

Brian Hsu

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-present Assistant Professor
 Department of Linguistics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2017-2019 Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity Fellow
 Department of Linguistics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2016-2017 Term Assistant Professor in Linguistics
 Department of English, George Mason University

Other academic affiliations

- Fall 2021 Visiting Scholar
 Department of Linguistics, University of California Davis

EDUCATION

- 2012-2016 Ph.D. in linguistics, University of Southern California
 Dissertation: *Syntax-prosody interactions in the clausal domain: Head movement and Coalescence* (committee chair: Andrew Simpson)
- 2010-2012 M.A. in linguistics, University of Southern California
 Thesis: *On classes of French bare nouns and the lower nominal domain*
- 2006-2010 B.A. in linguistics with honors, Haverford College (major at Swarthmore)
 Thesis: *A long-distance dependency analysis of Mandarin bei-passives in LFG*
- 2009 Coursework in linguistics at l'Université Paris Diderot – Paris VII

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- To appear (est. December 2024) Hsu, Brian and [Benjamin Frey](#). Word order in Cherokee: information structure, thematic structure, and variability. Accepted for publication in *Language*.
- 2022 Hsu, Brian. Gradient symbolic representations in Harmonic Grammar. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 16, e12473. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lnc3.12473>.
- 2021 Hsu, Brian. Coalescence: a unification of bundling mechanisms in syntax. *Linguistic Inquiry* 52(1): 39-87. https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00372.
- 2020 Hsu, Brian and [Saurov Syed](#). Cooccurrence of nonarticle determiners as evidence for split DPs and bundled projections. *Language* 96(3): e114-e134. <https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2020.0051>. [[open access version](#)]
- 2019 Hsu, Brian. Exceptional prosodification effects revisited in Gradient Harmonic Grammar. *Phonology* 36(2): 225-263. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0952675719000125>.
- 2017 Hsu, Brian. Verb second and its deviations: an argument for Feature Scattering in the left periphery. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 2(1), 35. <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.132>.

Refereed conference proceedings papers (* denotes student)

- To appear Hsu, Brian and Yiwen Peng*. Positions of Mandarin classifiers in and out of compounds: implications for distinctness, selection, and projection. To appear in *Proceedings of the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Prepublication draft [online](#).
- 2023 Hsu, Brian and [Caitlin Smith](#). Idiosyncratic hiatus resolution: an argument for Gradient Harmonic Grammar. In *Proceedings of the 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology*, ed by Noah Elkins, Bruce Hayes, Jinyoung Jo & Jian-Leat Siah. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America. <https://doi.org/10.3765/amp.v10i0.5459>
- 2021 Hsu, Brian. Harmonic Grammar in phrasal movement: an account of probe competition and blocking. In *NELS 51: Proceedings of the Fifty-first Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, volume 1*, ed. by Alessa Farinella & Angelica Hill, 237-250. Amherst, MA: GLSA. Prepublication draft [online](#).
- 2019 Hsu, Brian and [Saurov Syed](#). Variation in the co-occurrence of indexical elements: Evidence for split indexical projections in DPs. In *Proceedings of the 36th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. by Richard Stockwell, Maura O'Leary, Zhongshi Xu, & Z.L. Zhou, 188-197. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla. Available [online](#).

- 2018 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). Weighted scalar constraints capture the typology of loanword adaptation. In *Proceedings of the 2017 Annual Meeting on Phonology*, ed. by Gillian Gallagher, Maria Gouskova & Sora Yin. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/amp.v5i0.4246>.
- 2017 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). Loanword adaptation in Québec French: Evidence for weighted scalar constraints. In *Proceedings of the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. by Aaron Kaplan, Abby Kaplan, Miranda K. McCarvel & Edward J. Rubin, 249-258. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla. Available [online](#).
- 2016 Hsu, Brian. Unification of Feature Scattering and M-Merger as Coalescence. In *NELS 46: Proceedings of the forty-sixth annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society: Volume 2*, ed. by Christopher Hammerly & Brandon Prickett, 133-146. Amherst, MA: GLSA. Prepublication draft [online](#).
- 2016 Hsu, Brian. Information structure features and syntax-prosody mapping of Bangla embedded clauses: implications for Match Theory. In *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2014 Meeting on Phonology*, ed. by Adam Albright & Michelle A. Fulwood. Available online. [superseded]
- 2016 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). Scalar positional markedness and faithfulness in Harmonic Grammar. In *Proceedings of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*, 241-255. Chicago: Chicago Linguistic Society. Prepublication draft [online](#).
- 2015 Hsu, Brian. Variation in Bangla complementizer order at the syntax-prosody interface. In *NELS 45: Proceedings of the forty-fifth meeting of the North East Linguistic Society: Volume 2*, ed. by Thuy Buy & Deniz Özyıldız, 35-44. Amherst, MA: GLSA. Prepublication draft [online](#).
- 2015 Hsu, Brian. Constraining exceptionality as prosody-morphology mismatch: a study of French nasal vowels. In *Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*, 169-184. Chicago: Chicago Linguistic Society. Prepublication draft [online](#).
- 2014 Hsu, Brian. Unifying phonotactics and derived environment blocking through prosodic constraint indexation. In *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2013 Meeting on Phonology*, ed. by John Kingston, Claire Moore-Cantwell, Joe Pater, and Robert Staubs. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/amp.v5i0.4246>.

