

Yaoyao Chen



Position: Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics
Faculty: : University International College
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Teaching and Research Areas: applied linguistics, language and gesture, multimodal corpus linguistics, multimodal corpus semantics, multimodal corpus pragmatics, multimodal spoken discourse analysis.

Academic Qualification:

- 2015 - 2019 PhD in Applied Linguistics, School of English, University of Nottingham, UK (Thesis topic: Towards the multimodal unit of meaning: multimodal corpus-based research on speech and gesture in formulaic sequences and recurrent gestures)
- 2008 - 2010 MA in TESOL, School of Education, University of York, UK (Thesis topic: Classroom discourse analysis: the case of two English classes of Chinese learners)
- 2004 - 2008 BA in English Linguistics and Literature, Foreign Languages College, Zhejiang Normal University, Zhejiang, China (Thesis topic: A reading of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* in light of Beat Generation)

Teaching Experiences:

- 2019 - NOW Assistant professor in Applied Linguistics / Macau Science and Technology / University International College (Courses: Elementary Reading, Semantics, Applied Linguistics, English for Media and Press, Teaching English as a Second Language)
- Feb.2016 - Apr. 2016 Graduate Teaching Assistant / University of Nottingham, Ningbo / School of English (Course: World Englishes)
- 2010 - 2014 Lecturer / Zhejiang Normal University, China / Xingzhi College (Courses: Language and Culture, English Reading, English Listening and Speaking)

Representative Publications

Journal Articles:

- Chen, Y.*, & Adolphs, S. (2023). Towards a corpus-based description of speech-gesture units of meaning. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 28(2), 172–201. <https://doi.org/10.1075/ijcl.20174.che> (SSCI)
- Chen, Y.*, & Adolphs, S. (2023). Towards a speech–gesture profile of pragmatic markers: The case of “you know.” *Journal of Pragmatics*, 210, 36–51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2023.03.004> (SSCI)
- Chen, Y., Adolphs, S.*, & Knight, D. (2024). Towards a speech-gesture profile of discourse markers: The case of ‘I mean.’ *Lingua*, 312. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2024.103836> (SSCI)
- Wu, S.*, Cienki, A., & Chen, Y. (2025). Gesture in contexts of verbal negation in Chinese. *Gesture*. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1075/gest.22015.wu> (SSCI)
- Chen, Y.*, Adolphs, S., Guan, X., Lin, K., & Wei, J. (under revision). Towards a speech-gesture profile of discourse markers: the case of ‘well’.
- Huang, J., Chen., Y*., Knight, D., & Wu, S. (submitted manuscript). Towards a profile of teachers’ gestures in teaching Chinese as a second language.

Book Chapters:

- Lin, P., & Chen, Y. (2020). Multimodality I: Speech, prosody and gesture. In S. Adolphs & D. Knight (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Digital Humanities* (pp. 66–84). London: Routledge.
- Chen, Y., Adolphs, S. & Knight, D. (2021). Multimodal Discourse Analysis. In J. Hardy, & E. Friginal (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis* (pp. 98-115). London: Routledge.
- Adolphs, S., & Chen, Y. (2021). Corpus pragmatics. In M. Haugh, D. Z. Kádár, & M. Terkourafi (eds), *Handbook of Sociopragmatics* (pp. 639–662). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Textbooks:

- Shao, Huijuan, Ma, Lihong, Zhu, Jinyi, & Chen, Yaoyao (2014), *Learn to Communicate with Westerners*. Zhejiang: Zhejiang University Press.

Conferences:

- Chen, Yaoyao, & Adolphs, Svenja. (2025). Towards a speech-gesture profile of discourse markers: the case of ‘well’. Paper accepted by the 10th International Society for Gesture Studies Conference (ISGS 2025), Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 09-11 July, 2025.
- Huang, Jue, & Yaoyao Chen. (2025). Towards a Functional Profile of Teachers’ Gestures in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language. Paper accepted by the 9th Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics Conference (HAAL 2025), Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong SAR, 12 July 2025.

- Chen, Yaoyao, & Adolphs, Svenja. (2021). Towards the multimodal unit of meaning of recurrent gestures. Paper accepted by the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Virtual Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 20-23 March, 2021.
- Chen, Yaoyao, & Adolphs, Svenja. (2019). Multimodal corpus pragmatics: Towards a multimodal unit of analysis. Paper presented by the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Atlanta, USA, 9-12 March, 2019.
- Chen, Yaoyao, & Adolphs, Svenja. (2017). Multimodal corpus-based investigations of the gesture-speech relationship. Paper presented at the 9th International Corpus Linguistics Conference (ICLC), the University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK, 24-28 July, 2017.
- Chen, Yaoyao. (2015). Towards a multi-modal unit of analysis. Paper presented at the 2015 British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) Conference, Aston University, Birmingham, UK, 3-4 September, 2015.

Research projects:

- 2024-2025: PI, *Towards a speech-gesture profile of discourse markers*. Funded by the Macau University of Science and Technology Faculty Research Grants (General Research Grants, GRFs). NO. FRG-24-079-UIC. (On-going)
- 2022-2023: PI, *Towards a corpus-based description of speech-gesture units of meaning: the case of the circular gesture*. Funded by the Macau University of Science and Technology Faculty Research Grants (General Research Grants, GRFs). NO. FRG-22-066-UIC. (Completed)
- 2021-2024: Academic advisor, *Interactional variation online: harnessing emerging technologies in the digital humanities to analyse online discourse in different workplace contexts*. Funded by AHRC and IRC (£390,000 from AHRC +€270,000 [circa £620,700] from IRC). (Completed)
- 2011-2012: PI, *A corpus-based comparison of spoken discourse genres: Informal conversations and interviews*. Funded by Zhejiang Normal University. NO. YKJ06Y11086. (Completed)
- 2012-2013: PI, *Enhancing cross-cultural pragmatic competence in the course of College English Listening and Speaking*. Funded by Zhejiang Normal University. NO. KY304112032. (Completed)
- 2012-2013: PI, *An empirical investigation on the teachability of pragmatic strategies in non-English major college students: A case of refusal strategies*. Funded by Xingzhi College, Zhejiang Normal University. NO. ZC303114067 (Completed)

Membership of Academic Associations and community service

Member of the International Society for Gesture Studies - Hong Kong (ISGS-HK)

Member of the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Member of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL)

Reviewer of international journals (Applied Linguistics, Lingua, Text &Talk, International Journal of Chinese Linguistics)

Professional Qualifications and Awards

Teaching Qualification at the Higher Education level

TEM-8

TEM-4