

## EDUCATION

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2024- | **Postdoctoral Researcher**

Zhejiang University | 浙江大学, China

Supervisor: Nai Ding 丁鼎

2016 – 2023 | **PhD**, Neuroscience

McGill University | Université McGill, Canada

Thesis: Brain signatures of native and non-native Mandarin processing

Supervisors: Karsten Steinhauer & Shari Baum

2018 – 2019 | **Fulbright US Student Researcher**

Nanjing Normal University | 南京师范大学, China

conducted 10-month exchange for PhD thesis research

Supervisor: Hui Zhang 张辉

2015 – 2016 | **Master's**, Cognitive Neuroscience of Language

University of the Basque Country | Euskal Herriako Unibertsitatea, Spain

Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language

Thesis: Experimental investigation of speaker identity processing in Basque

Supervisors: Sindy Caffarra & Simona Mancini

2010 – 2014 | **BSc with Distinction**, Chemistry, second major Hispanic Linguistics

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

2012 – 2013 | **Study Abroad**

Complutense University | Universidad Complutense, Spain

completed two semesters of upper-level chemistry classes in Spanish

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2024 | Zhejiang University Special Postdoc Recruitment Award 特别资助, 15,000 RMB

2023 – 2024 | **Blakemore Freeman Fellowship for Chinese**, 28,500 USD + 19,000 USD tuition

2019 – 2021 | **FRQNT doctoral research bursary, first-ranked application**: 56,000 CAD

2019 | Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives Student Fellowship – *declined*: 15,000 CAD

2019 | Mitacs Globalink Research Award: 6,000 CAD

2018 | McGill Faculty of Medicine Studentship – *declined*: 12,000 CAD

2018 | Chinese Government Scholarship: 5,000 USD

2018 | **Fulbright US Student Researcher Award**: 23,000 USD

2018 | Center for Research on Brain, Language and Music Internship Award: 1,500 CAD

2017 | Center for Research on Brain, Language and Music Stipend Award: 6,000 CAD

2017 | Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award: 500 CAD

2017 | McGill Faculty of Medicine Shuk-Tak Liang Fellowship: 12,000 CAD

2016 | McGill Integrated Program in Neuroscience Recruitment Award: 5,000 CAD

2015 | University of the Basque Country Master's Scholarship: 4,500 EUR

2014 | Phi Beta Kappa Members, honors fraternity for academic performance

2012 | **Gilman International Scholarship** from US Department of State: 5,000 USD

2012 | Leonard and Rose Herring Study Abroad Scholarship: 3,000 USD

2012 | Carolina Research Scholar designation for undergraduate research excellence

2011 – 2014 | Honor's Program Student at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2010 – 2014 | Dean's list, all semesters at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2010 | US National Merit Scholarship: 10,000 USD

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching

2021 | **Guest Lecturer**

McGill University, PSYC 433 Cognitive Science, Canada

- Delivered 80-minute introduction to syntax lecture for undergraduate course

2017 | **Instructor**

[Duke Talent Identification Program](#), Psychology of Decision Making, China

- Designed, developed, taught three-week intensive course with >100 hours of instruction time for 18 high school students, including 15 English second language learners
- Brought neuroscience perspective to course, introducing MRI, EEG, and eye tracking
- Engaged students with primary literature for proposing experiments for final project

2014 – 2015 | **Foreign Teacher**

Best Learning English, China

- Instructed English immersion classes to children ages two to ten
- Collaborated in intercultural situations to model American educational environment
- Worked and coordinated with sales staff to procure new students

2014 | **Instructional Counselor**

[Duke Talent Identification Program](#), Human Genetics, USA

- Supported instruction of academically gifted high school students in three-week human genetics course and introduced students to molecular biology laboratory techniques
- Led residential activities for participants with team of counselors

### Student Supervision

2019 – 2022 | Jiarui Ao

McGill University, Canada

- Supervised undergraduate research assistant, guided training in R, MATLAB, regression and mixed effects models, data visualization, and EEG data preprocessing
- Supported student's delivery of two first-author conference presentations, contributing to four second-author conference presentations and second-author journal article

### Mentorship

2021 | **Mentor** for [Mitacs Globalink Research Internship](#), Canada

- Mentored 10 international interns during their virtual internship at McGill
- Created and led online workshops on planning for graduate school, dealing with imposter syndrome, and science communication

2019, 2020, 2021 | **Graduate Funding Panelist**, Canada

- Invited by McGill Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to advise STEM graduate students on applying to provincial funding

2019 | **Fulbright Alumni Facilitator**, USA

- Led discussions and briefed incoming Fulbright grantees for East-Asia and Pacific for Fulbright pre-departure orientation