Book reviews

- 2021 Hsu, Brian. Review of Rebecca Woods and Sam Wolfe (eds.), *Rethinking verb second (Rethinking Comparative Syntax)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. *Journal of Linguistics* 57 (1): 226-231. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022226720000468>.

Edited volumes

- 2015 *Proceedings of the 32nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Eds. Ulrike Steindl, Thomas Borer, Huilin Fang, Alfredo García Pardo, Peter Guekguezian, Brian Hsu, Charlie O'Hara, Iris Chuoying Ouyang. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Manuscripts

- 2014 Hsu, Brian. Variation in Bangla complementizer order: The effect of intonational phrasing.
- 2012 Hsu, Brian. The CIP/NP split in bare nouns: evidence from French.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Refereed conference and workshop presentations (* denotes student)

- March 2024 Humphreys, Erin* and Brian Hsu. *How much overt agreement is needed for polysynthesis? Quantitative evidence from Cherokee*. Talk presented at the 48th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference. University of Pennsylvania.
- October 2022 Hsu, Brian and [Caitlin Smith](#). *Idiosyncratic hiatus resolution: an argument for Gradient Harmonic Grammar*. Poster presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology. University of California Los Angeles.
- October 2021 Hsu, Brian and Yiwen Peng*. *Phase extension and distinctness effects in Mandarin Chinese classifier co-occurrence: implications for cartography*. Talk presented at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Rutgers University. Online event.
- April 2021 Hsu, Brian and Yiwen Peng*. *Positions of Mandarin classifiers in and out of compounds: implications for distinctness, selection, and projection*. Poster presented at the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. University of Arizona. Online event.
- Jan. 2021 Hsu, Brian. *Probe competition and probe blocking: evidence for Harmonic Grammar in phrasal movement*. Poster presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2021 Annual Meeting. Online event.
- Nov. 2020 Hsu, Brian. *Harmonic Grammar in phrasal movement: an account of probe competition and blocking*. Talk presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Université du Québec à Montréal. Online event.
- Jan. 2020 Hsu, Brian. *Prominence-based licensing in head movement and phrasal movement*. Talk presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2020 Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- Jan. 2020 Hsu, Brian and [Benjamin Frey](#). *Pragmatically determined word order and its exceptions in Cherokee*. Talk presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2020 Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- May 2019 Hsu, Brian. *Prominence-based licensing in head movement and head bundling*. Poster presented at the Parameters Workshop in Honour of Lisa Travis. McGill University.

- Oct. 2018 Hsu, Brian. *Predicting exceptional prosodification effects in Gradient Harmonic Grammar*. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting on Phonology. University of California San Diego.
- May 2018 Hsu, Brian and [Saurov Syed](#). *Co-occurrence of non-article determiners as a window on variation in DP structure*. Talk presented at Cambridge Comparative Syntax 7. University of Cambridge.
- April 2018 Hsu, Brian. *Scalar constraints and gradient symbolic representations generate exceptional prosodification effects without exceptional prosody*. Talk presented at the 36th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. University of California Los Angeles.
- April 2018 Hsu, Brian and [Saurov Syed](#). *Variation in the co-occurrence of indexical elements: Evidence for split indexical projections in DPs*. Talk presented at the 36th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. University of California Los Angeles.
- Jan. 2018 Hsu, Brian and [Saurov Syed](#). *Cross-linguistic evidence for split indexical projections in DPs*. Talk presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2018 Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, UT.
- Sep. 2017 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). *Weighted scalar constraints capture the typology of loanword adaptation*. Talk presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting on Phonology. New York University.
- Jan. 2017 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). *A scalar constraint approach to the typology of loanword adaptation*. Poster presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2017 Annual Meeting. Austin, TX.
- May 2016 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). *Loanword adaptation in Québec French: Evidence for weighted scalar constraints*. Talk presented at the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. University of Utah.
- Mar. 2016 Hsu, Brian. *Bundled heads in the left periphery: Verb second and its deviations*. Talk presented at Rethinking Verb Second. University of Cambridge.
- Oct. 2015 Hsu, Brian. *Unification of Feature Scattering and M-Merger as Coalescence*. Talk presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Concordia University.
- May 2015 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). *Weighted scalar constraints and implicational process application*. Talk presented at the 23rd Manchester Phonology Meeting. University of Manchester.
- Apr. 2015 Hsu, Brian and [Karen Jesney](#). *Scalar positional markedness and faithfulness in Harmonic Grammar*. Talk presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. University of Chicago.
- Jan. 2015 Hsu, Brian. *An interface approach to second position effects in Bangla complementation*. Poster presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2015 Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.
- Oct. 2014 Hsu, Brian. *Variation in Bangla complementizer order at the syntax-prosody interface*. Poster presented at the 45th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. MIT.

