

GAN, Linghui (Eva)

Updated February, 2026

Email: linghui.gan@uconn.edu

Address: Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut, 365 Fairfield Way, Storrs, CT 06269-1145, USA

Personal website: <https://ganlinghui.github.io/>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Broad: grammar of sign languages; syntax, syntax-semantics/prosody interfaces; language acquisition; bimodal bilingualism; sociolinguistics of Deaf communities

Narrow: information structure & packaging; wh-questions; development of syntax & semantics by deaf children; code-blending; language accessibility & language attitudes in Deaf communities

EDUCATION

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| | University of Connecticut (UConn) | Storrs, Connecticut, USA |
| 2019 – 2023 | MA in Linguistics | |
| 2019 – 2025 | PhD in Linguistics | |
| | Dissertation: <i>Information Structure of the Clause-final Position in Hong Kong Sign Language</i> | |
| | Supervisor: Diane Lillo-Martin | |
| | Committee: Željko Bošković, Magdalena Kaufmann, Jon Gajewski, Kathryn Davidson | |
| 2017-2019 | University of Amsterdam (UvA) | Amsterdam, Netherlands |
| | MA (research) in Linguistics | |
| | Thesis: <i>WH-questions in Hong Kong Sign Language</i> | |
| | Supervisor: Roland Pfau | |
| | Other major advisors: Vadim Kimmelman, Enoch Aboh | |
| 2014-2015 | Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) | Hong Kong SAR, China |
| | MA in Chinese Linguistics & Language Acquisition | |
| | Major advisors: Gladys Tang, Felix Sze | |
| 2009 – 2013 | Minzu University of China | Beijing, China |
| | BA in Chinese Minority Languages & Literature | |

GRANTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 08/2024 – 01/2026 | The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) 20-538 - Linguistics Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (Ling-DDRI). Project title: <i>Information Structure of the Clause-Final Position in Hong Kong Sign Language</i> . Award number 2416348. |
|-------------------|--|

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 06/2024 | Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School, UConn |
| 09/2023 | Fellowship semester, UConn Linguistics |
| 01/2023 | Conference Participation Award, The Graduate School, UConn |
| 2019 – 2024 | Predoctoral Fellowship, UConn Linguistics |

2022 Annual Alumni Research Award, UConn Linguistics
 2021 Annual Alumni Research Award, UConn Linguistics
 07/2019 Horizon Fund (GSH), Graduate School of Humanities, University of Amsterdam
 02/2019 Horizon Fund (GSH), Graduate School of Humanities, University of Amsterdam
 08/2017 Horizon Fund (GSH), Graduate School of Humanities, University of Amsterdam
 12/2016 The Best Oral Presentation of the session Audiology, Aural Rehabilitation & Deaf Education,
Hong Kong Speech & Hearing Symposium 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

01/2026 –, **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
 Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut
 Supervisor: Diane Lillo-Martin

08/2024 – 12/2025, **Research Assistant (Graduate Assistant-ship)**
 01 – 12/2023, Sign Linguistics & Language Acquisition Lab, University of Connecticut
 06/2020–08/2022 Primary Investigator: Diane Lillo-Martin

06 – 08/2020, **Graduate Student Technician**
 2021, 2022, 2023, Sign Linguistics & Language Acquisition Lab, University of Connecticut
 2024, 2025 Primary Investigator: Diane Lillo-Martin

01/2016 – 06/2017 **Junior Research Assistant (full-time)**
 Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Supervisors: Gladys Tang, Jafi Lee

03 – 06/2015 **Student helper (part-time)**
 Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Supervisors: Jia Li, Jafi Lee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2024 **LING 3800 Structure of American Sign Language**
 Instructor of Record (Graduate Assistant-ship)
 Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut

Fall 2022 **LING 2850 Introduction to Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community**
 Instructor of Record (Graduate Assistant-ship)
 Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut

Spring 2020 **LING 1010 Language and Mind**
 Tech Teaching Assistant (Graduate Assistant-ship; Instructor: Harry Van der Hulst)
 Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut

Fall 2019 **LING 2850 Introduction to Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community**
 Tech Teaching Assistant (Graduate Assistant-ship; Instructor: Diane Lillo-Martin)
 Department of Linguistics, University of Connecticut

