

## Jess H.K. Law

Stevenson 258  
Department of Linguistics  
UC Santa Cruz,  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

EMAIL [jesslaw@ucsc.edu](mailto:jesslaw@ucsc.edu)  
WEB [here](#)  
GOOGLE SCHOLAR [here](#)

### RESEARCH

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**Broad:** formal and experimental semantics, pragmatics

**Narrow:** dynamic semantics, quantificational dependency, dependent indefinites, mereology, distributivity, measurement, bare nominals, discourse potentials, discourse particles, discourse grammar, speech acts, argument structure, causation, generics, passives

### EMPLOYMENT

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2019 – present      Assistant Professor  
University of California, Santa Cruz

### EDUCATION

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2013 – 2019      PhD in Linguistics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Dissertation: [Constraints on distributivity](#)  
Committee: Simon Charlow (Co-Chair), Veneeta Dayal (Co-Chair), Robert Henderson, Ken Safir

2011 - 2012      MPhil. in Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong  
MPhil Thesis: Parasitic gaps in Mandarin  
Committee: Candice C.-H. Cheung (Chair), Thomas H.-T. Lee, Lawrence Y.-L. Cheung, Marcel den Dikken

2007 - 2010      B.A. in Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong

### RESEARCH PAPERS

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In preparation      Non-canonical subjects in generic sentences: a causal approach

In preparation      A stative component in passives (with Colin Hirschberg)

In preparation	Experimental support for discourse translucency of bare noun phrases in Mandarin (with Kristen Syrett and Ziling Zhu)
In preparation	Building complex speech acts
Submitted	<a href="#">Force shift as speech act anchoring</a>
2023	<a href="#">A New Corpus of Lexical Substitution and Word Blend Errors: Probing the Semantic Structure of Lemma Access Failures.</a> (with John Alderete, Melissa Baese-Berk and Adrian Brasoveanu) <i>Journal of Cognition</i> 6: 1–8. DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.5334/joc.278">https://doi.org/10.5334/joc.278</a>
2022	<a href="#">The mereological structure of distributivity: a case study of binominal <i>each</i>.</a> <i>Journal of Semantics</i> . DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/jos/ffab022">https://doi.org/10.1093/jos/ffab022</a>
2018	<a href="#">Questioning speech acts</a> (with Haoze Li and Diti Bhadra) <i>Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung</i> 22 (SuB 22)
2017	<a href="#">Experimental evidence for the discourse potential of bare nouns in Mandarin</a> (with Kristen Syrett) <i>Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society</i> (NELS 47)
	<a href="#">The number sensitivity of modal indefinites</a> <i>Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung</i> 21 (SuB 21)
	<a href="#">At least some distributive items aren't distributive items</a> (with Haoze Li) <i>Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society</i> (NELS 46)
2016	<a href="#">Alternatives in different dimensions: A case study of focus intervention</a> (with Haoze Li) <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i>

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2023            Affectedness in passives  
Poster presented at the Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 13. National Taiwan Normal University, May 12-14. (with Colin Hirschberg)
- 2022            Focus intervention effects in Mandarin  
Poster presented at 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 35). UC Santa Cruz, March 24-26. (with Yaqing Cao)
- 2019            Independence in distributivity  
Paper presented at the 29th annual meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory, UCLA, May.
- 2019            Experimental support for discourse translucency of bare noun phrases in Mandarin (with Kristen Syrett)  
Paper presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 92), New York, January.
- 2018            Monotonicity in distributivity with binominal *each*  
Poster presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 49), Cornell, October.
- 2017            Questioning Speech Acts (with Diti Bhadra and Haoze Li)  
Paper presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 22 (SuB 22), ZAS/University of Potsdam, September.
- 2016            Experimental evidence for the discourse potential of bare nouns. (with Kristen Syrett)  
Poster presented at the 47th annual meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 47), UMass at Amherst, October.
- The number sensitivity of modal indefinites  
Poster presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 21 (SuB 21), University of Edinburgh, September.
- 2015            At least some distributive operators aren't distributive operators. (with Haoze Li)  
Poster presented at the 46th annual meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 46), University of Concordia, October.

- 2014                    Focus intervention effects and the quantificational domains of focus-sensitive operators. (with Haoze Li)  
Paper presented at the 37th annual meeting of Generative Linguistics in Old World (GLOW 37), Center for Syntax, Semantics and Phonology, HUB, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2013                    Focus intervention effects (with Haoze Li)  
Paper presented at the 44th annual meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 44), University of Connecticut, Storrs, October.

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2023                    Two types of force shifts (with Diti Bhadra and Haoze Li)  
Georgetown University, April 25, 2023
- 2022                    To perform or not to perform a speech act  
Edinburgh University, April 14, 2022
- 2021                    Building complex speech acts  
Zhejiang University, China, Nov 25, 2021.
- 2021                    Building complex speech acts  
University of California, Los Angeles, Nov 12, 2021.
- 2020                    Questioning speech acts  
Stanford University, January 17.
- 2019                    Constraints on distributivity  
University of California, Santa Cruz, January.

