

Richard Luo

Yale University
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Syntax; Semantics; Morphology; Linguistic Fieldwork and Documentation; Linguistic Typology; Indigenous languages of the Caucasus (to a lesser extent: Computational Linguistics; Formal Language Theory)

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Linguistics, Yale University** New Haven, CT
 - *Dissertation: The Extended Verbal Projection – How a (Georgian) Embedded Clause Becomes Finite* 2023 – ongoing
 - **Advisor(s)**: Jim Wood, Veneeta Dayal
 - **Other**: Certificate of College Teaching Preparation (*in progress*)
- **B.A. in Mathematics & Linguistics, Harvard University** Boston, MA
 - *Thesis: Substitutions in symbolic dynamical systems, with evidence from linguistic data* 2019 – 2023
 - **Advisor(s)**: Laura DeMarco, recommended for Highest Honors
 - **Other**: Secondary in Computer Science, Language Citation in Chinese

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (\$3500), <i>Yale University</i>	2026
European Studies Council Travel/Conference Award (\$500), <i>Yale University</i>	2026
MacMillan Center International Conference Travel Grant (\$800), <i>Yale University</i>	2025
Dean's Fund for Colloquia and Symposia - Linguistics Monday Colloquium (\$1000), <i>Yale University</i>	2024 – 2025
University Fellowship, <i>Yale University</i>	2023 – ongoing
Dunwalke Fund for Undergraduate Research (\$5000), <i>Harvard University</i>	2022
Gates Scholar, <i>The Gates Scholarship (TGS)</i>	2019 – 2023

PUBLICATIONS

4. Bondarenko, Tatiana, Jacob Fernandes, Kaden Holladay and **Richard Luo** (forthcoming). Interpreting Clausal Movement. *A Festschrift for Danny Fox*. Boston, MA: MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
3. **Luo, Richard** (2026). When is 'or not' required in an embedded polar question? *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 11 (1): 6095. <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v11i1.6095>
2. **Luo, Richard** (2025). Two flavors of control in Georgian: *decide* and *try*. *Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS) [Volume II]*, 99 – 108. Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications.
1. Bondarenko, Tatiana, **Richard Luo** and Vincent Rouillard (2024). Thinking statively and dynamically: a view from Georgian. *Proceedings of the Amsterdam Colloquium 2024*, 44 – 50.

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

11. **Luo, Richard** (2026). A Goldilocks dilemma for clause size: nominalization and finiteness in Georgian. *Salzburg Comparative Syntax (SalCoS) Workshop*. Boğaziçi University, May 23.
10. **Luo, Richard** (2026). A Goldilocks dilemma for clause size: nominalization and finiteness in Georgian. *Caucasian Languages across Georgia International Research Network (CauLaGeNet) Workshop*. Boğaziçi University, May 20.
9. **Luo, Richard** (2026). The duality of Georgian masdars: *complex heads* vs. *phrasal layering*. *Boston Morphology Workshop (BMW)*. Boston University, May 1.
8. **Luo, Richard** and Natasha Thalluri (2026). Choice functions and alternatives: two classes of Georgian *wh*-indefinites. *Chicago Linguistic Society 62*. University of Chicago, Apr. 17.
7. **Luo, Richard** (2026). When is 'or not' required in an embedded polar question? *Linguistic Society of America (LSA) 2026 Annual Meeting*. New Orleans, LA, Jan. 9.

6. **Luo, Richard** (2025). I wonder if Georgian can tell us how *tu* embed(s) questions? *South Caucasian Chalk Circle 4* (SCCC-4). Paris, France, Oct. 10.
5. **Luo, Richard** and Natasha Thalluri (2025). Scope variability in two classes of Georgian indefinite pronouns. *Caucasian linguistics: recent advances and emerging topics*. Lyon, France, Jun. 12.
4. Bondarenko, Tatiana, **Richard Luo** and Vincent Rouillard (2024). Thinking statively and dynamically: a view from Georgian. *Amsterdam Colloquium 2024*. Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), Dec. 18.
3. **Luo, Richard** and Natasha Thalluri (2024). Scope variability in two classes of Georgian indefinite pronouns. *Southern New England Workshop in Semantics* (SNEWS). Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Nov. 23.
2. **Luo, Richard** (2024). Two flavors of control in Georgian: *decide* and *try*. *55th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* (NELS 55). Yale University, Oct. 17.
1. **Luo, Richard** (2024). Probing the existence of degree abstraction in Mandarin *bi*-comparatives. *Southern New England Workshop in Semantics* (SNEWS). Harvard University, Feb. 10.

