ZHIYU MIA GONG

Department of Linguistics
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Email: mgong9@ucsc.edu
Website: miazgong.github.io
Office: Stevenson 262

Academic Appointment

2022- **University of California, Santa Cruz**
Assistant Professor

Education

2022 **Ph.D., Cornell University**
Linguistics, with Graduate Minor in Cognitive Science
Dissertation: *Issues in the Syntax of Movement: Cross-Clausal Dependencies, Reconstruction, and Movement Typology*

2017 **M.A., University of Delaware**
Linguistics

2015 **B.A., Beijing Language and Culture University**
English

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Accepted Gong, Z. M. Two Types of Long Distance Scrambling in Mongolian. *Syntactic Theory and Research*.

Accepted Gong, Z. M. & Despić, M. On the Syntax of Cross-Categorial Reflexive Marking in Khalkha Mongolian. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.

To Appear Sims, J., Gong, Z. M., & Washington, J. N. Central Asian Turkic and Khalkha Past Tense Systems Arose Through Balanced Contact. In *Proceedings of the 10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*.

2025 Gong, Z. M. Case in wholesale later merger: evidence from Mongolian scrambling. *Linguistic Inquiry* 56(1): 53-95.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00494

2023 Gong, Z. M. A/Ā-operations at the Mongolian clausal periphery. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics 32:* 413-457.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-023-09268-4

2021 Gong, Z. M. Postsyntactic Lowering and linear relations in Dagur noun phrases. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*. *6*(1), 42.
DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1397

Articles Peer Reviewed by Abstract

To appear Gong, Z. M. & Ótott-Kovács, E. Variation in the subject position requires both relative clause-external and internal analyses. In *Proceedings of the 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

To appear Gong, Z. M. *Wh*-island Sensitivity Reveals Two Scrambling Mechanisms in Khalkha Mongolian. In *Proceedings of the 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

2024 Gong, Z. M., & Miloje Despić. On the Nature of Reflexive Possessive Agreement In Mongolian: From Nominals to Clauses. in *Proceedings of the 17th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics.*

2022 Gong, Z. M. Scrambling and reconstruction asymmetries. in *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*: Vol. 28.1.

2020 Gong, Z. M. The POSS-final suffix order in Dagur. in *The Proceedings of 50th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*.

Talks

Invited

2025 Two Types of Long Distance Scrambling across Weak Islands. The Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 14 (TEAL-14). University of Southern California.

2024 Dissecting Relative Clauses with Genitive Subjects – A Methodology (with Eszter Ótott-Kovács). University of Southern California Seminar in Syntax.

2024 Reflexive Possessive in Mongolian and the Morphosyntax of Binding and Agreement. Stanford University Linguistics Colloquium.

2024 Reflexive Binding and Clausal Nominalization in Khalkha Mongolian. University of Chicago Linguistics Colloquium.

2024 Reflexive Binding in Mongolian: From Nominals to Clauses. Michigan State University Linguistics Colloquium.

2023 On the Licensing of Genitive Subjects in Mongolian: Some Preliminary Notes. Stanford Syntax and Morphology Circle.

2023 On the Licensing of Genitive Subjects. Berkeley Syntax & Semantics Circle.

2023 On the nature of reflexive binding in Mongolian: From nominals to clauses. Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics 17 (WAFL 17), National University of Mongolia.

2022 A/Ā-operations at the clausal periphery: Agree, movement, and the interpretation of chains. Berkeley Syntax & Semantics Circle.

2021 Condition C reconstruction revisited: scrambling, late merger, and the A/Ā-distinction in Mongolian. Syracuse-Cornell Word Order/Scrambling Workshop.

Refereed

2025 Specification of D Derives Variation in Relative Clauses (with Eszter Ótott-Kovács). The 10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+10), University of Southern California.

2025 Central Asian Turkic and Khalkha past tense systems arose through balanced Turkic-Mongolic contact (with Joshua Sims, Jonathan Washington). The 10th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+10), University of Southern California.

2024 Parallels Between Central Asian Turkic and Mongolic Past Tense Systems (with Joshua Sims, Jonathan Washington). The 2024 Mongolia Society Annual Meeting, US-Asia Institute, Washington, DC.

2024 Reflexive Binding in Mongolian: From Nominals to Clauses (with Miloje Despić). GLOW in Asia XIV, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

2023 On Mongolian Copular Constructions with байх 'to be' (with Tserenchunt Legden). The 2023 Mongolia Society Annual Meetings and Panels. University of Pittsburgh.

2021 Late Merger in scrambling — A Mongolian case study. PLC45, University of Pennsylvania.

2019 The POSS-final suffix order in Dagur. NELS 50, MIT.

2019 A lowering analysis of the Dagur CASE-POSS order. WAFL15, Lomonosov Moscow State University.

2019 A Lowering analysis of the Dagur CASE-POSS order. 94th LSA Annual Meeting; LSA Summer Institute.

2018 Differential Case Marking in Khalkha Mongolian. The Conference on Central Asian Languages of the Central Asian Region (ConCALL-3), Indiana University, Bloomington.

Grants & Awards

2024 Hellman Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.
Project Title: Documenting Linguistic Diversity: Anaphoric Variations in Transeurasian Languages

2024 Writing Fellow, UC Santa Cruz.

2021 Sage Dissertation Fellowship, Cornell University.

2020 Hamilton Lugar School Scholarship, Indiana University, Bloomington.

2020 Summer Research Fellowship, Cornell University.

2020 Lee Teng-hui Fellowship in World Affairs with East Asia Focus, East Asia Program, Cornell University.
Project Title: Fieldwork on Flexible Word Order in Mongolic Languages

2020 Summer Foreign Language Grant, Cornell University.

2019 James McCawley Fellowship, Linguistic Society of America.

2019 EAP Research Travel Grant, Cornell University.

2019, 2018 Mario Einaudi Center International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University.
Project Title: Documenting the Dagur Language

2018 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University.

Teaching

UCSC LING 282 Field Methods 24S
LING 222 Syntax B 25W, 24W, 23W
LING 113 Syntax II 24W, 23S
LING 112 Syntax I 25W
LING 190 Senior Research 24W, 23S
LING 229 Syntax Seminar 22F, 26W

Cornell LING1170/PSYCH1102, Introduction to Cognitive Science (TA) 21S
LING3303, Introduction to Syntax and Semantics (TA) 19F

Fieldwork & Community Projects

2020- Khalkha, Mongolia, United States.
remotely since 2020; on site since 2022
2019- Chakhar, Hulun Buir, Inner Mongolia.
14 months on site; remotely during 2020-22
2018-2020 Dagur, Morin Dawa Dagur Autonomous Banner.
5 months on site
2020 Khalkha Language and Culture, CeLCAR, Indiana University, Bloomington.
Central Asian Language Online Courses.

Service

Member of Editorial Board

Journal of East Asian Linguistics

Refereeing

Journals

Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, Glossa, Acta Mongolica

Conferences

Linguistic Society of America Annual Meetings (LSA), West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS), Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS)

Grant Agencies

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)

Conference Organization

Organizing Committee Member, West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 41