

Shengkai YIN

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QUALIFICATIONS

Doctor of Philosophy

Sep 2020 – Jun 2025

Dual degree *The University of Melbourne and Shanghai Jiao Tong University*

Submitted to external reviewers: February 2025

Thesis title: “Assessing Critical Thinking in EAP Speaking: Development and Validation of a Rating Scale.”

- Conceptualize the concept of critical thinking (CT) in the context of English for academic purposes (EAP) speaking assessment construct.
- Describe the domain of CT in EAP speaking context by developing a rating scale, and
- Validate the rating scale based on an argument-based validation framework.

Master of Arts (major in Applied Linguistics and Education)

2016 – 2019

Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Thesis title: “Relationship between Test Takers’ Critical Thinking Ability and Their Performance on Speaking Tasks”

Exchange program (major in Applied Linguistics)

2017 – 2018

University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Guest Lecturer (Post Graduate Education)

2024 – current

Federation University Australia, Institute of Education, Arts and Community, Melbourne, Australia

Course taught: *Phonetics, Phonology and Oral Communication (EDBSP1023), Applied Psycholinguistics, UG (EDBSP2014) and PG (EDMSP6014)*

Sessional Academic Lecturer

2023 - current

The University of Melbourne, School of Languages and Linguistics, Melbourne, Australia

Courses taught: *Academic English 1 (ESLA10003), Advanced Self-Editing (ESLA90002)* at undergraduate level and *Language Assessment (LING 9009)* at postgraduate level. Primary responsibilities include:

- Develop curriculum and assessment, covering topics such as formative and summative assessment, assessment of/for/as learning, and construction and validation of language tests.
- Retrofit assessments and quizzes to align with students’ learning trajectories
- Offer consultation and support to students with learning difficulties.

Research Assistant

2023 - current

The University of Melbourne, Language Testing Research Centre (LTRC), Faculty of Arts

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai, China

- Researcher, marker, and invigilator for Diagnostic English Language Assessment (DELA)
- Researcher and program developer for an AI-based performance assessment online platform designed for Chinese EFL learners: Nova (<https://nova.oberyun.com/mfrm/userHome>)

University Lecturer (Teaching & Research, full-time)

2019 – 2020

Shanghai Polytechnic University, School of Foreign Languages and Cultural Communication,
Shanghai, China

Primary responsibilities include:

- Undertake lecturing, course coordination, and tutorials at undergraduate level
- Provide support to the management of the Master of Translation and Interpretation degree
- Undertake scholarly research projects individually and/or in collaboration with colleagues, for publication in traditional outlets appropriate for the field of applied linguistics
- Coordinating international affairs, including organising exchange programs for students at College of Arts and Sciences
- Translate for the Dean during the visits of international partners.

Instructor (part-time)

2017 – 2019

Tongji University, Shanghai, China.

New Oriental Educational and Teaching Group, Shanghai, China.

- Course development and curriculum design
- Courses teaching: Intermediate to Advanced Chinese Language
- TOEFL and IELTS teaching and research

AWARDS & GRANTS

Year	Awards	Amount
2025	TOEFL Grant for Doctoral Research in Language Assessment¹	USD 6,000
2024	The University of Melbourne Arts Graduate Research Essentials Grant	AUD 5,990
	TOEFL/ITLA Student Travel Grant	USD 2,500
2023	The University of Melbourne Graduate Research in Arts Travel Scheme	AUD 1,500
	Research and Graduate Studies Grant (Languages and Linguistics)	AUD 2,000
	British Council Assessment Research Awards²	GBP 2,500
	Graduate Researcher Prize Scholarship; Outstanding Student Award; First Prize, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Scholarship	CNY 5,000
2022	Duolingo Dissertation Research Awards in Language Assessment³	USD 6,000
2020	Seed Funding of Shanghai Jiao Tong University- The University of Melbourne Joint PhD Program (Fellowship) (WH610160507/047). ⁴	AUD 20,000

PUBLICATIONS

A. Peer-reviewed articles

- (1) **Yin, S.**, Fan, J., Jin, Y., & Stapleton, P. (2024). Towards a framework of critical thinking for assessing EAP speaking. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 71, 101426. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2024.101426> [SSCI, Q1 in Linguistics and Education, JIF: 3.1]
- (2) **Yin, S.**, Guo, K., & Li, D. (2024). To assign a topic or not: Examining critical thinking in English as a foreign language speaking. *RELC Journal*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00336882231222651> [SSCI, Q1 in Linguistics, JIF: 3.6, South East Asian Ministers' Education organization (SEAMEO), Regional Language Center (RELC)]
- (3) Sun, Q., Chen, F., & **Yin, S.** (2023). The role and features of peer assessment feedback in college English writing. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13:1070618, 1-16.

