

Chao Sun

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Research summary

Area Experimental Semantics and Pragmatics
Topics Implicatures, Focus, Prosody, Donkey anaphora, Negation, Emoticon
Methods Psycholinguistic methods (behavioural studies, eye-tracking), Corpus, Language modeling

Academic positions

11/2020 Alexander von Humboldt-Fellow, Leibniz Centre for General Linguistics (ZAS)
11/2018-07/2020 Postdoctoral researcher, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
• PI: Prof. Dr. Katharina Spalek
• Project: Focus alternatives in the human mind (ERC Horizon 2020)
1/2018-11/2018 Research fellow, Leibniz Centre for General Linguistics (ZAS)
2017 Autumn Research assistant (part-time), University of Edinburgh.

Education

2013-2017 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, University College London
• Thesis: Scalar Implicature: Gricean Reasoning and Local Enrichment
• Advisors: Richard Breheny (primary) and Andrea Santi (secondary)
• Examiner: Robyn Carston (internal) and Chris Cummins (external)
2011-2012 **M.A. in Linguistics** (Distinction), University College London
2010-2013 **M.A. in Chinese Philology**, Northeast Normal University, China
2006-2010 **B.A. in Chinese Linguistics and Literature**, Northeast Normal University, China

Fellowship & awards

2019 Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers
• Project: Scalar diversity: relevance and prior probability
• Academic hosts: Dr. Uli Sauerland & Dr. Nicole Gotzner
2018 Xprag.de Short-term Collaboration Fund
• Project: Predicting scalar diversity in a Bayesian model of pragmatic inference with lexical uncertainty
• Collaborators: Richard Breheny (UCL), Nicole Gotzner (ZAS), Anton Benz (ZAS)
2018 Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics Fellowship
2017 Xprag.de Intern Fellowship
2013-2017 China Scholarship Council Scholarship (Type A: 4 years of tuition and stipend)

Publications

JOURNAL PAPERS

- 2020 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Another look at the online processing of scalar inferences: an investigation of conflicting findings from visual-world eye-tracking studies. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 35:8, 949-979.
- 2019 van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E., & **Sun, C.** Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 105, 93-107.
- 2018 **Sun, C.**, Breheny, R., & Tian, Y. A link between local pragmatic enrichment and scalar diversity. *Frontiers in psychology*, 9, 2092.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS WITH PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS

- 2020 **Sun, C.**, Breheny, R., & Rothschild, D. Exploring the existential/universal ambiguity in singular donkey sentences. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 24(2)*, 289-305.
- 2019 van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E., Marty, P., & **Sun, C.** Scalar inferences and cognitive load. In: M.Teresa Espinal et al. (Eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23, 2*, 427-441.
- 2018 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Shared mechanism underlying unembedded and embedded enrichments: Evidence from enrichment priming. In Sauerland, U. & Solt, S. (Eds.). *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22, 2*, 425-441.
- 2017 Tian, Y., Galery, T., Dulcinati, G., Molimpakis, E., & **Sun, C.** Facebook sentiment: reactions and emojis. In Ku, L. & Li, C. (Eds.). *Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Social Media*, 11-16.

Presentations

PEER-REVIEWED TALKS

- 2020 van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E., **Sun, C.**, & Marty, P. Polarity in scalar inference processing. Degree Expressions and Polarity Effects (DegPol2020). ZAS, Berlin. March 9-10.
- 2020 Breheny, R., **Sun, C.**, Gotzner, N., & Benz, A. Diverse mechanisms explain scalar diversity. AG 13: Diversity in pragmatic inferences: experimental data, computational models, and the semantics/pragmatics interface. DGfS-Jahrestagung 2020. Universität Hamburg. March 5-6.
- 2019 **Sun, C.**, Breheny, R., & Rothschild, D. Exploring the existential/universal ambiguity in singular donkey sentences. *Sinn und Bedeutung 24*, Osnabrück University. September 4-6.
- 2019 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Another look at the online processing of scalar inferences: an investigation of conflicting findings from visual-world eye-tracking studies. Attentive Listener in the Visual World (AttLis) 2019, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. August 28-30.
- 2018 Breheny, R. & **Sun, C.** Exploring the existential/universal ambiguity in singular donkey sentences. Workshop: The pragmatics of quantifiers: implicature and presupposition – experiment and theory, ZAS, Berlin.
- 2017 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Shared mechanism underlying non-embedded and embedded enrichments: Evidence from enrichment priming. *Sinn und Bedeutung 22*, Berlin. September 7-9.

