015 “The ‘associative reading’ of DPs and the quantity vs. quality distinction.” the Semantics of African, Asian and Austronesian Languages 2 (TripleA), University of Potsdam. (with I-Ta Chris Hsieh)
- MAR. 2015 “No clash constraint in nominal RNR number agreement.” the 39th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
- NOV. 2014 “Beyond production: searching for absolute and relative interpretations of superlatives.” BUCLD 39, Boston University. (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAY 2014 “Investigating superlatives in the littlest linguists.” GLOW in Asia X, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAR. 2014 “The littlest linguists and their superlatives.” the 50th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society, University of Chicago. (with Lyn Tieu)
- MAR. 2014 “The third reading of the most expensive photo of Abby.” the 38th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
- JUL. 2013 “Syntactic treatment of the relative reading with NP Internal focus in superlatives.” the 19th International Congress of Linguists, Geneva, Switzerland.
- FEB. 2013 “On the relative reading with NP internal focus in superlatives.” the 31st West Coast Conference of Formal Linguistics, Arizona State University.

## INVITED TALKS

- JAN. 2021 “Closest agreement in Slavic languages: Linear order or hierarchical structure.” Plenary talk at the 5th Asian Junior Linguistics Conference hosted by International Christian University.
- MAY. 2020 “What we can learn from agreement with exclusive disjunction.” Invited talk at University of Illinois

Urbana-Champaign.

- NOV. 2019 “Does grammar care about linear order?” Invited talk at University of Vienna.
- APR. 2019 “What we can learn from Multi-valuation.” Invited talk at National Singapore University.
- FEB. 2019 “What we can learn from Multi-valuation.” Invited talk at McGill University.
- OCT. 2018 “Multi-valuation and the Language Level of the Agreement Hierarchy.” Talk at Rutgers University.
- JUL. 2018 “Multi-valuation and the Agreement Hierarchy.” Invited talk at University of Tübingen.
- OCT. 2017 “Three projects in the nominal domain.” Colloquium talk for the Research Training Group ‘Nominal Modification’, Goethe University Frankfurt.
- SEPT. 2017 “Multi-valuation as the Agreement Hierarchy: typology and experiments.” Invited talk at Goethe University Frankfurt.
- AUG. 2017 “Fragment answers and movement.” Invited talk at Dongguk University.
- JUL. 2016 “Multi-Valuation in Nominal Right Node Raising Constructions and its Implications.” Invited talk at Ritsumeikan University, Japan.
- JUN. 2016 “Multi-Valuation in Nominal Right Node Raising Constructions and its Implications.” Colloquium talk at National Tsinghua University, Taiwan.

## TEACHING

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### ADVISING

- IN PROGRESS Beth Chan Hui Fang. MA Thesis, NUS.
- 2022 Meghan Lim. Bridging effects of verbs of creation. MA Thesis, NUS.
- 2022 Rachel Tan Poh Yin. Optional wh-movement in Colloquial Singapore English. Honours Thesis, NUS.
- 2021 Beth Chan Hui Fang. Right Peripheral Fragments in Colloquial Singapore English: An Experimental Approach. Honours Thesis, NUS.

### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

- 2022-2023 EL4201 Experimental Syntax  
SEMESTER 2 GEX1019/GET1036 Logic of Language
- 2022-2023 EL3201 Syntax  
SEMESTER 1 EL5101 Grammatical Analysis
- 2021-2022 GET1036 Logic of Language  
SEMESTER 2
- 2021-2022 EL3201 Syntax  
SEMESTER 1 EL4880D Experimental Syntax
- 2020-2021 EL4201 Advanced Syntax  
SEMESTER 2 EL4880D Experimental Syntax
- 2020-2021 EL3201 Syntax  
SEMESTER 1

### UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT (AS INSTRUCTOR)

- SPRING 2017 The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)
- FALL 2015 The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)
- WINTER 2014 Language and Mind (Ling 1010)

FALL 2014    The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)

FALL 2013    The Science of Linguistics (Ling 2010Q)

## MEMBERSHIP

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MEMBERSHIP    • Linguistics Association of Great Britain  
                     • Linguistic Society of America

## REVIEWING

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2023    WCCFL 41

2022    Natural Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1 | Glossa \* 1 | Glossa Psycholinguistics \* 1 | LSA2022 | GLOW 45 | NELS 52

2021    Natural Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1 | Glossa \* 1 | International Journal of Chinese Linguistics \* 1 | GLOW 44 | WCCFL 39 | AMC workshop

2020    Semantics and Pragmatics \* 1 | International Journal of Chinese Linguistics \* 1 | Glossa \* 1 | NELS 51

2019    NACCL 32 | CLS 55

2018    Nature Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1 | Journal of Linguistics \* 1 | CLS 54 | NELS 49

2015    Nature Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1

2014    The Linguistics Review \* 1

2013    Nature Language and Linguistic Theory \* 1

## OTHER

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FOUNDER    Lingalert.com