¹ Announcement: <https://www.ets.org/toefl/grants/recipients.html#accordion-2097530954-item-7588e141f2>

² Announcement: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/exam/aptis/research/grants-and-awards/awards>

³ Announcement: <https://blog.duolingo.com/p/905403ae-572f-431a-8bf6-ba5037f2ec85/>

⁴ Announcement: <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/7bo8>

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1070618> [SSCI, Q1 in Psychology, JIF: 3.8]

- (4) **Yin, S.** & Jin, Y. (2022). The effect of critical thinking on the performances of integrated speaking assessments. *Foreign Languages and Their Teaching*, 327(6): 66-77.
<https://doi.org/10.13458/j.cnki.flatt.004905> [CSSCI-indexed, Top journal in China]
- (5) **Yin, S.**, Chen, F., & Chang, H. (2022). Assessment as learning: How does peer assessment function in students' learning? *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13: 912568, 1-14.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.912568> [SSCI, Q1 in Psychology, JIF: 3.8]
- (6) Sun, H. & **Yin, S.** (2022). Review of language aptitude: Advancing theory, testing, research and practice, Z. Wen, P. Skehan, A. Biedron, S. Li, R. Sparks (Eds.). *Assessing Writing*, 51 (1): 1-4.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asw.2021.100588> [SSCI, Q1 in Linguistics, JIF: 4.2]
- (7) **Yin, S.** (2019). Individual difference factors in second language acquisition. *Overseas English* (8), 100-101. <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/4w78> [CNKI database]

B. Revise & Resubmit (in 2025)

- (1) **Yin, S.**, Jin, Y., Fan, J., & Knoch, U. Assessing critical thinking in EAP speaking: The development and validation of a rating scale. *Language Testing* [SSCI, Q1 in Linguistics and Education]
- (2) **Yin, S.**, Yu, C., Peng, X. Critical thinking instruction in EAP writing class: Rethinking tired constructs. *Assessing writing* [SSCI, Q1 in Linguistics and Education]

C. Conference papers

- (1) **Yin, S.** (2025). Expanding construct in EAP speaking assessment: Defining and operationalizing a critical thinking perspective. In Proceedings of the 46th Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) 2025, Bangkok, Thailand. Research paper presentation.
- (2) **Yin, S.** (2025). Towards a framework of critical thinking for assessing EAP speaking. In Proceedings of the 46th Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) 2025, Bangkok, Thailand. Research paper presentation.
- (3) **Yin, S.** (2024). Conceptualizing and operationalizing the construct of critical thinking in EAP speaking: The development and validation of a rating scale. In Proceedings of the 45th Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) 2024, Innsbruck, Austria. Research paper presentation.
- (4) **Yin, S.**, Jin, Y., & Fan, J. (2024) Understanding critical thinking in EAP speaking: Evidence from the CET-SET6. *Academic Forum on English Language Testing in Asia (AFELTA) 2024*, Singapore. Research paper presentation.
- (5) **Yin, S.** (2023). Assessing critical thinking in EAP speaking: Design and validation of a rating scale. In Proceedings of the 44th Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) 2023, New York City, United States. Presentation.
- (6) **Yin, S.** (2022). Assessing critical thinking in EAP speaking: Development and validation of a rating scale. In Proceedings of the 8th Annual International Conference of the Asian Association for Language Assessment (AALA) 2022, Chennai, India. Presentation.
- (7) Sun, Q., Chen, F. & **Yin, S.** (2022). Understanding diversified evaluation in ESL writing classroom: An insight from effectiveness of peer assessment feedback. *New Direction 2022*, British Council, England. Presentation.
- (8) **Yin, S.** (2021). Investigating the Relationships Between Test Takers' Critical Thinking Ability and Their Performances on Speaking Task: A Case Study of TOEFL Integrated Speaking Task. In Proceedings of the 19th World Congress of Applied Linguistics (AILA) 2021, Groningen, the

Netherlands. Presentation.

- (9) **Yin, S.** (2021). Validating dynamic assessment: An argument-based approach. In Proceedings of *the 6th Conference on Language Testing and Assessment 2021*, p. 42. Shanghai, China. Presentation.
- (10) **Yin, S. & Chen, F.** (2021). Assessing by peers: How it benefits students' learning. In Proceedings of *the 7th Annual International Conference of the Asian Association for Language Assessment (AALA) 2021*, Seoul, Korea. Presentation.
- (11) **Yin, S.** (2020). On Integrated Speaking Test Performance and its Relation with Critical Thinking: A Case Study of TOEFL Integrated Speaking Task. In Proceedings of *the 5th International Conference on Language Testing and Assessment*. Guangzhou, China. Presentation.

