Eugene (Yik Ching) WONG

Address
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences
University of Minnesota
164 Pillsbury Dr SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Email
wong0703@umn.edu
Personal website
z.umn.edu/eugene_wong

Education

PhD candidate   2021- present
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota
 Primary Advisor: Benjamin Munson

BA in Linguistics and Language Technology (First Class Honours)   2012 - 2016
City University of Hong Kong
 Study-abroad program: Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain   (Jan - Jun 2016)
 Final-year project: *Production of the English vowels in Cantonese and Japanese children*
 Supervisor: Wai-Sum Lee

Research

Research Interests: Production, perception and acquisition of sociophonetic variation; Bilingual language development, assessment and treatment; Voice quality

Publications

Wong, E. & Munson, B. Not all child-directed speech are the same: Gender variation in mother-child conversations. (manuscript under preparation).

Wong, E., Koeppe, K., Cychosz, M. & Munson, B. (2025) Learning gendered speech in early childhood: Evidence from a longitudinal study of vowel and consonant acoustics. *Journal of Child Language*, 1-28. https://doi.org/10.1017/S030500092500011X

Fung, R. S. Y., & Wong, E. Y. C. (2023). Separated and reunified: An apparent time investigation of the voice quality differences between Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese. *PloS one*, 18(10), e0293058. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0293058

Conference Presentations

Wong, E. & Munson, B. (2025). Validating novel measures of sibilant fricatives using phoneme goodness ratings of children's speech. *The 188th Meetings of the Acoustical Society of America.* New Orleans, LA.

Ebert, K. D., Finestack, L., Wong, E., Johnson, E. (2025). Exploring Parent and Teacher Reports of Language Abilities of Spanish-English Bilingual Kindergarten Students. *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*. Madison, WI.

Wong, E., Pickron, C. B., Koenig, M., & Munson, B. (2025). The effect of adult gender on children's speech imitation. *Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting.* Minneapolis, MN.

Wong, E., & Munson, B. (2024). How do children learn to convey gender through speech? An acoustic analysis of child-directed speech. *International Congress for the Study of Child Language*, Prague, Czech Republic.

Wong, E., & Munson, B. (2024). Gender-related variation in /s/ and /ʃ/ in child-directed speech. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 155, A312.

Wong, E. & Munson, B. (2024). Learning gender variation in speech: an acoustic analysis of child-directed speech. *Cognitive Development Society Biennial Conference*. Pasadena, CA.

Zeng, D., Wong, E. & Munson, B. (2024). Unveiling the complexity of gendered speech in early childhood: efficient rater sampling for precise ratings on 5-year-olds' gender. *Cognitive Development Society Biennial Conference*. Pasadena, CA.

Wong, E. & Munson, B. (2023). How do children mark gender phonetically? An analysis of voice quality. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2023*. Prague, Czech Republic.

Wong, E. & Fung, R. (2023). What is a substantial voice? An LTAS study on two Cantonese accents. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2023*. Prague, Czech Republic.

Wong, E. & Ebert, K. D. (2023). An alternative scoring method to reduce bias in nonword repetition for bilingual children. *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*. Madison, WI.

Ebert, K., Finestack, L., Kuchler, K. & Wong, E. (2023). Towards less-biased language assessment: Exploring dynamic and processing-based assessments in diverse bilingual children. *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*. Madison, WI.

Wong, E. & Munson, B. (2021). A longitudinal study of gender-specific characteristics of children's vowels. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America,* 150(4), A152.

Invited Talks

Fung, R. and Wong, Y.-C. (2017). The voice quality differences between Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese. *The 22nd JWLLP & The 5th Workshop on VariAMU.* The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, April 8th, 2017

Fung, R. and Wong, Y.-C. (2017). The differences in voice quality between Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese. *UChicago Linguistic Research Forum.* The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, March 17th, 2017.

Work in Progress

Project FYI: Find Your Identity – Acoustics of children's gendered speech
- Collaborator: Benjamin Munson
- This project examines acoustics variables of gender in children's speech.

Project H2T: From Hearing to Talking – The sociophonetics of child-directed speech
- Collaborator: Benjamin Munson
- This project examines gender variations in child-directed speech.
- Data analysis is on-going.

Project WhIMS: Who is My Model of Speech? Development of gendered speech in children
- Collaborators: Benjamin Munson, Melissa Koenig, Charisse Pickron
- This project examines children's social preferences and selective learning towards speakers of different genders.
- Experiment materials in preparation.

