Jia Ren

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Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst, PhD in Linguistics; MS in Statistics — 2020 – Present
- Research interests: Semantics, Pragmatics, Experimental Methods
- Statistics coursework: Mathematical Statistics, Stochastic Processes, Regression Analysis, Categorical Data Analysis, Advanced Bayesian Statistics, Statistical Learning, Statistical Computing, Data Visualization

University College London, MA in Linguistics with a Specialization in Syntax — 2018 – 2019

City University of Hong Kong, BA in Translation — 2014 – 2018

Publications

- *Plural interpretive biases: A comparison between human language processing and language models.* 2025
  Proceedings of The Second Workshop on the Bridges and Gaps between Formal and Computational Linguistics.
- *An experimental investigation of the homogeneity inference of conjunctions.* 2025
  Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29.
- *Quantificational determiners vs. Partitive nouns in Mandarin Chinese.* 2025
  With: Qiuhao Charles Yan, Satoru Ozaki
  Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29.
- *Kazakh comitative and conjunction marker men.* 2024
  Proceedings of the 9th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic.
- *Weak reciprocity without the cumulative operator.* 2023
  Proceedings of ESSLLI 2023 Student Session. An extended proceeding is forthcoming in *Logics*.

Presentations

- *Plural interpretive biases: A comparison between human language processing and language models* . 2025
  Talk. Bridges and Gaps between Formal and Computational Linguistics (an IWCS 2025 workshop), Düsseldorf.
- *Interpreting plural predication in visual contexts: Cover-based resolution of NP structures.* 2025
  With: Hening Wang, Michael Franke.
  Poster. 11th Experimental Pragmatics Conference, Cambridge.
- *Interpreting plural predication in visual contexts: Cover-based resolution of NP structures.* 2025
  With: Hening Wang, Michael Franke.
  Poster. Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, Prague.
- *English definite numerals and nominal conjunctions are different.* 2024
  Talk. Gaps and Imprecision in Natural Language Semantics Workshop, Berlin.
- *Associative Plurals as Definites.* 2024
  Talk. Gaps and Imprecision Workshop, Berlin.
- *An experimental investigation of the homogeneity inference of conjunctions.* 2024
  Talk. Sinn und Bedeutung 29, Noto.
- *Quantificational determiners vs. Partitive nouns in Mandarin Chinese.* 2024
  Poster. With Satoru Ozaki & Qiuhao Charles Yan. Sinn und Bedeutung 29, Noto.
- *An experimental investigation of the homogeneity inference of conjunctions.* 2024
  Talk. Form and Meaning of Coordination, Göttingen.
- *Quantificational determiners vs. Partitive nouns in Mandarin Chinese.* 2024
  Talk. London Semantics Day.
- *Kazakh comitative and conjunction marker men.* 2024
  Poster. 9th Workshop on Turkic, Ithaca.
- *Weak reciprocity without the cumulative operator.* 2023
  ESSLLI 2023 Student Session, Ljubljana.

- *Non-Maximality with an Updated Cover*.   2023
  HNM2 Workshop, Vienna.

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, R
Software: LaTeX
Languages: Mandarin (native), English (near-native), Kazakh (fieldwork)

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, LING 490: Pragmatics, UMass Amherst   Spring 2025
Teaching Assistant, LING 501: Semantics, UMass Amherst   Fall 2024

- Supervised and guided five student group projects on diverse topics in semantics.

Teaching Assistant, LING 401: Syntax, UMass Amherst   Spring 2024
Teaching Assistant, LING 390: French Linguistics, UMass Amherst   Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant, LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics, UMass Amherst   Spring 2023 & Fall 2022
Teaching Assistant, LING 101: People and Their Language, UMass Amherst   Spring 2022 & Fall 2021

Work Experience

Research Assistant, Beijing Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Applications   Summer 2025

- Conducted evaluations of existing syntactic parsers and collaborated on
  developing agents for automatic syntactic parsing.

Research Assistant, ELTU, The Chinese University of Hong Kong   Fall 2019 – Fall 2020
Freelance Translator, Modern Art Publications, Hong Kong   2016 – 2018

Honors and Scholarships

- 2025 Summer Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UMass Amherst
- 2023 Best Talk Award, ESSLLI Student Session
- 2019 Neil Smith Prize, University College London
- 2014 – 2018 Dean's List, City University of Hong Kong
- 2017 Joseph Lau Student Exchange Award, City University of Hong Kong

Service

- 2024 Student Session Chair, Language and Computation (LaCo), ESSLLI 35
- 2022 – 2024 Organizer, UMass Amherst Linguistics Colloquium
- 2023 – 2025 Organizer, UMass Amherst Semantics Workshop
- 2022 – 2023 Senator, Graduate Student Senate, UMass Amherst
- 2021 – 2023 Co-Organizer, Southern New England Workshop in Semantics
- 2021 – 2022 Organizer, Syntax and Semantics Reading Group, UMass Amherst