Fall 2015 **LING 5104 Foundations in Sign Language Research**
 Teaching Assistant (full-time; Instructor: Gladys Tang)
 Department of Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Fall 2015 **LING 5103 Foundations in Language Acquisition**
 Teaching Assistant (full-time; Instructor: Ziyin Mai)
 Department of Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Fall 2015 **LING 5102 Foundations II: Syntax and Semantics**
 Teaching Assistant (full-time; Instructor: Gang Gu)
 Department of Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong

PUBLICATIONS

Lillo-Martin, Diane, **Linghui Gan**, Deborah Chen Pichler, and Julie A. Hochgesang. Submitted. “Understanding Morpho-Syntactic Development in Children Acquiring American Sign Language: MLU and ASL-IPSyn”

Gan, Linghui. Angelica Llerena, Diane Lillo-Martin, Deborah Chen Pichler. In press. “What does bimodal bilingual vocabulary acquisition look like in deaf children with hearing parents?”. *BUCLD 50 proceedings*.

Gan, Linghui. In press. “Last but not least: Focus and the clause-final position in Hong Kong Sign Language”. *WCCFL 43 Proceedings*.

Chen Pichler, Deborah, Mary Cecilia Conte, Patrice Creamer, Martin Dale-Hench, Elaine Gale, **Linghui Gan**, Corina Goodwin, Shengyun Gu, Kaj Kraus, Margaret Chui-Yi Lee, Diane Lillo-Martin, Jeffrey Levi Palmer, Bettie Petersen, & Meghan Shaw. 2024. “Profile of a Family’s Bimodal Bilingual Development.” *BUCLD 48: Proceedings of the 48th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, edited by Hayat Abdullah Ali AlThagafi and Jupitara Ray, 158–68. <http://www.lingref.com/bucl/48/BUCLD48-12.pdf>

Gan, Linghui. 2022. “Question Answer Pairs in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL).” *Proceedings of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 58)*, edited by Lucas Fagen, Sam Gray, Quain, Stephanie Reyes, and Irene Tang, 103–18.

Gan, Linghui. 2022. “Scope Relation and Structure Hierarchy in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL): Exploring Ditransitives.” *Proceedings of the 30th Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE XXX)*, edited by Annie Holtz, Iva Kovač, and Rasmus Puggaard-Rode, 201–19. Leiden: Published by Leiden University Centre for Linguistics. <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/events/series/sole>.

Gobbo, Federico, **Linghui Gan**, and Xuan Zheng. 2022. “Contested Linguistic Heritages: CODAs and Denaskulox in Comparison.” *Proceedings of the International Conference on “Minority Languages Spoken or Signed and Inclusive Spaces”*, 44–49. Suresnes: INSHEA Publishing department. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5834265>.

Gan, Linghui. 2021. “Shifted Indexicals in Hong Kong Sign Language with(-out) Role Shift.” *The FEAST Journal (Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory)*, 4:74–86. <https://doi.org/10.31009/FEAST.i4.06>

Gan, Linghui, and Federico Gobbo. 2019. “Attitudes towards the Official Recognition of Hong Kong Sign Language by Hong Kong Citizens.” *Journal of Linguistics and Education Research* 02 (02): 1–16. <https://hdl.handle.net/11245.1/87570616-d0c4-42f0-a4b5-4b08bad93643>.

Manuscripts in preparation

Gan, Linghui. in prep. “Perspective blend and indexical shift in Hong Kong Sign Language”

Gan, Linghui, and Diane Lillo-Martin. in prep. “Analyzing code-blending in ASL by adult CODAs”

Gan, Linghui. in prep. “Wh-questions in Hong Kong Sign Language”

Gan, Linghui, and Jon Gajewski. in prep. “Why do sign languages make prominent use of the sentence final position?”

Invited talks

05/2025 Information Structure of the clause-final position in Hong Kong Sign Language, *NYU Syntax Brown Bag*, New York University. New York, USA

02/2025 Last but not least: Focus and the clause-final position in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL), *Department of Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong

11/2024 Introduction to an Asian sign language: Hong Kong Sign Language, guest talk of the course *Variation and Discourse*, Central Connecticut State University. Connecticut, USA

08/2020 Wh-questions in Hong Kong Sign Language, *Sign language research group*, Shanghai International Studies University. Shanghai, China

