

Junfei HU

Marie Curie Early-Stage Researcher & PhD Candidate

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Discourse segmentation
2. Turn-taking and backchannel in conversation
3. Gesture-speech cooperation in language production
4. Gesture in predictive language processing
5. Corpus analysis

EXPERIENCE

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Oct 2020 - Present

Marie Curie Early-Stage Researcher
Université catholique de Louvain

1. This project is a part of the large Marie Curie Project called 'Conversational Brain' (<https://cobra-network.eu/>).
2. This project is designed to answer the following three questions. What is the building block of spoken discourse, and how can it be identified? What is the role of this unit in response management in conversation? To what extent do interlocutors align at the discourse level in terms of their choice of unit?

Edinburgh, UK
Dec 2022 - Present

Visiting PhD Student
The University of Edinburgh

Explore the association between discourse segment and backchannel by using button-press paradigm.

Aix-en-Provence, France
Nov 2021 - Apr 2022

Marie Curie Early-Stage Researcher
Laboratoire Parole et Langage, CNRS

1. The Secondment required by my Marie Curie Project.
2. Collected task-orientated dialogues to study the extent to which interlocutors get aligned at the discourse level.

Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Oct 2021 - Aug 2022

Guest Researcher
Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

Collaborate with researchers at MPI for investigating the role of gesture in predictive language processing using visual world paradigm.

Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Feb 2019 - Jul 2020

Research Assistant
Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

1. Annotated gesture in task-oriented dialogue in Dutch which are used for revealing the extent to which interlocutors get aligned multimodally.
2. Collected the natural multimodal Chinese conversation.

Beijing, China
Aug 2017 - Jul 2020

Software Developer
Manga Mandarin (Start-up)

Created an App for the non-native speaker of Chinese to learn Chinese through reading manga.

California, USA
Sep 2015 - Feb 2017

Visiting Graduate Researcher
University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

Explored the usage of a specific verb *nong* (similar to make in English) in different registers.

EDUCATION

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Oct 2020 - Present

Ph.D Candidate
Université catholique de Louvain

Dissertation title (provisional): Discourse unit in interactive alignment and predictive language processing: Combining corpus-based and experimental approaches to study natural English conversation

Edinburgh, UK
Dec 2022 - Present

Visiting Ph.D Student
The University of Edinburgh

Explore the association between conversational discourse unit and backchannel.

Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Aug 2018 - Aug 2020

Research M.A. in Linguistics and Communication Sciences
Radboud University Nijmegen

Thesis title: The role of iconic gestures in predictive language processing: Evidence from corpus analyses and anticipatory eye-movements

Hong Kong, China
Aug 2012 - Sep 2013

M.A. in Chinese Language and Literature
City University of Hong Kong

Shenyang, China
Sep 2008 - Jul 2012

B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature
Liaoning University

Thesis title: Role of Gesture in Chinese-teaching

LANGUAGES

Chinese
Native

English
Advanced

SKILLS

SPSS

ELAN

Microsoft Office

Tobii Eye Tracker

HONORS & AWARDS

1. **2020-2024 Marie Curie Early-Stage Researcher Fellowship (250,000€)** Discourse Unit and Discourse Alignment (part of the Conversational Brain Project), awarded by European Unions Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No859588.
2. **2023 FNRS Mobility Funding (2,839.03€)**, awarded by Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) in Belgium.
3. **Travel Grants FWB 2022 (4,387€)**, awarded by Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles (FWB) in Belgium.
4. **2015-2016 Visiting Graduate Fellowship (8,500 \$)**, awarded by University of California Los Angeles.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Hu, J.**, Chen, J., Özyürek, A., & Huettig, F. (*in prep*). The role of iconic gestures in predictive language processing: Evidence from corpus analyses and anticipatory eye-movements.
2. **Hu, J.**, Herment, S., & Degand, L. (*in prep*). Do speakers align at the discourse level? The role of discourse segments in task-oriented dialogue.
3. **Hu, J.**, & Degand, L. (under revision) The conversational discourse unit: Identification and its role in conversational turn-taking management. *Dialogue & Discourse*. **[Peer-reviewed journal article]**
4. **Hu, J.**, & Degand, L. (December, 2022). Do speakers align at the discourse level? The role of conversational discourse unit in task-oriented dialogue. Talk presented at the *CogLing Days 2022*. Tilburg, The Netherlands **[Oral presentation]**
5. **Hu, J.**, & Degand, L. (August, 2022). Discourse alignment in English dialogue: Converging on discourse segments in instructive sequences. Talk presented at *the 55th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 2022)*. Bucharest, Romania. **[Oral presentation]**
6. **Hu, J.**, & Özyürek, A. (May, 2020). Temporal synchrony of speech and gesture: A corpus-based case study of Chinese conversation. *International Conference on Multimodal Communication (ICMC 2020)*. Osnabrück, Germany. **[Oral presentation]**
7. **Hu, J.**, Özyürek, A., & Huettig, F. (March, 2020). The role of iconic gesture in predictive language processing. Centre for Language Studies (CLS) Lunch Talk, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. **[Oral presentation]**
8. Tao, H., & **Hu, J.** (2019). Structural, semantic, and pragmatic properties of *nong* constructions in Mandarin discourse: Evidence from corpora. *International Journal of Chinese Linguistics*, 6(1), 162 - 176. <http://doi.org/10.1075/ijchl.18003.tao>. **[Peer-reviewed journal article]**
9. **Hu, J.**, & Özyurek, A. (April, 2019). Gesture retraction: A turn-final go signal for timing turn-transition. *Gesture Sign Workshop 2019*, Charles University, Prague, Czech. <https://calc.ff.cuni.cz/en/gesture-signws/> **[Oral presentation]**
10. **Hu, J.**, & Tao, H. (2017). A corpus-based study of low transitivity features of the verb *Nong* in Chinese. *Foreign Language Teaching and Research*, 49(1), 64-72. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328192087_jiyuyuliaokudenongzijudejiwuxingyanjiu **[Peer-reviewed journal article]**