Zijing Xu

zijing.xu0323@rutgers.edu
https://xzijing.github.io

Education

2026-Present
Rutgers University – New Brunswick, USA
Ph.D. in Linguistics

2023-2024
The Chinese University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong, China
M.A. in Linguistics
Thesis: *Tonal adaptation of English loanwords in Mandarin Chinese*

2019-2023
Yunnan University – Kunming, China
B.A. in English

Research Experience

Research assistant, Baby Lab, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (PI: LAI Yee King Regine), 2024 – 2026
Recruited participants; Conducted infant behavioral experiments using habituation and central fixation paradigms in phonological learnability projects.

Student helper, Brain and Mind Institute, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2024
Annotated audio files using Praat; Helped to conduct infant EEG experiments.

Research Interests

Phonology, Language acquisition, Computational linguistics

Manuscripts in Preparation

Xu, Z., Ou, M., Li, C., Kwong, K. & Lai, R. The Impact of Computational Complexity on Learning Tonal Patterns.

Xu, Z. & Lai, R. Stress-to-tone mapping of English polysyllabic loanwords in Mandarin.

Conference Presentations

Xu, Z. & Lai, R. (2024). *Tonal Adaptation of English loanwords in Mandarin Chinese*. The 19th Annual Research Forum of the Linguistics Society of Hong Kong (LSHK-ARF-2024), Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Hong Kong, Dec 8, 2024.

Xu, Z., & Lai, R. (2026). *Stress-to-tone mapping of English polysyllabic loanwords in Mandarin*. In Proceedings of the Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language 2026. Hanyang University.

Training Experience

fNIRS and Hyperscanning Fundamentals: From Theory to Practice Workshop, Brain and Mind Institute, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, April 2025

The 9th Summer School on Contemporary Phonetics and Phonology, Xi'an International Studies University, July 2023

Skills

Experimental methods
Infant looking time, EEG, Corpus, Bayesian modeling

Programming & Tools
R, PRAAT, CLAN, LATEX

Languages
English: fluent
Mandarin Chinese: native
Cantonese: basic
Spanish: basic