- Sep. 2014 Hsu, Brian. *Information structure features and syntax-prosody mapping of Bangla embedded clauses: implications for Match theory*. Poster presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting on Phonology. MIT.
- May 2014 Hsu, Brian. *Prosodic structure building constrains syntactic movement: evidence from Bangla*. Poster presented at ETI 3: Prosody and Constituent Structure. McGill University.
- Nov. 2013 Hsu, Brian. *Unifying phonotactics and derived environment blocking through prosodic constraint indexation*. Poster presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting on Phonology. UMass Amherst.
- Apr. 2013 Hsu, Brian. *Constraining exceptionality as morphology-phonology mismatch*. Talk presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. University of Chicago.
- Apr. 2013 Hsu, Brian. *Explaining exceptional patterns in language: an interface solution from syntax and phonology*. Talk presented at USC Graduate Research Symposium. University of Southern California.
- Dec. 2012 Hsu, Brian. *Two categories of bare nouns: evidence from French*. Talk presented at Going Romance 2012. KU Leuven.

Invited talks

- Nov. 2021 Hsu, Brian and [Benjamin Frey](#). *Clausal word order in Cherokee: a corpus approach and its formal implications*. UC Davis Language Group, University of California Davis.
- Jun. 2020 Hsu, Brian. *On Coalescence, phrasal movement, and probe competition*. Syntax+ research group, University of Southern California.
- Mar. 2020 Hsu, Brian. *TBD*. UNC Linguistics Spring Colloquium 2020. [Postponed due to COVID-19]
- Oct. 2019 Hsu, Brian. *Information structure in the clausal hierarchy: universals and variation*. Linguistics Brown Bag Series, North Carolina State University.
- Feb. 2018 Hsu, Brian. *Coalescence: A unified approach to bundling mechanisms in syntax*. UNC Linguistics Friday Colloquium, UNC Chapel Hill.
- Nov. 2016 Hsu, Brian. *The role of bundled heads in cross-linguistic variation in clause structure: Evidence from verb-second effects*. GMU Linguistics Society Colloquium, George Mason University.
- Nov. 2014 Hsu, Brian. *French linguistics*. Undergraduate Students in Linguistics Language Workshop, University of Southern California.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- Apr. 2021 *A primer on reading Mandarin Chinese names*. Academic Advising Program, College of Arts & Sciences. UNC Chapel Hill

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2019-present UNC Chapel Hill, as Assistant Professor

Courses

LING 101	Introduction to Language	Spring 2023
LING 101H	Honors Introduction to Language	Fall 2020
LING 201	Syntax (undergraduate)	Spring 2020 Spring 2021 Spring 2022 Spring 2023 Fall 2023
LING 230	Constructed Languages: Theory and Typology	Fall 2022
LING 290	Special Topics in Linguistics Constructed Languages: Theory and Typology	Spring 2020 Spring 2021
LING 395	Group Mentored Research	Spring 2021
LING 495	Individual Mentored Research	Fall 2023 (x2)
LING 530	Syntactic Theory I (graduate)	Fall 2019 Fall 2020 Spring 2022 Fall 2022 Fall 2023

Research mentoring

Committee chair	Lainey Miller. <i>The grammaticalization of Biblical Hebrew asseverative main clause marker kî</i> . BA honors thesis. https://doi.org/10.17615/4rgs-0675	Spring 2022
Reader	Safiatou Bamba. <i>Whose Evidence, whose time: An analysis of time, evidence, and memory in -te-un attributive clauses in Korean</i> . BA honors thesis.	Spring 2022
Committee chair	Yiwen Peng. <i>The selectional relations and constituency of classifiers in Mandarin Chinese</i> . MA thesis. https://doi.org/10.17615/7qzr-ks75	Spring 2021
Reader	Erin Chesson. <i>Heritage speaker use of pro-drop and verbal agreement morphology in Tigrinya</i> . MA thesis. https://doi.org/10.17615/7qzr-ks75	Spring 2021
Committee chair	Michael Bruxvoort. <i>Enumerators in S'gaw Karen: A compilation and analysis</i> . MA thesis. https://doi.org/10.17615/wcnt-7568	Spring 2020
Faculty mentor	Shayla Bezjak (Smith College). <i>Who speaks Spanish?: An exploration of dominant ideology in children's books</i> . MURAP research paper.	Summer 2019
Faculty mentor	Jennifer Ricano (Duke University). <i>Classic Taíno vowels: a phonological description</i> . MURAP research paper.	Summer 2019

