

# 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>2014</b>	Graduate Travel Award, College of Arts and Humanities, Univ. of Maryland
<b>2014</b>	Jacob K Goldhaber Travel Award, Graduate School, Univ. of Maryland
<b>2014</b>	International Conference Student Support Award, Univ. of Maryland
<b>2009-2014</b>	Graduate Fellowship, Linguistics, Univ. of Maryland, \$20,000 each year
<b>2011-2013</b>	Language Science Fellowship, Univ. of Maryland, \$5,000 each year
<b>2005-2009</b>	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 2<sup>nd</sup> round review). How much information is too much? Informativity and processing cost in verb learning.

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

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

### *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 91<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 38<sup>th</sup> annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), Philadelphia, PA.

### ***Conference Oral Presentations – Symposium Talks***

Arunachalam, S., & **He, A. X.** (Upcoming, Nov 2017). Children's acquisition of nouns that denote events. Paper at the Sunday Closing Symposium titled "Event Concepts and Early word learning" at the 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

### ***Conference Poster Presentations***

**He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Upcoming Oct 2017). Eye gaze reveals where verb learners trip. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, Oregon.

**He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Upcoming Oct 2017). Event nominal acquisition benefits from linguistic context. The 2017 Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Conference, Portland, Oregon.

**He, A. X.**, & Arunachalam, S. (Aug 2016). How event endstates are conceptualized in adults and infants. The 38<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 88<sup>th</sup> 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 38<sup>th</sup> 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 36<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.