INVITED TALKS

5. **Luo, Richard** (2026). A Goldilocks dilemma for clause size: nominalization and finiteness in Georgian. Invited talk for NUS Syntax/Semantics Lab, National University of Singapore, May 26.
4. **Luo, Richard** (2026). Deverbal nominalizations and finiteness in Georgian. Invited talk for Syntactic Theory at Rutgers (ST@R), Rutgers University, Mar. 11.
3. **Luo, Richard** (2025). Is natural language context-free? Guest lecture in “Language and Computation” taught by Kenneth Hanson, Yale University, Nov. 11.
2. **Luo, Richard** (2025). Indeterminacy effect in split scope constructions. Guest presentation in “Topics in Syntax: Intensifiers and Degree Phrases” taught by Jim Wood, Yale University, Apr. 16.
1. **Luo, Richard** (2023). Semilinearity in Old Georgian. Invited talk for Working on Language in the Field (WOLF) Lab, Harvard University, Oct. 20.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

• How to Create a Language: Constructed Language and Natural Language	Yale University
• <i>Teaching Fellow (Graduate)</i>	<i>Spring 2026</i>
• Language and Computation	Yale University
• <i>Teaching Fellow (Graduate)</i>	<i>Fall 2025</i>
• Introduction to Computational Linguistics & Natural Language Processing	Harvard University
• <i>Teaching Fellow (Undergraduate)</i>	<i>Fall 2021</i>
◦ Award: Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning	

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

POSITIONS

Linguistics Department Graduate Student Representative, <i>Yale University</i>	<i>January 2026 – ongoing</i>
Student Panelist and Volunteer, <i>Yale Center for Language Study</i>	<i>January 2026 – ongoing</i>
Researcher, <i>Caucasian Languages in Georgia International Research Network</i>	<i>October 2025 – ongoing</i>
European Studies Council Student Affiliates Network, <i>Yale University</i>	<i>September 2025 – ongoing</i>
Syntax Reading Group Co-organizer, <i>Yale University</i>	<i>May 2025 – ongoing</i>
Directed Independent Language Study (Georgian), <i>Yale University</i>	<i>September 2024 – May 2025</i>
Graduate Student Member, Linguistic Society of America (LSA)	<i>November 2023 – ongoing</i>
Southern New England Workshop in Semantics Coordinator, <i>Yale University</i>	<i>October 2023 – September 2024</i>

SERVICE

Reviewed journal article(s): Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics (JCGL)
 Reviewed conference abstract(s): South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC), North East Linguistic Society (NELS), SUNY-Yale-NYU-CUNY Linguistics Conference (SYNC)
 Co-organized 55th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 55), *Yale University*
 Proctored Invitational Round of the North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition (NACLO)

OTHER EDUCATION

CauLaGeNet Linguistic Fieldwork Summer Program, <i>CNRS + Batumi State University</i>	<i>July 2026</i>
Crete Summer School of Linguistics (CreteLing), <i>University of Crete</i>	<i>July 2024</i>
New York–St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (NYI), <i>virtual</i>	<i>July 2022</i>

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages: English (native); Mandarin Chinese (advanced); Spanish (intermediate); French (basic); Georgian (basic); for research primarily: Abkhaz, German, Greek, Hindi-Urdu, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laz, Lithuanian, Roro/Waima, Turkish

Programming: Python, PyTorch, C/C#/C++, Java, Keras/TensorFlow, R, MATLAB, SQL, HTML/CSS, L^AT_EX

Last updated on 08/12/2026