2019 | **Fulbright Student Researcher Moderator**, Taipei

- Led group discussion on professional life in a second language

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Work Experience

2013 – 2014 | **Lab Assistant**, Qing Zhang Lab

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

- Prepared buffers, gels, and reagents for cancer and hypoxia research
- Organized lab supplies and workspaces

2011 – 2012 | **HHMI Future Scientists and Clinicians Fellow**, Vytas Bankaitis Lab

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

- Created binding mutant of yeast protein which contributed to high-profile publication
- Conducted full-time research for two summers, part-time during academic year
- Responsibilities: PCR, cloning, protein purification, homology modeling

### Professional Memberships

2016 – 2022, 2025, Society for the Neurobiology of Language

2021, Society for Human Sentence Processing (formerly known as CUNY)

**Ad Hoc Reviewing** – *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition; Cognition; Forum for Linguistic Studies; Frontiers in Psychology; Language, Cognition and Neuroscience; PLOS ONE; Second Language Research; Scientific Reports; System*

**Journal Editorship** – *System* guest co-editor

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Effects of task emotions and attention control on L2 speech performance across tasks with different demands

Li C, Sun P, Wolpert M

*submitted, Applied Linguistics*

[Low-frequency Cortical Activity Reflects Context-dependent Parsing of Word Sequences](#)

Chen H, Zhang M, Ye T, Wolpert M\* (co-corresponding author), Ding

*accepted iScience*, (2025)

[Finding the Key in Kiwi During L2 Spoken Production: Low Proficiency Speakers Sound More Native-Like if they Live in Mixed-Language Environments](#)

Gilbert A, Gullifer J, Kousaie S, Wolpert M, Titone D, Baum S

*Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*, (2025)

[The child the apple eats—processing of argument structure in Mandarin verb-final sentences](#)

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

*Scientific Reports* 14, 20459 (2024)

[Native and non-native parsing of adjective placement—an ERP study of Mandarin and English sentence processing](#)

Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

*Brain and Language* (2024), 254(July)

[Phrase parsing in a second language as indexed by the Closure Positive Shift: The impact of language experience and acoustic cue salience](#)

Gilbert A, Lee J, Wolpert M, Baum S

*European Journal of Neuroscience* (2023), September, 1-21

[Spoken word segmentation in first and second language: When ERP and behavioral measures diverge](#)

Gilbert A, Lee J, Coulter K, Wolpert M, Kousaie S, Gracco V, Klein D, Titone D, Phillips N, Baum S

*Frontiers in Psychology* (2021), 12(September), 1-20

[Who are you talking to? The role of addressee identity in utterance comprehension](#)

Caffarra S, Wolpert M, Scarinci D, Mancini S

*Psychophysiology* (2020), 57(April), 1-15

[Adaptive and selective use of syllable duration and fundamental frequency as word segmentation cues in the production of French-English bilinguals](#)

Gilbert A, Wolpert M, Saito H, Kousaie S, Itzhak I, Baum S

*Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (2019), 146(6)

[Addressee Identity and Morphosyntactic Processing in Basque Allocutive Agreement](#)

Wolpert M, Mancini S, & Caffarra S

*Frontiers in Psychology* (2017), 8(September), 1–11

[A sterol-binding protein integrates endosomal lipid metabolism with TOR signaling and nitrogen sensing](#)

Mousley C, Yuan P, Gaur N, Trettin K, Nile A, Deminoff S, Dewar B, Wolpert M, Macdonald J, Herman P, Hinnebusch A, Bankaitis V

*Cell* (2012), 148(4), 702-715

### Conference Proceedings

[Producing appropriate prosodic cues in a non-dominant language: preliminary results from French-English bilinguals](#)

Gilbert A, Wolpert M, Kousaie S, Baum S

*Proceedings of 8th Tutorial and Research Workshop on Experimental Linguistics* (2017), 37-40.

### Book Reviews

[Nan Jiang: SECOND LANGUAGE PROCESSING: AN INTRODUCTION.](#)

Sun P, Wolpert M

*Applied Linguistics* (2023), Volume 44, Issue 4, Pages 797–799

### INVITED TALKS

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The sentence and its diverse demands on cognition | 句子及其对认知的多重要求

Wolpert M.

Keynote talk for Forum on Language and Cognition, Nanjing Normal University (November 2023)

The sentence and its diverse demands on cognition | 句子及其对认知的多重要求

Wolpert M.

Interuniversity Program for Chinese Language Studies, Tsinghua University (November 2023)

Competing syntactic and semantic cues in Mandarin sentence comprehension

Wolpert M.

