

Angela Xiaoxue He

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Research Interest

Broad Child language acquisition, word learning, learner diversity, language diversity
Language-concept interface, syntax-semantic interface
Cognitive and social-communicative development

Specific Acquisition of verbs, event nominals, and pronouns
Typically-developing children, children with autism spectrum disorder

Employment

2015 Sep - Postdoctoral Researcher
Dept. of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Boston University
Supervisor: Sudha Arunachalam

Education

2009-2015 PhD, Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park
Dissertation title: Verb Learning Under Guidance
Dissertation advisor: Jeffrey Lidz

2005-2009 Bachelor of Arts, Department of Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
Co-advisors: Thomas Hun-tak Lee & Virginia Choi-yin Yip

Fellowships, Grants & Awards

2016-2017 Dudley Allen Sargent Research Fund Faculty/Postdoc Competition
Boston University, \$5,000

2016 Travel Award for the 37th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders

2015 Howard Lasnik Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student

2014 Society for Language Development Student Award

2014 Graduate Teaching-Assistantship, Linguistics, Univ. of Maryland

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| 2014 | Graduate Travel Award, College of Arts and Humanities, Univ. of Maryland |
| 2014 | Jacob K Goldhaber Travel Award, Graduate School, Univ. of Maryland |
| 2014 | International Conference Student Support Award, Univ. of Maryland |
| 2009-2014 | Graduate Fellowship, Linguistics, Univ. of Maryland, \$20,000 each year |
| 2011-2013 | Language Science Fellowship, Univ. of Maryland, \$5,000 each year |
| 2005-2009 | Scholarship, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong, \$10,000 each year |

Publications

Refereed Journals

He, A. X. & Arunachalam, S. (2017). Word Learning Strategies. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews on Cognitive Science*, e1435. doi:10.1002/wcs.1435

He, A. X. & Lidz, J. (2017). Development of the verb-event link in 14- and 18-month-old English-learning infants. *Language Learning and Development*. doi:10.1080/15475441.2017.1285238

He, A. X., Maxwell, K. & Arunachalam, S. (under revision). How much information is too much? Informativity and processing cost in verb learning.

de Carvalho A., **He A. X.**, Lidz J., & Christophe A. (under review). Prosody cues the acquisition of word meanings in 18- month-old infants.

He, A. X. & Arunachalam, S. (under review). Personal pronoun usage in maternal input to infants at high vs. low risk for autism spectrum disorder.

Conference Proceedings

Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (2015). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), 21(1)*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania.

In Preparation

He, A. X. & Arunachalam, A. Construal of event endstates in prelinguistic infants and adults.

He, A. X. & Arunachalam, A. When nouns do not name objects: Toddlers' acquisition of event nominal words.

He, A. X., Waxman, S. R., & Arunachalam, A. Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap.

He, A. X. & Lidz, J. When one cue is better than two: The role of processing in novel verb learning and verb meaning extension.

He, A. X., Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. Participant structure representation in infancy: A prelude to understanding the syntactic bootstrapping theory of verb learning.

Presentations

Invited Oral Presentations

He, A. X. (May 2017). Towards optimal input: Information and processing load in verb learning. Communication Sciences & Disorders Research Day, Boston University.

He, A. X. (April 2016). The role of sentence parsing, event analysis, and their relation in verb learning. Language and Cognition workshop, Harvard University.

He, A. X. (June 2015). Guided verb learning. Project on Child Development laboratory, Northwestern University.

Conference Oral Presentations – Individual Talks

He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (Jan 2017). How much information is too much: Informativity and processing cost in verb learning. The 91st annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Austin, Texas.

Perkins, L., **He, A. X.**, Williams, A., Dudley, R., Björnsdóttir, S. & Lidz, J. (Mar 2016). Can Intransitive Clauses Name 2-Participant Events? A New Test of Participant-to-Argument Matching in Verb Learning. The 29th annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: Workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.

He, A. X., & Lidz, J. (Jan 2016). What infants learn about a verb depends on its subject. The 90th annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), District of Columbia.

de Carvalho, A., **He, A. X.**, Dautrichel, I. & Christophe, A. (Nov 2015). 18-month-olds use the relationship between prosodic and syntactic structures to constrain the meaning of novel words. The 40th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

de Carvalho, A., **He, A. X.**, Dautrichel, I. & Christophe, A. (Sept 2015). Phrasal prosody helps infants to access the syntactic structure of sentences and to constrain the acquisition of novel word meanings. Workshop on the role of prosody in early speech perception, the 12th Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition conference (GALA), Nantes, France.

He, A. X., & Lidz, J. (Nov 2014). Development of the verb-event link between 14 and 18 months. The 39th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

He, A. X., Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (May 2014). Thematic interpretation and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 22nd Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) & the 26th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL), College Park, MD.

Wellwood, A., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Mar 2014). Participant structure in event perception: towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. The 38th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), Philadelphia, PA.

Conference Oral Presentations – Symposium Talks

Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (Upcoming, Nov 2017). Event Concepts and Early word learning. Sunday Closing Symposium at the 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S., (Upcoming, Oct 2017). Two-year-olds consolidate verb meanings during a nap. Paper at the symposium titled "Memory consolidation and learning across early childhood", the 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, Oregon.

He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (July 2017). How we conceptualize the ends of events (and what it might mean for verb acquisition). Paper at the symposium titled "Encoding Events in Language and Cognition". The 14th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL). Lyon, France.

