Claire RONG • 荣可慧

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Education

2025–2028 (expected) **Ph.D. in Cognitive Science** — *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Specialisation: Linguistics. Supervisor: Benjamin Spector.
Funded by the *Fondation CFM pour la Recherche*.

Jan.–June 2026 **Fellow of the Department of Linguistics** — *Harvard University*
Faculty sponsor: Gennaro Chierchia.

2023–2025 **M.S. in Cognitive Science (Cogmaster)** — *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Major: Linguistics. With distinction (graduation GPA 17.5/20, rank 5/65).
Thesis: "Plurals under quantification: new experimental perspectives". [lingbuzz]
Student representative on the Pedagogical Council.

2023–2024 **1st year of M.A. in Chinese Studies** — *École Normale Supérieure, Lyon*
Thesis: "Plurality in Mandarin Chinese", graded 18/20. [link]
Supervisors: Benjamin Spector, Chang Liu.

2022–2026 **Diploma of École Normale Supérieure de Lyon**

2022–2023 **B.A. in Chinese Studies** — *École Normale Supérieure, Lyon*
Graduated top of my cohort.
First student of the institution to complete two bachelor's degrees in the same year.

2022–2023 **B.S. in Mathematics** — *École Normale Supérieure, Lyon*
Final thesis: "Optimal lexicalization", graded 19/20. [link]

2019–2022 **Classes préparatoires (MPSI, MP*)** — *Lycée Louis le Grand, Paris*
Mathematics, physics, computer science. Sophomore research project: "The N-gram model and Shannon entropy applied to natural languages".

2016–2019 **Baccalauréat scientifique** — *Lycée Louis le Grand, Paris*
Graduation GPA 19.4/20. European section (enhanced instruction in English).

Publications

Journal papers

2026 **Less is more: a non-verbal approach to anti-exhaustivity [link]**
Rong, C. and Shiyun Dong.
Journal of Logic, Language and Information

2026 **Plurals under quantification: disentangling readings and gradient effects [lingbuzz]**
Rong, C. and Benjamin Spector.
Accepted pending revisions at *Semantics & Pragmatics*.

Conference proceedings

2026 **An impossibility theorem of aggregating semantic rankings under non-monotonic quantification [link]**
Rong, C. *Proceedings of the ESSLLI 2026 Student Session.*

2025 **Less is more: a non-verbal approach to anti-exhaustivity [link]**
Rong, C. and Shiyun Dong. *Proceedings of the ESSLLI 2025 Student Session.*

2025 **Plurals under quantification: a comparison of English and Mandarin [link]**
Rong, C. *Proceedings of the ESSLLI 2025 Student Session.*

Talks & Presentations

Peer-reviewed conferences

2026 *upcoming*
Definiteness, domain restriction, and classifier phrases in Cantonese and Mandarin
Rong, C. and Kathryn Davidson.
25th Amsterdam Colloquium, Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), Amsterdam. [poster]

2026
Plurals under universal quantification: disentangling readings from gradient effects
Rong, C. and Benjamin Spector.
31st Sinn und Bedeutung (**SuB**), Nantes Université. [poster]

2026
An impossibility theorem of aggregating semantic rankings under non-monotonic quantification
- Student Session, 37th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (**ESSLLI**), Charles University, Prague. [slides]
- 33rd Conference of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (**ESPP**), Utrecht University. [talk]

2026
Definiteness in Cantonese vs Mandarin: bare nouns, classifiers, and demonstratives
- 9th Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (**FoCaL**), Hong Kong Polytechnic University. [talk, online]
- 26th Workshop on Cantonese (**WOC**), City University of Hong Kong. [talk, online]

2025
Less is more: a non-verbal approach to anti-exhaustivity
Rong C. and Shiyun Dong, based on joint work with Benjamin Spector.
Honourable mention for Best Talk Award.
Student Session, 36th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (**ESSLLI**), Ruhr Universität Bochum. [slides]

2025
Plurals under quantification: a comparison of English and Mandarin
- 11th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (**XPrag**), University of Cambridge. [poster]
- 32nd Conference of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology (**ESPP**), Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. [slides]
- Student Session, 36th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (**ESSLLI**), Ruhr Universität Bochum. [poster]

2024, 2025
Strong and weak plurality in Mandarin Chinese and typicality effects
- 8th Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (**FoCaL**), University of Hong Kong. [talk, online]
- 33rd Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (**ConSOLE**), University of Göttingen. [poster]
- 9th Asian Junior Linguists Conference (**AJL**), International Christian University, Tokyo. [talk, online]

Invited talks

2026
Plurals under quantification: new experimental perspectives
- NihiL seminar, Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), Amsterdam.
- LINGUAE seminar, Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure, Paris.