Invited talk for [Nai Ding's Lab](#), Zhejiang University (*online*, July 2023)

Argument Structure Processing in Native and Non-Native Mandarin Speakers

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

Invited talk for [Neurolinguistics and Aphasia Group](#) meeting, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (*online*, March 2021)

L2 impact on L1 grammatical processing in Mandarin-English bilinguals—preliminary analysis of Mandarin monolingual data

Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

Invited talk for [Language and Multilingualism Lab](#), McGill University (Montreal, July 2019)

Preliminary ERP Results from Mandarin Monolinguals and Hypotheses for Attriters and Second Language Learners

Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

[Fulbright East Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop](#) (Taipei, March 2019)

Second Language Impact on First Language Grammatical Processing

Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

Workshop on ERP and Other Techniques in Psycholinguistic Research (Nanjing, November 2018)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Oral Presentations

Sensitivity to word order in bilinguals with competing languages: Preliminary analysis of L1 Mandarin attriters' behavioral data

Wolpert M, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

[3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Bilingualism and Language Acquisition](#) (Beijing, September 2024)

Flexible word order in Mandarin and its challenges for native and non-native speakers

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

[2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Bilingualism and Language Acquisition](#) (Beijing, September 2023)

Les mécanismes d'interprétation de la phrase chez les locuteurs natifs et non-natifs du mandarin

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

[88e Congrès de l'Acfas](#) (Sherbrooke, May 2021)

Argument Structure Processing in Native and Non-Native Mandarin Speakers

Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

[12th Nordic Conference on Bilingualism \(Stockholm, June 2020\)](#) –Cancelled due to Covid-19

Prosody and Ambiguous Word Segmentation in L1 and L2: Preliminary Analysis of Production Data

Wolpert M, Gilbert A, Baum S

Montreal Bilingual Brains Initiative Datablitz (Montreal, February 2018)

Sterol Binding in ORPs

Wolpert M, Mousley C, Bankaitis V

UNC HHMI Future Scientists and Clinicians Summer Closing (Chapel Hill, July 2011)

### Poster Presentations

ERP profiles of L1 and L2 processing of adjective-noun word order violations in Mandarin and English

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Online, October 2021)

Native and non-native processing of Mandarin sentences

Ao J, Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

Brenda Milner Neuropsychology Day (Online, May 2021)

Native and non-native processing of Mandarin sentences

Ao J, Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

Scientific Day of Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (Online, May 2021)

Mandarin argument structure processing: ERP reading data from reversible and irreversible NNV sentences with and without BA and BEI

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K.

[34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing](#) (Online, March 2021)

Argument Structure Processing in Native and Non-Native Mandarin Speakers

Wolpert M, Ao J, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Online, October 2020)

Addressing the discrepancy between online and offline measures of word segmentation in L2: ERP and accuracy measures

Gilbert A, Lee J, Coulter K, Wolpert M, Kousaie S, Gracco V, Klein D, Titone D, Phillips N, Baum S

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Online, October 2020)

Analyzing the frequency spectrum of neurophysiological responses to complex linguistic stimuli: a methodological investigation

Glushko A, Wolpert M, Steinhauer K

[Live MEEG 2020](#) (Online, October 2020)

Language dominance and entropy as predictors of word segmentation cue production in bilinguals

Gilbert A, Gullifer J, Wolpert M, Saito H, Kousaie S, Itzhak I, Gracco V, Klein D, Phillips N, Titone D, Baum S

[60th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society](#) (Montréal, November 2019)

ERP profiles for Chinese sentence processing: Relevant factors in noun-noun-verb structures with BA and BEI, and effects of adjective placement violations

Wolpert M, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Helsinki, August 2019)

Phrase-Final Lengthening as a Word Segmentation Cue in French: A Bilingual ERP Investigation

Gilbert A, Itzhak I, Wolpert M, Lee J, Baum S

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Helsinki, August 2019)

Addressee identity and grammatical processing: the case of Basque allocutive agreement

Mancini S, Wolpert M, Scarinci D, Caffarra S

[Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference](#) (AMLaP) (Berlin, September 2018)

Relative language dominance influences the use of fundamental frequency and duration to signal word boundaries in English and French

Gilbert A, Wolpert M, Saito H, Kousaie S, Baum S

[37th Second Language Research Forum](#) (Montreal, October 2018)

Perceptual processing of pre-boundary lengthening during phrase segmentation in English: Preliminary ERP evidence

Gilbert A, Lee J, Wolpert M, Baum S

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Quebec City, August 2018)

Cortical tracking of linguistic phrases: bottom-up and top-down effects of prosodic processing

Glushko A, Wolpert M, Tavano A, Poeppel D, Steinhauer K

[Cognitive Neuroscience Society](#) (CNS) (Boston, March 2018)

Impact of interlocutor identity on grammatical processing: the case of Basque allocutive

Mancini S, Wolpert M, Scarinci D, Caffarra S

[CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing](#) (Davis, March 2018)

