

WEI LAI

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

September, 2015 - Present

Department of Linguistics (advisor: Meredith Tamminga)

M.A., Beijing Normal University

September, 2012 - June, 2015

School of Chinese Language and Literature (advisor: Xiaoying Xu)

B.A., Beijing Normal University

September, 2008 - June, 2012

School of Chinese Language and Literature

PUBLICATION

Journal papers

- 2017 | Ya Li, Jianhua Tao, **Wei Lai** and Xiaoying Xu. Quantitative intonation modeling of interrogative sentences for Mandarin speech synthesis. *Speech Communication*, 89, 92-102.
- 2015 | Ya Li, Jianhua Tao, Keikichi Hirose, Xiaoying Xu and **Wei Lai** Hierarchical stress modeling and generation in mandarin for expressive Text-to-Speech. *Speech Communication*, 72, 59-73.

Manuscripts

- 2019 | **Wei Lai** and Jianjing Kuang. The effect of speaker gender on Cantonese level tone Perception.
- Wei Lai**, Peter Racz and Gareth Roberts. Experience with a linguistic variant affects the acquisition of its sociolinguistic meaning: An alien-language-learning experiment.
- Lacey Wade, **Wei Lai** and Meredith Tamminga. The reliability of individual differences in VOT imitation.

Book Chapters

- 2018 | Jiahong Yuan, **Wei Lai**, Chris Cieri, Mark Liberman. Using Forced Alignment for Phonetics Research. *Text, Speech and Language Technology*. Springer.

Conference Proceedings

- 2019 | **Wei Lai**, Mark Liberman and Qianxin He (2019). Compensation for F_0 variation with vocal effort and vowel height in Cantonese tone perception. In *Proc. of International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) 2019*.
- Wei Lai**, Peter Racz and Gareth Roberts (2019). Unexpectedness makes a sociolinguistic variant easier to learn: An alien-language-learning experiment. In *Proc. of the CogSci 2019* (pp. 604-610).
- 2018 | **Wei Lai** (2018). Voice gender effect on tone categorization and pitch perception. In *Proc. of TAL2018, Sixth International Symposium on Tonal Aspects of Languages* (pp. 103-107).

- 2017 **Wei Lai** (2017). Auditory-visual integration of talker gender in Cantonese tone perception. In *Proc. of Interspeech 2017* (pp. 664-668).
- 2016 **Wei Lai**, Mark Liberman, Jiahong Yuan and Xiaoying Xu (2016). Prosodic strength intrinsic to lexical items: A corpus study on tone reduction in Tone4 + Tone4 words in Mandarin Chinese. In *Proc. of Chinese Spoken Language Processing (ISCSLP) 2016* (pp. 1-5). IEEE.
- Wei Lai**, Jiahong Yuan, Ya Li, Xiaoying Xu and Mark Liberman (2016). The rhythmic constraint on prosodic boundaries in Mandarin Chinese based on corpora of silent reading and speech Perception. In *Proc. of Interspeech 2016* (pp. 87-91).
- Wei Lai** and Laura Dilley (2016). Cross-linguistic generalization of the distal rate effect: Speech rate in context affects whether listeners hear a function word in Chinese Mandarin. In *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2016* (Vol. 8).
- Wei Lai** and Jianjing Kuang (2016). Prosodic grouping in Chinese trisyllabic structures by multiple cued coarticulation, tone sandhi and consonant lenition. In *Proc. of Tonal Aspects of Languages 2016* (pp. 157-161).
- Jiahong Yuan, Xiaoying Xu, **Wei Lai** and Mark Liberman (2016). Pauses and pause fillers in Mandarin monologue speech: The effects of sex and proficiency. In *Proc. of Speech Prosody 2016* (pp. 1167-1170).
- 2015 Jiahong Yuan, Xiaoying Xu, **Wei Lai**, Weiping Ye, Xinru Zhao and Mark Liberman (2015). Sentence selection for automatic scoring of Mandarin proficiency. In *Proc. of the Eighth SIGHAN Workshop on Chinese Language Processing* (pp. 21-25).
- 2014 **Wei Lai**, Xiaoying Xu, Ya Li, Hao Che, Shanfeng Liu, and Jianhua Tao (2014). Phonological influences on the realization of final lowering evidence from dialogue Chinese Mandarin. In *Proc. of Co-ordination and Standardization of Speech Databases and Assessment Techniques (COCOSDA) 2014* (pp. 1-6). IEEE.
- Wei Lai**, Ya Li, Hao Che, Shanfeng Liu, Jianhua Tao and Xiaoying Xu (2014). Final lowering effect in questions and statements of Chinese Mandarin based on a large-scale natural dialogue corpus Analysis, In *Proc. of Speech Prosody 2014* (pp. 653-657).
- Ya Li, Jianhua Tao, Keikichi Hirose, **Wei Lai** and Xiaoying Xu (2014). Hierarchical stress generation with Fujisaki model in expressive speech synthesis. In *Proc. of Speech Prosody 2014* (pp. 1032-1036).

PRESENTATION

Oral Presentations

- 2019 Meredith Tamminga, Lacey Wade and **Wei Lai**. The search for predictors of individual differences in VOT imitation. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 48*. Eugene, Oregon.
- Wei Lai**, Mark Liberman and Qianxin He. Compensation for F_0 variation with vocal effort and vowel height in Cantonese tone perception. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2019*. Melbourne, Australia.
- Wei Lai**, Peter Racz and Gareth Roberts. Unexpectedness makes a sociolinguistic variant easier to learn: An alien-language-learning experiment. *The 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Montreal, Canada.