## TEACHING

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

### Fall 2022 – Summer 2023

- Fall                    Pragmatics (LING 117, n=29)  
Semantics A (LING 231, n=5, graduate-level)  
Senior Thesis (LING 195, n=1)  
Senior Research (LING 195, n=6)

Winter                    Semantics I (LING 53, n=82)  
Senior Thesis (LING 195, n=1)

Spring                    Sabbatical leave

**Fall 2021 – Summer 2022**

Fall                        Structure of Chinese Languages (LING 188, n=21)  
Semantics A (LING-231, n=10, graduate-level)  
Senior Research (LING 195, n=6)

Winter                    Semantics 2 (LING 116, n=45)  
Senior Research (LING 195, n=7)  
Tutorial (LING 199F, n=1)  
Independent Study (LING 297A, n=2)

Spring                    Senior Thesis (LING 195, n=1)  
Independent Study (LING 297A, n=1)

**Fall 2020 – Summer 2021**

Fall                        Independent Study (LING 297A, n=1)

Winter                    Semantics 2 (LING 116, n=52)

Spring                    Semantics B (LING 232, n=4, graduate-level)

**Fall 2019 – Summer 2020**

Fall                        Semantics Seminar (LING 239, n=5, graduate-level)

Winter                    Semantics 2 (LING 116, n=48)

Spring                    Introduction to Linguistics (LING 50, n=212, online)

Summer                   Science of Language (LING 80S, n=43)

**RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY**

Spring 2018            Advanced Undergraduate Seminar (Ling497)  
Co-instructor: Veneeta Dayal

Fall 2017                Introduction to the Study of Language (Ling101)

Spring 2016	Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Ling201)
Fall 2015	Introduction to Linguistics Theory (Ling201) Co-instructor: Paula Houghton

## ADVISING

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<b>Sadira Lewis</b>	BA Thesis	Chair, 2022-2023
<i>Experimental investigation of the -er morphology and the eventive interpretation</i>		
Thesis Award: <a href="#">Koret Scholars (2022-23)</a>		
<b>Eli Sharf</b>	Qualifying Paper	Member, 2022-2023
<b>Delaney Jackson-Gomez</b>	MA Thesis	Member, 2022-2023
<b>Colin Hirschberg</b>	BA Thesis	Chair, 2021-2022
<i>Restrictions on Mandarin bei-passives</i>		
Thesis Award: <a href="#">Dean's Award (2022-23)</a>		
<b>Taijing Xiao</b>	MA Thesis	Chair, 2021-present
<i>Argument reversals in Mandarin</i>		
<b>Yaqing Cao</b>	Qualifying Paper	Chair, 2020-2022
<i>An experimental study of focus intervention effects in Mandarin</i>		
Presented as a poster at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP)		
	Qualifying Paper	Member, 2021-22
	Qualifying Exam	Member, 2022-23
<b>Lisa Hofmann</b>	Dissertation	Member, 2020-22
<b>Andrew Hedding</b>	Qualifying Exam	Member, 2020 - present
<b>Jack Duff</b>	Qualifying Paper	Member, 2019-20
<b>Anelia Kudin</b>	Qualifying Paper	Member, 2019-20
<b>Jeremie Beauchamp</b>	Qualifying Paper	Member, 2019-20

## GRANTS/HONORS/AWARDS

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2021-22	Global Classroom Award (UCSC), \$4,000 Project: a trans-Pacific collaborative course on Chinese languages (in collaboration with Haoze Li)
2020-21	Online Course Development Award (UCSC), \$4,000 Project: Designing an asynchronous online course to teach introductory linguistics (in collaboration with Adrian Brasoveanu)
2020-22	COR Faculty Research Grant (UCSC), \$2,500 Project: Diagnosing the variation inference of 'each'

2019-20	New Faculty Research Grant (UCSC), \$1,145 Project: Speech acts in particle languages
2018 - 19	Andrew Mellon Dissertation Fellowship
2018	Rutgers University Professional Development Grant
2014	GLOW conference travel grant

## DEPARTMENTAL / CAMPUS SERVICES

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2022 – 2023

Coordinator of the annual Linguistics Undergraduate Research Conference  
Coordinator of the Program Learning Outcomes unit

2021 – 2022

Coordinator of the annual Linguistics Undergraduate Research Conference  
Coordinator of the Program Learning Outcomes unit

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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REFEREE (JOURNALS)

*Glossa*

*Journal of Semantics*

*Language and Linguistics*

*Natural Language Semantics*

*Linguistics and Philosophy*

*Semantics and Pragmatics*

*Studies in Chinese Linguistics*

REFEREE (CONFERENCES)

*Human Sentence Processing (HSP, 2022)*

*Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM, 2022)*

*Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT, 2020, 2023)*

*North East Linguistic Society (NELS, 2020)*

*Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning (MACSIM, 2015-2017)*

## LANGUAGE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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**Cantonese** (native), **Hakka** (native), Mandarin (near-native)

English (proficient), Japanese (basic), Spanish (basic)

Statistical programming with R,  $\LaTeX$ , PClbex