

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, LINGUISTICS AND THEATRE STUDIES

STAFF RESEARCH AREAS  
English Language and Linguistics

**Bao Zhiming**, PhD MIT, Dip Fudan  
[ellbaozm@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellbaozm@nus.edu.sg)

- Theoretical linguistics
- English and Chinese linguistics
- Contact linguistics
- Singapore English

**Chng Huang Hoon**, PhD UT Austin, MA BA (Hons) NUS  
[ellchh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellchh@nus.edu.sg)

Active interests:

- Gender
- Community-based issues
- Critical discourse analysis
- Ideology
- Education/Literacy

**Erlewine, Michael Yoshitaka**, PhD MIT  
[mitcho@nus.edu.sg](mailto:mitcho@nus.edu.sg)

- Linguistic theory: formal syntax, semantics, pragmatics
- Austronesian, Tibeto-Burman, Mandarin Chinese, English, Japanese, ...
- Theory-driven fieldwork on languages of Southeast Asia

Please contact me earlier to discuss your proposal, especially if you are interested in fieldwork.

**Hiramoto, Mie**, PhD U of Hawai'i  
[ellmh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellmh@nus.edu.sg)

Areas of general interest:

- Contact Linguistics
- Language, Gender, and Sexuality
- Media discourse

Supervision style:

I take my students' projects very seriously, and for this reason, I am very strict, demanding, and unforgiving. I set high expectations from the very beginning of the HT project. Those who are not able to follow my pace will suffer, and naturally, the overall quality of their HT will also suffer.

**Huang, Nick**, PhD, University of Maryland  
[znhuang@nus.edu.sg](mailto:znhuang@nus.edu.sg)

Supervision interests:

- Psycholinguistics, language acquisition, syntax from experimental and corpus perspectives. How can we use experiments and statistics to evaluate (more abstract) theoretical proposals?
- Comparative research, e.g. comparing standard English, Singapore English, other languages spoken in Singapore/Asia, whether from experimental or from more theoretical angles.

Supervision style:

I see my role at the beginning of a project as a sounding board, to help point students in the right direction, see the bigger picture, and determine project scope. Once a topic is picked, I expect students to take ownership of the project, proposing a timeline, setting agendas for our meetings, and so on. I would also like students to be open to trying out and learning new methods.

**Ito, Aine**, PhD University of Edinburgh (UK)

- Psycholinguistics
- Language prediction
- Language comprehension
- Language production
- Bilingualism
- Second language processing
- Eye-tracking

I'm happy to supervise projects in psycholinguistics. Please contact me early to discuss your proposal if you are interested in conducting an experiment.

**Lazar, Michelle M**, PhD Lanc, MA BA (Hons) NUS

[ellmml@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellmml@nus.edu.sg)

- Critical & Multimodal Discourse Analysis
- Language, Gender and Sexuality
- Media Discourses (Traditional and Social Media)
- Discourses of Race Relations, Religion, National Campaigns

**Lee, Leslie**, PhD UCSD

[ellleel@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellleel@nus.edu.sg)

Supervision interests:

- Syntax
- Morphology
- Lexical semantics
- Variation
- Quantitative/experimental approaches

Supervision style:

- I am happy to discuss ideas and provide feedback, but I expect supervisees to think and work independently.

**Nala Lee**, PhD U of Hawai'i

[nala.lee@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nala.lee@nus.edu.sg)

Areas of interest:

- Contact languages
- Language endangerment and revitalization
- Typology
- Sociolinguistics
- Sociophonetics
- Baba Malay

Supervision style:

I prefer acting as a sounding board and facilitator, rather than a person who doles out solutions, so supervisees should be clear about what it is they want to achieve. I also prefer supervisees to work on primary fieldwork data or experimental data. Finally, supervisees should not be afraid of harnessing technological tools and methods in their work.

**Ooi Beng Yeow, Vincent**, PhD (Lancaster, UK), MA BA (Hons) NUS  
[vinceooi@nus.edu.sg](mailto:vinceooi@nus.edu.sg)

Research interests:

- Corpus linguistics
- The lexicon in theory and practice
- Language and the Internet
- Asian varieties of English

Supervision style:

Facilitator and discussant

**Park, Joseph Sung-Yul**, PhD University of California, Santa Barbara  
[ellpjs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellpjs@nus.edu.sg)

Current active interest:

- Language ideology: beliefs about language structure and use and their consequences for social organization
- Language and globalization: the role language plays in the process of globalization, with a focus on English as a global language
- Linguistic construction of identity: how we use language to create, negotiate, and reproduce the distinction between self and other; how this process serves as a basis for more permanent social relationships and social inequalities

Supervision style:

Students will benefit most from working with me if they are highly independent (able to know what they are interested in, taking the initiative to ask questions, able to set a schedule for research and abide by it, etc.). I tend to see myself as a discussant when interacting with students, thinking through the issue together rather than telling them what to do, and learning together rather than providing answers.

**Rebecca Lurie Starr**, PhD Stanford, BA Harvard  
[ellsrl@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ellsrl@nus.edu.sg)

- Multilingual language acquisition
- Sociolinguistic variation in Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, English
- World Englishes
- Sociophonetics
- Sociolinguistics in media
- Teacher speech
- Experimental sociolinguistics

I'm happy to supervise projects in new areas and languages. Please feel free to get in touch and we can chat about your preliminary HT ideas!

**Shen, Zheng**, PhD University of Connecticut  
[zhengshen@nus.edu.sg](mailto:zhengshen@nus.edu.sg)

- fields: theoretical syntax and experimental syntax
- topics: movement, island, agreement, ellipsis, conjunction, right node raising
- potential projects (not exclusive):
  1. Are Singlish sentences judged different when presented in text and with audios?
  2. Do wh-in situ and wh-movement questions in Singlish have meaning differences?
  3. Do mother tongues of a speaker affect their judgments on Singlish sentences?

Supervision style:

- Feel free to contact me if you want to do projects on theoretical or experimental syntax, especially in languages spoken in Singapore and neighbouring countries!

**Tan, Peter K W**, PhD Edin., BA (Hons) Malaya  
[PeterTan@nus.edu.sg](mailto:PeterTan@nus.edu.sg)

1. Pragmatics, discourse and conversation analysis
2. Genre
3. Stylistics and Styling
4. The history of English and Asian Englishes
5. Names (onomastics)

Supervision style:

I am quite open to a range of approaches (qualitative, quantitative, methods based on corpora, questionnaires and experimental data, etc.), but students should be prepared to think through the planning, direction and organisation of their research. I see my role as a discussant and as someone who can provide feedback on students' writing.