

# Brian Hsu

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Linguistics  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
105 Smith Building, CB#3155  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Email: [hsub \[at\] email \[dot\] unc \[dot\] edu](mailto:hsub@email.unc.edu)  
Website: <http://hsub.web.unc.edu>

## 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

- 2024 Hsu, Brian and [Benjamin Frey](#). Word order in Cherokee: information structure, thematic structure, and variability. *Language* 100(3): e124-e155. <https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2024.a937196>.
- 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](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 Humphreys, Erin\* and Brian Hsu. *How much overt agreement is needed for polysynthesis? Quantitative evidence from Cherokee*. To appear in *Proceedings of the 48th annual Penn Linguistics Conference*.
- 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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 36<sup>th</sup> 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 51<sup>st</sup> 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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)

- October 2024 Hsu, Brian and [Caitlin Smith](#). *Emergent strength strata in Cherokee hiatus resolution*. Talk to be presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Yale University.
- March 2024 Humphreys, Erin\* and Brian Hsu. *How much overt agreement is needed for polysynthesis? Quantitative evidence from Cherokee*. Talk presented at the 48<sup>th</sup> 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 52<sup>nd</sup> 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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 51<sup>st</sup> 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 46<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 51<sup>st</sup> 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 45<sup>th</sup> 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 taught

<i>Course number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Students per section</i>	<i>Terms taught</i>
Ling 101	Introduction to Language	60-100	S2023 F2024
Ling 101H	Honors Introduction to Language	23	F2020
Ling 201	Syntax (undergraduate)	21-35	S2020, S2021, S2022, S2023, F2023
Ling 230	Constructed Languages: Theory and Typology	21	F2022
Ling 290	Special Topics in Linguistics (Constructed Languages)	10-18	S2020, S2021
Ling 395	Group Mentored Research	1	S2021
Ling 495	Individual Mentored Research	2	F2023
Ling 530	Syntactic Theory I (graduate)	6-13	F2019, F2020, S2022, F2022, F2023, F2024

### Research mentoring

Reader	Erin Humphreys. <i>Rethinking mental verb acquisition: Animate objects as a potential cue to verb meaning</i> . MA thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/e7er-5z37">https://doi.org/10.17615/e7er-5z37</a>	Spring 2024
Reader	Xuan Hu. <i>The impact of attitudes and use on first language attrition and backward transfer for Mandarin-English bilinguals</i> . MA thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/03pa-pt41">https://doi.org/10.17615/03pa-pt41</a>	Spring 2023
Committee chair	Lainey Miller. <i>The grammaticalization of Biblical Hebrew asseverative main clause marker ki</i> . BA honors thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/4rgs-0675">https://doi.org/10.17615/4rgs-0675</a>	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. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/31py-d319">https://doi.org/10.17615/31py-d319</a>	Spring 2022
Committee chair	Yiwen Peng. <i>The selectional relations and constituency of classifiers in Mandarin Chinese</i> . MA thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/7qzr-ks75">https://doi.org/10.17615/7qzr-ks75</a>	Spring 2021

Reader	Erin Chesson. <i>Heritage speaker use of pro-drop and verbal agreement morphology in Tigrinya</i> . MA thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/7qzr-ks75">https://doi.org/10.17615/7qzr-ks75</a>	Spring 2021
Committee chair	Michael Bruxvoort. <i>Enumerators in S'gaw Karen: A compilation and analysis</i> . MA thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/wcnt-7568">https://doi.org/10.17615/wcnt-7568</a>	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	
<b>Courses</b>		
LING 530	Syntactic Theory I (graduate)	Spring 2018 Spring 2019
<b>Research mentoring</b>		
Reader	Mykel Loren Brinkerhoff. <i>On subcategorization and priority: evidence from Welsh allomorphy</i> . MA thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/td9g-v269">https://doi.org/10.17615/td9g-v269</a>	Spring 2019
Reader	Yining Zhu. <i>Possessive Constructions in P'urépecha</i> . BA honors thesis. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17615/b5hy-5114">https://doi.org/10.17615/b5hy-5114</a>	Spring 2018
2016-2017	George Mason University, as Term Assistant Professor	
<b>Courses</b>		
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	
<b>Courses</b>		
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 NELS 55 (Yale University)  
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**

R  
Praat  
MATLAB  
Python