

MAX WOLPERT | 吴晓麦 (美国国籍)

MAX.WOLPERT@ZJU.EDU.CN



ACADEMIC TRAINING

2026 – | **Qiushi Postdoctoral Fellow**

Zhejiang University | 浙江大学, China

Supervisor: Wenlei Shi 史文磊

2024 – 2026 | **Postdoctoral Researcher**

Zhejiang University | 浙江大学, China

Supervisor: Nai Ding 丁甯

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

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Research Grants:

2026 | National Natural Science Foundation of China (国自然青年项目)

Research Fund for International Young Scientists, W2533061

200,000 RMB

2019 – 2021 | Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies

Doctoral research bursary, first-ranked application, 10.69777/275760

56,000 CAD

Publications:

First author 3 papers (2 SSCI, 1 SCIE), 1 submitted (SSCI)

Second author 2 papers (2 SSCI), 1 submitted (SSCI)

Corresponding author 2 papers (1 SCIE, 1 ESCI), 2 submitted (SSCI)

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

Journal Editorship – *System* guest co-editor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching

2026 | **Guest Lecturer**

Fudan University, Linguistics, China

- Delivered 90-minute introduction to EEG for pragmatics experiments for master's course

2025 | **Guest Lecturer**

Zhejiang University, Applied Linguistics, China

- Delivered 90-minute introduction to R for language sciences for undergraduate course

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
- Introduced cognitive neuroscience methods, including MRI, EEG, and eye tracking

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

Professional Memberships

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

* indicates corresponding or co-corresponding author

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

Language Teaching, (2026), 1-16 (SSCI)

[Influence of Talker-to-Listener Distance on Temporal Properties of Speech](#)

Zhang M, Wang J, Zhang Y, Wolpert M*, Ding N*

JASA Express Letters, 5, 125201 (2025) (ESCI)

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

Chen H, Zhang M, Ye T, Wolpert M*, Ding N*

iScience, (2025) (SCIE)

[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) (SCIE)

[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, (2024) 14, 20459 (SCIE)

[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, 254(July) (2024) (SSCI & SCIE)

[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 (SSCI)

[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 (SSCI)

[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 (SSCI & SCIE)

[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) (SCIE)

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

Wolpert M, Mancini S, & Caffarra S

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

[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 (SCIE)

Under Review (SSCI)

Phrase-level speech timing preferences predict synchronization in joint reading

Wolpert M, Chen Y, Ding N*

Speaking with Chatbots: How does TalkAI influence CFL learners' speaking performance development?

Sun P, Xu J, Wolpert M*

A systematic scoping review of generative artificial intelligence in foreign language education: Current status, ethical considerations, and future directions

Sun P, Wolpert M*, Sun P, Lv Y

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 (SSCI)

INVITED TALKS

Individual time scales in speech production revealed through solo and joint reading

Wolpert M.

General Education Lecture Series on Theoretical Linguistics and Frontiers in Language Research, Fudan University (April 2026)

Individual preferences for syllabic and prosodic rhythms: from solo reading to synchronization in joint speech

Wolpert M.

Keynote talk for 2nd Symposium on Language, Cognition, and Intelligence, Nanjing Normal University (November 2025)

Spontaneous rates and synchronization in speech production during joint reading

Wolpert M.

Invited talk for [Matt Davis' Lab](#), MRC CBSU Cambridge University (June 2025)

Semantic and syntactic cues in native and non-native Mandarin sentence comprehension

Wolpert M.

Invited talk for [Wing Yee Chow's Lab](#), University College London (June 2025)

Spontaneous rates and synchronization in speech production during joint reading

Wolpert M.

Invited talk for [Maria Chait's Lab](#), University College London (June 2025)

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

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.

[3rd Conference on Biolinguistics 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.

[2nd Conference on Biolinguistics 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

Individual rhythms in solo and joint speech

Wolpert M, Ding N

[International Conference on Auditory Cortex](#) (ICAC) (Maastricht, September 2025)

Individual rhythms in solo and joint speech

Wolpert M, Ding N

[Society for the Neurobiology of Language](#) (SNL) (Washington DC, September 2025)

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

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 | **Co-organizer**, Workshop on ERP and Other Techniques in Psycholinguistic Research

- Handled communication and organization for >150 workshop participants

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

English – native

Mandarin – advanced working proficiency

Formal training: (supported by a [Blakemore Freeman Fellowship](#))

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