Other talks

2026
An impossibility theorem of aggregating semantic rankings under non-monotonic quantification
4th Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.

2024
Sémantique du pluriel en chinois mandarin [in French]
Cross-disciplinary seminar *Visages de la Chine*, École Normale Supérieure, Paris.

Internships & Summer Schools

Summer 2026 — **ESSLLI 2026** — *Charles University, Prague*
37th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information.

Summer 2025 — **ESSLLI 2025** — *Ruhr Universität Bochum*
36th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information.

Sept. 2024 – June 2025 **Research internship in linguistics** *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Plurality under quantification, advised by Benjamin Spector.

Summer 2024 **Research internship in linguistics** *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Inquisitive semantics and psychology of reasoning, advised by Salvador Mascarenhas.

Sept. 2023 – June 2024 **Research internship in linguistics** *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Plurality in Mandarin, advised by Benjamin Spector and Chang Liu.

Summer 2023 **Research internship in math applied to linguistics** *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Optimal lexicalization, advised by Benjamin Spector and Emmanuel Chemla.

Teaching & Volunteer Experience

Summer 2026 **Volunteer – ESSLLI 2026** *Charles University, Prague*
Assisting registration, logistics and communication with the organizers.

May 2026 **Volunteer and performer – Arts Fest** *Harvard University*
Annual four-day arts festival (music, dance, theater, poetry readings, comedy, fashion...).

2022–2025 **Chinese and French tutor** *"Top Chinois" language school*
Individual tutoring: Chinese for French students, French for Chinese students.
Teaching assistant for advanced classes in Chinese.

March 2025 **Volunteer – 2025 Cognitive Science Forum** *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Annual one-day public event dedicated to promoting cognitive science.

Fall 2023 **Volunteer – Teaching the Student's Math Club** *École Normale Supérieure, Paris*
Designed and taught high school- and undergraduate-level calculus courses to cognitive science students with limited mathematics experience since high school.

Awards

2026 **ESSLLI fellowship** *ESSLLI & RSJ Foundation*
Merit-based fee waiver for selected Student Session speakers at ESSLLI 2026.

2025 **Excellence Scholarship** *Association des Lauréats du Concours Général & Rotary Club*
3000€ scholarship awarded to an outstanding early-career laureate of the Concours Général.

2025 **Jean-Pierre Aguilar Fellowship** *Fondation CFM pour la Recherche*
Full Ph.D. fellowship (3 years) awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding scientific research projects in France.

2025 **Honourable Mention for Best Student Talk** *ESSLLI*
2nd best student talk, for the presentation "Less is more: a non-verbal approach to anti-exhaustivity", with Shiyun Dong.

2025 **ESSLLI Full Fellowship** *ESSLLI & Ruhr Universität Bochum*
Merit-based fellowship to attend ESSLLI 2025.

2023 **3rd Place in Ancient Greek Translation** *CICERO Competition*
A national classics translation competition in France.

2020 **1st Place in Group Project** *Shanghai International Summer School*
"Autonomous Intelligence beyond Data Science", Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

2019 **5th Place in Latin Translation** *CICERO Competition*

2019 **1st Place in Chinese Composition** *Concours Général des Lycées*
France's most competitive national academic competitions for high school students. First and only recipient of Concours Général awards in both Chinese and another language; only science-track student to receive multiple awards in consecutive years (2018-2019).

2018 **2nd Place in Ancient Greek Translation** *Concours Général des Lycées*

2018 **8th Place in Latin Translation** *Concours Général des Lycées*

2017 **1st Place** *Franco-Chinese Mathematics Competition*

Skills

Languages

Native Mandarin, French
Fluent English (TOEFL 112/120), Cantonese
Intermediate German
Reading Latin, Ancient Greek, Classical Chinese
Basics Portuguese, Russian, Standard Arabic, Yiddish

Technical

Programming Python, R, OCaml, JavaScript, HTML, CSS
Tools LaTeX, Labvanced, Qualtrics, PsychoPy, EyeLink, ELAN, XML/TEI

Music

Violin Played for 15 years, with ongoing regular performances. Advanced amateur violinist, with highest conservatory-level orchestra experience (DEM level in the French system), including concertmaster positions.

- Harvard Bach Society Orchestra
- Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra
- Viva l'Orchestra (amateur orchestra affiliated with and trained by the French National Orchestra)
- Orchestre des amateurs de la Philharmonie de Paris
- Orchestre les Déconcertants
- Orchestre du Bal des Parisiennes 2024
- Orchestre Symphonique des Grandes Écoles de Lyon
- Orchestre et Chœur des Universités de Paris

Piano Played for over 10 years, with ongoing occasional performances.
Choir Participated for over 10 years.