

David A. Haslett

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Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Clear Water Bay, New Territories, Hong Kong
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EDUCATION

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

PhD, Linguistics, 2024

Dissertation: The role of similar-sounding words in representing meanings

Supervisors: Cai Zhenguang, Feng Gangyi

MA (Distinction), Linguistics, 2019

The University of Toronto

MA, English in the Field of Creative Writing, 2015

The University of Waterloo

BA (Joint Honours), Philosophy & English Literature, 2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Word meaning

Language evolution

Psycholinguistics

Large language models

Explainable AI

EMPLOYMENT

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

Research Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science, 2024–

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, 2019–2023

Westgate Corporation, Japan

Instructor, Rikkyo University, 2019

The University of Kurdistan Hewlêr, Iraqi Kurdistan

Lecturer, English Language Centre, 2017–2018

Simson English Academy, South Korea

Teacher, 2016–2017

The University of Toronto, Canada

Teaching Assistant, English Department, 2013–2015

Topia English Academy, South Korea

Teacher, 2012–2013

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (Under review). How much semantic information is available in large language model tokens?

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (2024). Wayward associations: When and why people think of similar-sounding words. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 138.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2024.104537>

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (2024). Systematic mappings of sound to meaning: A theoretical review. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 31(2), 627–648. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-023-02395-y>

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (2023). Similar-sounding words flesh out fuzzy meanings. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 152(8), 2359–2368. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001409>

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (2022). New neighbours make bad fences: Form-based semantic shifts in word learning. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 29(3), 1017–1025.

<https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-021-02037-1>

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE TALKS

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (Sept. 2023). The non-arbitrariness of the token: Systematicity in large language models. *Protolang 8*. Rome, Italy.

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (Sept. 2023). Similar-sounding associates mitigate concreteness effects. *Embodied and Situated Language Processing, 2023*. Messina, Italy.

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (Sept. 2022). When words impinge: Overlapping sounds and meanings in low-frequency words. *Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing*, 28. York, UK.

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (Sept. 2022). Pressure for and against non-arbitrariness: Evidence from phonesthemes. *The Joint Conference on Language Evolution*. Online.

Haslett, D. A. & Cai, Z. G. (Mar. 2021). Form-based semantic shifts: Evidence from novel word learning. *The 34th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Online.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, 2020–2024

Award for Outstanding Graduates, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2019

Avie Bennett Emerging Writers Scholarship, University of Toronto, 2013–2014
Dugan Prize in Rhetoric and Professional Writing, University of Waterloo, 2010

AD HOC PEER REVIEWING

Psychonomic Bulletin & Review

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance

Language & Cognition

PLoS One

Language Sciences

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 2024

Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing Asia, 2023, 2024