- Wei Lai** and Meredith Tamminga. Individual differences in simultaneous compensation for coarticulatory and lexical cues. *The 5th Workshop of Sound Change*, UC Davis, CA.
- Wei Lai**, Peter Racz and Gareth Roberts. Experience with a linguistic variant affects the acquisition of its sociolinguistic meaning: An alien-language-learning experiment. *93th Linguistic Society of America*, New York City, NY. 2019.
- 2018 **Wei Lai**. Gender stereotypes affect the perception of tone and pitch. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47*, New York City, NY.
- Wei Lai**, Peter Racz and Gareth Roberts. Prior experience with a linguistic variant affects the acquisition of its social meaning: An experimental simulation using alien language learning. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47*, New York City, NY.
- Wei Lai**, Voice gender effect on tone categorization and pitch perception. *6th International Symposium on Tonal Aspects of Languages*. Berlin, German.
- textbfWei Lai. Auditory-visual integration of talker gender in Cantonese tone perception. *92th Linguistic Society of America*, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Wei Lai** and Mark Liberman. A rhythmic constraint on prosodic boundaries in Mandarin Chinese based on corpora of silent reading and speech perception. *92th Linguistic Society of America*, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Meredith Tamminga, Lacey Wade and **Wei Lai**. Stability and variability in phonetic flexibility. *92th Linguistic Society of America*, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2016 **Wei Lai**, Jiahong Yuan, Ya Li, Xiaoying Xu and Mark Liberman. The rhythmic constraint on prosodic boundaries in mandarin Chinese Based on corpora of silent reading and speech perception. *Interspeech 2016*. San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 **Wei Lai**, Xiaoying Xu, Ya Li, Hao Che, Shanfeng Liu, and Jianhua Tao (2014). Phonological influences on the realization of final lowering evidence from dialogue Chinese Mandarin. *17th Co-ordination and Standardization of Speech Databases and Assessment Techniques*, Phuket, Thailand.

Poster Presentations

- 2019 **Wei Lai**. Visual cues facilitate talker-specific perceptual adaptation within gender. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 48*. Eugene, Oregon.
- 2016 textbfWei Lai, Mark Liberman, Jiahong Yuan and Xiaoying Xu. Prosodic strength intrinsic to lexical items: A corpus study on tone reduction in Tone4+Tone4 words in Mandarin Chinese. *The 10th Chinese Spoken Language Processing (ISCSLP)*. Tianjin, China.
- Wei Lai** and Laura Dille. Cross-linguistic generalization of the distal rate effect: Speech rate in context affects whether listeners hear a function word in Chinese Mandarin. *The 8th Speech Prosody*. Boston, MA.
- Wei Lai** and Jianjing Kuang. Prosodic grouping in Chinese trisyllabic structures by multiple cues – coarticulation, tone sandhi and consonant lenition. *Tonal Aspects of Languages 2016*. Buffalo, NY.

- 2014 | **Wei Lai**, Ya Li, Hao Che, Shanfeng Liu, Jianhua Tao and Xiaoying Xu. Final lowering effect in questions and statements of Chinese Mandarin based on a large-scale natural dialogue corpus Analysis. *7th Speech Prosody*. Dublin, Ireland.
- Ya Li, Jianhua Tao, Keikichi Hirose, **Wei Lai** and Xiaoying Xu. Hierarchical stress generation with Fujisaki model in expressive speech synthesis. *7th Speech Prosody*. Dublin, Ireland.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Conference Award

- ISCA Best Student Paper Award for Interspeech 2016 *September 2016*
- Workshop of Sound Change 5 Travel Subsidy, NSF Grant #1822522 *June 2019*
- ISCA Travel Grant, International Speech Communication Association *September 2016*

School and Department

- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, Department of Linguistics, UPenn *2015-2020*
- First Class Fellowship, Beijing Normal University *2013-2014, 2010-2011*
- Second Class Fellowship, Beijing Normal University *2012-2013, 2008-2009*

Graduate Student Society

- SAS Deans Travel Subvention, SASGov, UPenn *2017-2020*
- SASGov Travel Grant, SASGov, UPenn *Fall 2018, Spring 2019*
- President Gutmann Leadership Award, GAPSA UPenn *August 2019*
- GAPSA Research Travel Grant, GAPSA, UPenn *Fall 2016*

Research Community

- SBSI Small Grant, Social and Behavioral Science Initiative, Upenn *August 2018*
- SBSI Travel Stipend, Social and Behavioral Science Initiative, UPenn *November 2018*
- ILST Small Grant, Integrated Language Sciences and Technology, Upenn *December 2018*
- Second Class Award in *Jingshi Cup* Contest of Academic Works, Beijing Normal University *May 2012*
- Third Class Award in *Jingshi Cup* Contest of Academic Works, Beijing Normal University *May 2011*

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- NSF Grant BCS #1627972, PI Meredith Tamminga *Research Assistant, 2016 - Present*

TEACHING

- LING210 - Introduction to Language Change, Prof. Donald Ringe *Teaching Assistant, Spring 2018*
- LING001 - Introduction to Linguistics, Prof. Jianjing Kuang *Teaching Assistant, Spring 2017*
- LING001 - Introduction to Linguistics, Prof. Jianjing Kuang *Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017*
- Penn Language Program for International Teaching Assistant *Trainee, June 27 - August 12, 2016*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Penn Working Papers in Linguistics (PWPL)
Penn Linguistics Conference 41
Penn Linguistics Conference 40
Penn GradLings Speaker Series
Penn GradLings Speaker Series

Editorial member, 2015 - Present
Finance Committee, March 2017
PR Committee, March 2016
Coordinator, Spring 2016
Coordinator Assistant, Fall 2015

LANGUAGE AND SKILLS

Languages English, Mandarin Chinese, Chinese Gan Dialect
Programming Praat, R, Python, PsychoPy, HTML, LaTeX