Exploration du lien entre la production d'indices prosodiques chez les bilingues français-anglais et la connectivité fonctionnelle cérébrale : résultats préliminaires

Gilbert A, Kousaie S, Wolpert M, Klein D, Baum S

[VocUM](#) (Montreal, November 2017)

How experience with different prosodies shapes the bilingual brain: preliminary connectivity analyses from English-French bilinguals

Gilbert A, Kousaie S, Wolpert M, Klein D, Baum S

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Baltimore, November 2017)

Cortical tracking of linguistic structures: the role of covert prosody

Glushko A, Poeppel D, Wolpert M, Glatz T, Steinhauer K

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Baltimore, November 2017)

Producing appropriate prosodic cues in a non-dominant language: preliminary results from French-English bilinguals



Gilbert A, **Wolpert M**, Kousaie S, Baum S

[Tutorial and Research Workshop on Experimental Linguistics](#) (Greece, June 2017)

Linking Intrinsic Anatomical Connectivity and Second-Language Learning Success Using Improved DTI Reconstruction of Language Pathways

Sander K, Barbeau E, **Wolpert M**, Baum S, Petrides M, Klein D

Montreal Neurological Institute Neuropsychology Day (Montreal, May 2017)

Analysis of Tractography Methods for Language Pathways

**Wolpert M**, Sander K, Barbeau E, Petrides M, Klein D

Montreal Neurological Institute Neuropsychology Day (Montreal, May 2017)

Addressee Identity and Basque Allocutivity

**Wolpert M**, Caffarra S, Mancini S

[Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference](#) (AMLaP) (Spain, September 2016)

Binding Predictions in ORPs

**Wolpert M**, Nile A, Mousley C, Bankaitis V

UNC HHMI Future Scientists and Clinicians Summer Closing (Chapel Hill, July 2012)

Sterol Binding in ORPs

**Wolpert M**, Zhang H, Baum S, Steinhauer K

UNC Undergraduate Research Symposium (Chapel Hill, April 2012)

## SERVICE

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### Institution

2016, 2017, 2019 | **New and International Student Officer**, [GSA for Neuroscience](#)

- Elected 3 years to McGill's largest graduate student association, serving >300 students
- Initiated and led monthly activities, including creating workshops on securing funding for international students and troubleshooting the PhD experience
- Extended buddy program to all students starting in 2020 during pandemic

2016, 2017, 2019 | **Journal Club Coordinator**, [CRBLM](#)

- Created and organized language sciences journal club connecting four universities
- Topics: modularity of language, language disorders considered crosslinguistically, experimental syntax, rhythm in language and music, hot off the press, the classics

2018 | **Organizing Committee Member**, [Future of Cognitive Neuroscience Competition](#)

- Helped organize video competition for Brenda Milner Centennial Symposium
- Reached high school, Cégep, and university students

2016-2018 | **Activities Committee Member**, [CRBLM](#)

- Assisted with planning and logistics for CRBLM-sponsored activities
- Presented two years with Quebec's 24 heures de science in local elementary schools

2017, 2018 | **Local Student Volunteer**, [International Brain Research Organization](#)

- Facilitated activities for neuroscience research trainees from Africa and Latin America

### Community

2023 | **Guest Speaker** 论坛嘉宾, [UNESCO Nanjing Peace Forum](#)

- Presented the theme "Initiative for Peace and Sustainable Development from a Youth Perspective"
- Advocated for open and global science in interactive panel on youth initiatives for peace

- 2023 | **Group Leader**, [Traversing China, Entering Nanjing](#) 同行中国·走进南京
- Led group of four Chinese and American students to collect and present open science projects
  - Connected UNESCO's open science guidelines to recommendations for city of Nanjing
- 2023 | **Volunteer English Teacher**, [Maison de l'amitié](#)
- Taught six-week, three-hour weekly English class for adults at beginning levels
  - Oversaw diverse classroom including refugees and new immigrants
- 2020 | **Science Outreach Committee Member**, [BrainReach North](#)
- Reviewed neuroscience educational resources
  - Led video interview project on the importance of indigenous languages for research
- 2017, 2018, 2020 | **Beautiful Minds Co-Organizer**, [Pint of Science](#)
- Recruited presenters and organized science outreach event reaching >150 people
- 2016-2018 | **Volunteer Teacher**, [BrainReach](#)
- Taught monthly neuroscience lessons in local elementary and high schools

## LANGUAGES

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English – native

Mandarin – advanced working proficiency

**Formal training:**

Tsinghua University Inter-University Program for Chinese (IUP),

清华美国高校联合中文中心, June-December 2023

National Taiwan University International Chinese Language Program (ICLP),

國立台灣大學國際華語研習所, March-June 2023

Spanish – advanced working proficiency

French – limited working proficiency

Portuguese – limited working proficiency