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

01/2026 (with Bonnie Barret, Deborah Chen Pichler, & Diane Lillo-Martin) L2 Grammatical Development of ASL by Hearing Parents of Deaf Children (presentation). *Linguistic Society of America 2026 Annual Meeting*. New Orleans, USA

11/2025 (with Jon Gajewski) Why do sign languages make prominent use of the sentence final position? (presentation). *Interdisciplinary Workshop on Sign Language Grammars, Parsing Models, & the Brain*. Leipzig, Germany

11/2025 (with Angela Llerena, & Diane Lillo-Martin) What does bimodal bilingual acquisition look like in deaf children with hearing parents? (presentation). *Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 50*. Boston, USA

04/2025 Correlation between focus and the clause-final position in Hong Kong Sign Language (presentation). *43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 43)*. Seattle, USA

01/2025 Correlation between word order and information structure in Hong Kong Sign Language (poster). *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR 2025)*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

01/2025 Question Answer Pairs in Hong Kong Sign Language (poster). *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR 2025)*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

08/2024 (With Diane Lillo-Martin, Julie Hochgesang, and Deborah Chen Pichler). Assessing the Development of ASL by Deaf Children: Longitudinal Spontaneous Production Data (presentation). *Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory (FEAST 2024)*. Ann Arbor, USA

01/2023 Perspective blend and indexical shift in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) (presentation). *The 53th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS-53)*. Göttingen, Germany

05/2022 Syntactic structure of argument wh-questions in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) (presentation). *The 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28)*. Hong Kong, China

04/2022 Question Answer Pairs in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) (presentation). *Chicago Linguistics Society 58 (CLS 58)*. Chicago, USA

01/2022 Scope relations and hierarchical structure in Hong Kong Sign Language: Exploring ditransitives (presentation). *Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE 2022)*. Nantes, France

06/2021 Indexical shift with(-out) role shift: Evidence from Hong Kong Sign Language (poster). *Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory (FEAST 2021)*. Hong Kong

07/2019 (With Federico Gobbo). Attitudes towards the official recognition of HKSL by Hong Kong citizens (presentation). *Symposium on Sociolinguistic Variation in Signed and Spoken Languages of the Asia-Pacific Region*. Lancashire, UK

10/2016 Acquisition of WH-question in Hong Kong Sign Language by Deaf Bilingual Children (presentation). *Hong Kong Speech and Hearing Symposium 2016*. Hong Kong, China

SERVICE (SELECTIVE)

Community service

2022 – 2023 Knowledge support for the ‘Access to sign language interpretation in legal services’ project, Liang Bei Shui (NGO), Shenzhen, China

2022/08 – 2024/03 Knowledge support for the project ‘Reviewing International practices of sign language interpretation services in emergency settings’ (PI: Lan Ni), Shanghai University, China

09/2021 – 09/2023 Graduate LingClub Graduate Student Representative, UConn

08/2018 Speaker of the public workshop series: *Introduction to sign linguistics and language acquisition by deaf children*, Sabah Society for the Deaf, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

2017 – Informal peer support/mentor for undergraduates/postgraduates in China who work on sign linguistics-related disciplines

08/2017 Speaker of the public workshop series ‘Let’s learn more about sign linguistics and communication with deaf people’, Liang Bei Shui (NGO), Shenzhen, China

01/2017 Volunteer coordinator (with Yi Hin Chan) of the knowledge support group for the proposal of *Recognising HKSL as an official language of Hong Kong* to the Council meeting at the Legislative Council of Hong Kong

Academic service

08/2024 – 12/2025 Coordinator. UConn Sign Language Reading and Discussion Group (SLRDG)

02/2022 Session Chair, *the 7th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*

11/2021 Organizing Committee. *the 11th UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable*

10/2019 Organizing Committee, *the 9th UConn Linguistics Graduate Roundtable*
08-10/2016 Organizing committee. *Sign Linguistics Forum at the 16th China International Conference on Contemporary Linguistics*, Shanghai, China

Reviewing

2024 *CLS 60 Abstracts*
2022 *TU +7 Proceeding*
2022 *ConSOLE 30 Proceeding*
2021 *Linguistics* (with Diane Lillo-Martin)

LANGUAGES

Native: Mandarin Chinese; Liuzhou Dialect
Fluent: English, Cantonese, Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL), American Sign Language (ASL)
Basic: Thai, Hakka (heritage)

TECHNICAL

ELAN, R, L^AT_EX, MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, etc.