2017-2019	UNC Chapel Hill, as Postdoctoral Fellow / Adjunct Assistant Professor	
	Courses	
LING 530	Syntactic Theory I (graduate)	Spring 2018 Spring 2019
	Research mentoring	
Reader	Mykel Loren Brinkerhoff. <i>On subcategorization and priority: evidence from Welsh allomorphy.</i> MA thesis. https://doi.org/10.17615/td9g-v269	Spring 2019
Reader	Yining Zhu. <i>Possessive Constructions in P'urépecha.</i> BA honors thesis. https://doi.org/10.17615/b5hy-5114	Spring 2018
2016-2017	George Mason University, as Term Assistant Professor	
	Courses	
LING 522	Modern English Grammar (graduate)	Spring 2017
LING 486	Syntax I (undergraduate)	Spring 2017
LING 786	Syntax I (graduate)	Spring 2017
LING 520	Introduction to Linguistics (graduate)	Fall 2016
LING 787	Syntax II (graduate)	Fall 2016
LING 886	Advanced Syntax Seminar (graduate)	Fall 2016
2011-2014	University of Southern California, as Assistant Lecturer	
	Courses	
FREN 150	French II	Spring 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012
FREN 120	French I	Spring 2012, Fall 2011

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023	Institute for the Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship; \$5000 and one-semester leave. UNC-Chapel Hill.	
2023	William C. Friday / Class of 1986 Award for Excellence in Teaching; \$5000. UNC-Chapel Hill.	
2022	Junior Faculty Development Award; \$10,000. UNC-Chapel Hill.	
2019	Schwab Academic Excellence Award; \$3000. The Institute for the Arts and Humanities. UNC-Chapel Hill.	

- 2019 Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Summer Faculty Fellowship. UNC-Chapel Hill.
- 2017-2019 Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity Fellowship. UNC-Chapel Hill.
- 2015-2016 Morkovin Endowed Fellowship. The Graduate School, USC.
- 2010-2015 College Doctoral Fellowship. Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, USC.
- 2010 Best Thesis in Theoretical Linguistics Award. Department of Linguistics, Swarthmore College.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

Professional membership

- 2014-2019 Member, Linguistic Society of America

Panels

- Oct 2021 Faculty panel member, Network Educate Learn Socialize @ NELS 52

Journal article reviewing

- 2023 *Linguistics*
- 2023 *Linguistic Typology*
- 2023 *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*
- 2023 *Phonology*
- 2023 *Language and Linguistics Compass*
- 2021 *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*
- 2021 *Glossa* (x2)
- 2021 *Linguistic Inquiry*
- 2020 *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*
- 2019-2020 *Glossa*
- 2019 *Phonology*
- 2019 *Journal of South Asian Linguistics*
- 2018 *Journal of Linguistics*
- 2017 *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*
- 2015 *Lingua/Glossa*

Textbook reviewing

- 2024 Cambridge University Press
- 2022 Cambridge University Press
- 2021 Cambridge University Press

Conference abstract reviewing

2024	WCCFL 42 (University of California Berkeley)
2023	NELS 54 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
2023	AMP 2023 (Johns Hopkins University)
2023	WCCFL 41 (University of California Santa Cruz)
2022	AMP 2022 (University of California Los Angeles)
2021	AMP 2021 (University of Toronto and York University)
2021	NELS 52 (Rutgers University)
2020	AMP 2020 (University of California Santa Cruz)
2020	NELS 51 (Université du Québec à Montréal)
2020	CLS 56 (University of Chicago)
2019	NELS 50 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
2018	NELS 49 (Cornell University)
2018	CLS 54 (University of Chicago)
2017	NELS 48 (University of Iceland)

Departmental service

2019-2023	Diversity Liaison, UNC Department of Linguistics
2019-present	News blog manager, UNC department of linguistics

Conference organizing

2016	Organizing committee, AMP 2016 at USC
2014	Editorial board, Proceedings of WCCFL 32
2014	Organizing committee, WCCFL 32 at USC

Committee membership

2012-2013	Student-Faculty Liaison, USC Graduate Students in Linguistics
2011-2012	USC Graduate Student Government senator
2011-2012	Treasurer, USC Graduate Students in Linguistics

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

English (native)
Taiwanese Mandarin (native)
French (fluent)
German (intermediate)
Japanese (intermediate)
Spanish (intermediate)
Cherokee (working knowledge)

PROGRAMMING, TECHNICAL ABILITIES

MATLAB
Python
Praat
R