PEER-REVIEWED POSTERS

- 2020 **Sun, C.**, Spalek, K., & Breheny, R. Investigating the use of alternatives in incremental processing. The 26th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Potsdam. September 3rd-5th
- 2020 Breheny, R., Gonzales De Linares, B., Qin, E., & **Sun, C.** What the inference task tells us about numbers, and what numbers can tell us about the inference task. The 33rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, UMass Amherst. March 19-21.
- 2020 **Sun, C.**, Spalek, K., & Breheny, R. The use of alternatives in incremental processing. The 33rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, UMass Amherst. March 19-21.
- 2019 **Sun, C.**, Benz, A., Gotzner, N., & Breheny, R. Approaching scalar diversity using multiple mechanisms. XPRAG.de Annual Meeting 2019 at ZAS Berlin. November 20-21.
- 2019 **Sun, C.**, Koch, X., & Spalek, K. Individual differences in focus processing. The 25th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Moscow. September 6-8.
- 2019 **Sun, C.**, Koch, X., & Spalek, K. The processing of focus: perception, comprehension and production. The 8th Experimental Pragmatics conference, University of Edinburgh. June 19-21.
- 2019 **Sun, C.**, Benz, A., Gotzner, N., & Breheny, R. Approaching scalar diversity using multiple mechanisms. The 8th Experimental Pragmatics conference, University of Edinburgh. June 19-21.
- 2019 van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E., & **Sun, C.** Scales and scalarity: processing scalar inferences. The 8th Experimental Pragmatics conference, University of Edinburgh. June 19-21.
- 2018 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Approaching scalar diversity through (RSA with) Lexical Uncertainty. Sinn und Bedeutung 23, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. September 5-7.
- 2018 van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E., & **Sun, C.** Scalar diversity: a processing perspective. Sinn und Bedeutung 23, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. September 5-7.
- 2018 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Approaching scalar diversity through (RSA with) Lexical Uncertainty. The 31st annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, University of California, Davis. March 15-17.
- 2017 **Sun, C.**, Breheny, R., & Tian, Y. Rates of scalar inferences beyond ‘some’ – A corpus study. The 7th biannual Experimental Pragmatics Conference, Cologne. June 21-23.
- 2017 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. On the compositional interpretation of scalar quantifiers: the role of the residue set. Poster presentation. The 30th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, MIT, Cambridge MA.
- 2016 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. What would a compositional hearer do? - controlling for prior expectations in visual world timecourse studies. The 22nd Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Bilbao, Spain. September 1-3.
- 2016 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Homogeneity and enrichability affect scalar processing. Logic in Language and in Conversation workshop, Utrecht. September 19-20.
- 2015 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Pragmatic ‘some’ was rapid, controlling perceptual and typicality differences. Poster presentation. The 21st Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Valletta, Malta. September 3-5.
- 2015 **Sun, C.** & Breheny, R. Diverse factors for scalar diversity. Poster presentation. The 28th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, Los Angeles, CA. March 19-21.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 **Sun, C.**, Spalek, K, & Breheny, R. Alternatives in online processing. Psycholinguistics Colloquium, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- 2019 **Sun, C.** On the interpretation and processing of scalar implicatures. Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai.
- 2018 **Sun, C.** Scalar Implicature: Grice Reasoning and Local Enrichment. Semantics circle, Leibniz Centre for General Linguistics (ZAS), Berlin.
- 2017 **Sun, C.** On the compositional interpretation of scalar quantifiers: The role of the residue set. School of Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading.

Professional activities

- 2018 XPrag.de associate
- 2017 Linguistic consultant, Shanghai Jiahao Technology Ltd.
- 2016 Organizer, Cambridge-UCL Experimental Semantics & Pragmatics Workshop, University of Cambridge.
- 2016 Organizer, Corpus methods and Web Data for Linguistics Workshop, University College London.
- 2014-2017 Organizer, University College London Pragmatics Reading Group.
- 2015 Teaching assistant, *Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*, University College London.

Others

- Language Mandarin (native), English (proficient), German (intermediate)
- Techniques R, Python, E-Prime, Presentation, Experiment Builder, Tobii, Eyelink, IbxFarm, \LaTeX , Praat, Photoshop