

Shengyi XU

PhD Thesis: Neurocognition in Simultaneous Interpreting tasks: Exploring the Relationship between Bilingual Expertise, Proficiency, and Brain Structural Plasticity and Functional Connectivity

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Shengyi XU is currently a PhD student in the Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). He got his Master's degree in Translation and Bilingual Communication from HKBU in 2021, following a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Shanghai International Studies University. Prior to his PhD study, Xu has over four years of experience managing drug clinical trial projects at a world-renowned pharmaceutical company. This unique combination of expertise in healthcare project management and interpreting studies enables him to approach his research with an interdisciplinary insight.

XU's research interests include the neurocognitive mechanisms underlying language switching in highly proficient bilinguals, particularly during simultaneous interpreting. Recent advancements in neuroimaging techniques have made it possible to explore the neural processes involved in interpreting tasks. Nevertheless, the interpreter's brain remains a "black box," with many of its working mechanisms still not fully understood. To address this gap, XU investigates the relationship between bilingual expertise and proficiency, and the status and changes in brain structure and function, particularly in language processing and cognitive control. Through related research, XU intends to contribute to enhance neurocognitive theories in interpreting studies, promote more effective intercultural communication, and support the development of therapeutic interventions for bilingual individuals with language-related impairments.