Reliability and Validity of Dynamic and Processing-based Assessments for Language in Diverse Bilingual School-age Children
- Collaborators: Kerry Ebert, Lizbeth Finestack
- This is an NIH-supported longitudinal project that examines the efficacy of various linguistic and non-linguistic measures (dynamic assessment, standardized tests, and processing-based measures) in identifying language impairment in bilingual children.
- I translated parent-caregiver interview questionnaires and assessment materials into Cantonese and Mandarin.
- I conducted language assessments with Spanish-, Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking children.

Professional Experiences

Teaching Assistant   Spring 2021 – now
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota
Courses taught:
SLHS 1301 Physics and Biology of Spoken Languages   (Spring 2021 to Fall 2024)
- Taught the laboratory portion of an undergraduate class on speech acoustics.
- Developed materials and assignments including worksheets, lab reports and discussion activities for weekly lab sessions.
- Graded assignments and exams.

SLHS 1402 The Talking Brain   (Spring 2021)
- Graded assignments and projects, facilitated in-class discussion activities.

SLHS 3402 Capstone Project in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences (Spring 2025)
- Graded evidence-based practice research papers, service-learning journals and presentations of 15 students.

SLHS 8430 Proseminar in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences (Fall 2023)
- Organized weekly seminar on topics related to research, teaching and career development for PhD students in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences.

Guest Lectures
SLHS 1301 Physics and Biology of Spoken Languages   (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)
- Covered lectures on source-filter theory, consonant and vowel acoustics.

SLHS 3304 Phonetics   (Spring 2023)
- Covered lectures on stress, intonation and syllable structures, regional and global varieties of English.

SLHS 5609 Child Language Disorders in Diverse Populations   (Spring 2023)
- Covered lectures on bilingual language development, variations of English, and assessment for bilingual children.

Lab Manager (Assistant Technical Officer)   2016- 2020
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies**,** The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Assisted in the establishment of Speech and Language Sciences Lab.
- Managed lab equipment (Compumedics EEG, Tobii TX300 and Eyelink 1000 Plus eye-trackers, Soterix HD-tDCS, Karl Storz laryngoscopy, Glottal Enterprise EGG & aerodynamic system, Carstens AG501 Electromagnetic Articulograph).
- Maintained and troubleshooted daily lab operation.
- Assisted in conducting experiments, language and cognitive assessment to adults and children.
- Liaised with companies on purchasing lab equipment, consumables and maintenance services.
- Wrote up guidelines of lab equipment.
- Trained lab users.
- Conducted lab tours and demo of equipment to visitors and students.
- Designed and developed fun linguistics games and demo for lab events.

Research Assistant (concurrently with Lab Manager position)   2016- 2018
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Projects:
A Physiological study on the voice quality and intonation of two regional accents of Cantonese: Articulatory and acoustic analyses   (PI: Roxana Fung)   2017- 2018
- Designed speech tasks.

- Collected acoustic and electroglottographic signals from 20 Hong Kong Cantonese and 20 Guangzhou Cantonese speakers.
- Performed analysis using spectral and cepstral measures, glottal parameters, LTAS and functional data analysis.
- Drafted conference and journal papers.

Pitch and Intonation of Hong Kong Cantonese and Guangzhou Cantonese
(PI: Roxana Fung)   2016- 2017
- Performed acoustic analysis of vowels, tones and voice quality on the speech recordings from 191 speakers of both gender and across three age groups from the two cities using VoiceSauce.
- Drafted conference and journal papers.

NLP Annotator, part-time, distance work   2014- 2017
Nuance Communications, USA
- Annotated Cantonese data for developing advanced NLP models in linguistics technologies, question-answering and conversational system.

Supports

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship   2025- 2026
Graduate School, University of Minnesota ($25,000)

Dissertation Proposal Development Program   Summer 2023
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota ($4000)

Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship   2023- 2024
Graduate School, University of Minnesota ($25,000)

Summer Department Fellowships   2021 - 2025
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota ($3000 each summer)

Bryng Bryngealson Student Research Funding.   Fall 2021, Summer 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2024
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, University of Minnesota

Other Academic Training

Compumedics Hong Kong ERP Research & Clinical EEG Workshop. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Nov 7th- 10th, 2018.

Compumedics Clinical Curry School. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Oct 20th- 21st, 2017.

Services

Treasurer   2024 - 2025
SCHWA: Student of Color Health + Wellbeing Alliance, University of Minnesota

Council of Graduate Student Representative   2023 - 2024
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences

Skills

Acoustics	Praat, Computerized Speech Lab, Audacity
Statistics & Data Analysis	R, SPSS, Python
Neuroimaging	Compumedics Neuroscan, Biosemi, Curry 7, BESA
Experiment design	E-prime, Presentation, Experiment Builder, STIM2

Languages

Cantonese (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (fluent),
Spanish (intermediate, DELE B1 certificate)
Portuguese (basic), French (basic), German (basic)