He, A. X. & Lidz, J. (May 2016). When one cue is better than two: trade-off between processing load and informativity in verb learning and verb extension tasks. Paper at the symposium titled "How

real-time processing abilities affect the trajectory of language acquisition”, XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA.

de Carvalho, A., Dautriche, I., **He, A. X.**, Lidz, J., Christophe, A. (May 2016). The acquisition of word meanings: interactions between parsing and learning. Paper at the symposium titled “How real-time processing abilities affect the trajectory of language acquisition”, XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans, LA.

He, A. X., Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). When participant structure and argument structure do not match: Participant structure construction in adults and prelinguistic infants. Paper at the symposium titled “The Role of Grammar and Extralinguistic Cognition in Verb Learning”, the 13th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Conference Poster Presentations

He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (Aug 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.

He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). How much information is too much when introducing new verbs: Insights from typically-developing 3-year-olds. The 37th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.

He, A. X., Kim, N., Hong, S. J., Luyster, R. & Arunachalam, S. (June 2016). Pronouns in maternal input to infants at high- vs. low-risk for autism spectrum disorder. The 37th Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.

He, A. X., & Arunachalam, S. (Mar 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 29th annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing: workshop on event structure, Gainesville, FL.

He, A. X., Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic interpretations and cross-linguistic variations: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children. The XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.

He, A. X., Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (July 2014). Verb learning and the perception of three-participant events in infants and adults. Poster presented at the XIX Biennial International Conference for Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.

He, A. X., Meng, X., Williams, A. & Lidz, J. (July 2014). Thematic role assignment in resultative constructions in English- and Mandarin-learning children. The 13th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

He, A. X., Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Jan 2014). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: a prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 88th annual meeting of Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Minneapolis, MN.

He, A. X., Wellwood, A., Lidz, J. & Williams, A. (Nov 2013). Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: a prelude to syntactic bootstrapping. The 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

He, A. X. & Lidz, J. (Nov 2011). Mapping intransitive verbs onto self-propelled actions. The 36th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA.

Research Experiences

2015-present Boston University, Child Language Lab

Advisor: Sudha Arunachalam

2009-2015 Univ. of Maryland, Project on Children's Language Learning
Advisor: Jeffrey Lidz

2012-2015 Univ. of Maryland, Language and Music Cognition Lab
Advisor: Bob Slevc

2009 Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong, Childhood Bilingualism Research Center
Co-advisors: Virginia Choi-yin Yip & Angel Chan

2009 Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong, Language Acquisition Lab
Advisor: Thomas Hun-tak Lee

Peer Review & Related Activity

Ad Hoc Article Reviewing

2017 PLOS ONE
2017 Glossa: a journal of general linguistics
2016 Semantics in Language Acquisition (Edited Volume),
in Trends in Language Acquisition Research
2016 Language, Cognition and Neuroscience
2015 Journal of Experiment Child Psychology

Ad Hoc Abstract Reviewing

2017 The 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development
2017 The 39th Annual Cognitive Science Society Meeting
2016 The 41st Boston University Conference on Language Development
2016 The 38th Annual Cognitive Science Society Meeting
2015 The 29th Annual CUNY conference on Human Sentence Processing:
Workshop on event structure

Teaching & Advising

Instructor at Boston University

Spring 2017 SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required)
Spring 2016 SH524: Normal Language Acquisition (4 credits, major required)

Teaching Assistant at University of Maryland

Spring 2015 LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse
Fall 2014 LING444: Child Language Acquisition, Prof. J. Lidz

- Spring 2013** LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse
Fall 2012 LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. M. Antonisse
Spring 2012 LING240: Language and Mind, Dr. M. Antonisse
Fall 2011 LING444: Child Language, Prof. J. Lidz
Spring 2011 LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. T. Blears
Fall 2010 LING200: Introduction to Linguistics, Dr. M. Antonisse

Undergraduate Research Mentoring

- 2011-2013** RAs for children's thematic role interpretation - a crosslinguistic approach
2011-2014 RAs for early development of the verb-event link
2012-2013 RAs for event representations in infancy

Professional Affiliations & Services

Memberships

- 2015-present** Cognitive Development Society (CDS)
2014-present Society for Language Development (SLD)
2014-present International Congress for the Study of the Child Language (IASCL)
2014-present International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL)
2014-present International Congress on Infant Studies (ICIS)
2013-present Cognitive Science Society (CSS)
2012-present Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

Academic Event Organizer

- 2017** Symposium Organizer
 Conference: The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference.
 Symposium title: Memory consolidation and learning across early childhood.
- 2014** Symposium Organizer
 Conference: The 13th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)
 Symposium title: The role of grammar and extralinguistic cognition in verb learning.
- 2012** Lead Organizer
 Language Science Day, University of Maryland, College Park

Internal Committees

- 2012-2013** IGERT Student Executive Committee, member
 IGERT: NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program
 on Biological and Computational Bases of Language Science
- 2012-2013** Philosophy and Linguistics Group (PHLING), member
- 2011-2012** Department of Linguistics Grad Student Association, student representative

2011 IGERT Lunch Talk Series & Social Events Committee, member

Volunteering

2011 Maryland Day Infant and Child Studies Tent

2010 Language Science High School Outreach

Skills

- **Languages**

Mandarin (native), English (advanced), French (beginner), ASL (beginner)

- **Statistics**

Probability theory, Experiment design and sampling, Hypothesis testing, Regression analysis, etc.

- **Programming Languages**

R, MatLab, HTML5/CSS, LaTeX, Unix/Shell, Python (beginner)

- **Application Software**

Regular office use - Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Pages, Numbers, Keynote, etc.

Image/Video/Audio Editing - GIMP, iMovie, FinalCut, Praat, etc.

Behavioral experiment related - Psyscope, Habit, Tobii Eye tracker, SuperCoder, etc.