D. Translation book

Yang, M. & **Yin, S.** (2020). *Dark genius of Wall Street: The misunderstood life of Jay Gould, King of the Robber Barons*. Shanghai: Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. ISBN: 978-7-5642-3580-2/F • 3580

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- (1) How to assess speaking in academic context? Invited talk at Shanghai Polytechnic University, Shanghai, China, June 12, 2020.
- (2) Introduction to applying Rasch model in Second Language Acquisition. Invited talk at East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, March 23, 2022.
- (3) Unlocking Opportunities: A Graduate Student's Guide to Research Award Application. ALTAANZ 2023 Conference, November 14-16, 2023
- (4) Applying for Research Awards and Scholarships in Language Assessment as a PhD Candidate. ALTAANZ 2024 Conference, July 30, 2024

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Interim reviewer and final report evaluator for Chinese National Education Examinations Authority – British Council English Assessment Research Grants, 2020-2025.
- Reviewer of the 11th and 12th British Council New Directions in Language Assessment East Asia, July 2023, 2024, 2025.
- Ad-hoc Reviewer for Journals: "Foreign Languages and Their Teaching"; "TESOL Journal"; "Assessing Writing"; "Journal of Language Teaching"; "Frontiers in Psychology", 2023-2025.
- Facilitator for the 7-week workshop series, "Academic Writing and Communications" run by Professor Martin Comte– Graduate House, The University of Melbourne, 2024.
- Academic contributor to the project "Linking China's Standards of English Language Ability to College English Test Band 4 and 6", January 17- February 7, 2021.
- Academic contributor to the project "Construction of China's Standards of English Language Ability Speaking Subscales Descriptors", 2020.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Credentialed Community Language (CCL) Test in Mandarin (Issued by National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) (January 2024)
- PTE (Pearson Academic English Test) 85 (December 2023)
- Shanghai Advanced-Level English Interpreter (February 2014)
- China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (December 2017)
- Teacher Certification for Senior High School (State Education Commission of the P.R. China) (May

2018)

- Driver's Licence (Full, Car) (Victoria, Australia)

Languages: Chinese mandarin (native language), English (bilingual ability), French (A2 level)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Australian Literacy Educator's Association (ALEA)
- ILTA (International Language Testing Association) Graduate Student Assembly Steering Committee
- AALA (Asian Association for Language Assessment) Student Committee Member, Public Relation Officer
 - Manage operational activities (e.g., engaging student members, encouraging membership, offering on-site support for events)
 - Active participation in discussions and provide feedback to applicants on proposed initiatives
 - Edit the *In Conversation Series*
 - Draft the cover page report for the 7th conference of AALA, 2022.
- Member in ALTAANZ (Association for Language Testing and Assessment of Australia and New Zealand) Reference Group 2022-2025
 - Help editorial team to enhance the journal, *Studies in Language Assessment*
 - Support the ALTAANZ Executive Committee
 - Work with the Student Representatives to build a strong ALTAANZ student community.

REFERENCE CONTACT

- **Professor Yan Jin**

Email: yjin@sjtu.edu.cn

Dr. Jin is my principal PhD supervisor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. She is a professor of linguistics and applied linguistics at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China. She started her career as a language tester in the early 1990s and has been involved in the development and research of large-scale, high-stakes language tests for three decades. She is currently chair of the National College English Testing Committee of China. She is co-editor-in-chief of the Springer open-access journal *Language Testing in Asia* and is also on the editorial boards of a number of academic journals including *Language Testing* and *Language Assessment Quarterly*. She received the Cambridge/ILTA Distinguished Achievement Award in 2021.

- **Associate Professor Jason Fan**

Email: jinsong.fan@unimelb.edu.au

Phone: 0421-038-298

Dr. Fan is my principal PhD supervisor at The University of Melbourne. He is the Deputy Director and Associate Professor at the Language Testing Research Centre (LTRC), The University of Melbourne. Additionally, he serves as Vice President of the Asian Association for Language Assessment (AALA) and is the co-editor of *Studies in Language Assessment*.

- **Professor Carsten Roever**

Email: carsten@unimelb.edu.au

Phone: 0422-475-414

Dr. Roever is my academic mentor and a Professor of Applied Linguistics at The University of Melbourne. Throughout my PhD studies, he has been an invaluable source of both academic guidance and personal support.

- **Emerita Professor Heather Fehring**

Email: heather.fehrimh@rmit.edu.au

Phone: 0427-495-775

Dr. Fehring is my academic mentor and an Emerita Professor of Education at RMIT University. During my stay at Graduate House, University of Melbourne, she offered me invaluable guidance and support, particularly in the areas of academic writing. Her expertise in literacy education and extensive experience in teacher education enriched my understanding of educational theory and practice. Dr. Fehring's mentorship has had a profound impact on my academic and professional development.

- **Emeritus Professor Martin Comte**

Email: martin.comte@rmit.edu.au

Phone: 0412-552-989

Dr. Martin Comte is my academic mentor, an Emeritus Professor, and the former Dean of Education at RMIT University. He has provided me with tremendous personal and academic support during my time at Graduate House, The University of Melbourne.