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Self-directed language learning using mobile technology in higher education

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Curriculum Vitae

Yuzhi Lai was born in Jincheng, China on August 22, 1992. Following her graduation from Zezhou No. 1 Middle School in 2011, she embarked on studying English language at Changzhi University and obtained her bachelor degree in 2015. Subsequently, she deepened her expertise by completing her MA in English Translation at Southwest University in 2017. Transitioning into the professional realm, Yuzhi commenced her career as an English teacher, where her interactions with students ignited her interest in self-directed learning and second language learning. Driven by this burgeoning curiosity, she made the pivotal decision to pursue a doctoral degree at Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching (ICLON) in 2019. Her research project focused on self-directed learning, technology-enhanced learning and second language learning.

Publications and presentations

Scientific publications

- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W. (2022). University students' use of mobile technology in self-directed language learning: Using the Integrative Model of Behavior Prediction. *Computers & Education*, 179, 104413. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2021.104413>
- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W. (2022). Learning strategies in self-directed language learning using mobile technology in higher education: A systematic scoping review. *Education and Information Technologies*, 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-022-10945-5>

Manuscripts under review

- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W. (2024). *Factors influencing university students' persistence and satisfaction towards self-directed language learning using mobile technology*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W. (2024). *A netnography study on self-directed language learning using mobile technology*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Conference contribution

- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W (2022, August). *Factors influencing foreign language learners' persistence in self-directed learning using mobile technology in higher education*. Poster presented at the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), 22-26 August 2022, Yerevan Armenia.
- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W (2022, October). *Examining the factors affecting learning engagement in self-directed language learning using mobile technology in higher education*. Poster presented at The 21st World Conference on Mobile, Blended and Seamless Learning (mLearn), 10-12 October 2022, Heerlen, The Netherlands.
- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W (2022, June). *The impact of university students' mobile learning readiness, teacher support and engagement on satisfaction and persistence in self-directed learning with mobile technology*. Poster presented at LTA Teaching festival, 7 June 2022, Leiden, The Netherlands.

- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W (2022, May). *Self-directed learning using mobile technology in higher education*. At the 16th European Association of Technology Enhanced Learning Summer School on Technology Enhanced Learning (EATEL), 21-28 May, Sani, Halkidiki, Greece.
- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W (2022, March). *The impact of university students' mobile learning readiness, teacher support and engagement on satisfaction and persistence in self-directed learning with mobile technology*. Paper presented at ICO National Spring School, 17-18 March, Online.
- Lai, Y., Saab, N., & Admiraal, W (2021, March). *Predicting Chinese university students' use of mobile technology in self-directed learning*. Round Table at ICO International Spring School, 16-18 March, Online.

Acknowledgements

For me, the trajectory of PhD is about exploring the potential of the self, finding the light through darkness, and living with braveness and resilience.

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Nadira, I am immensely grateful for your guidance and encouragement throughout this journey. I fondly remember the countless times you challenged me with your probing "whys," particularly during the proposal-composing phase. Initially perplexed by these questions, I gradually came to understand that they were meant to deepen my understanding of the research questions I sought to address and how best to approach them. Thank you for nurturing my development as an independent researcher.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the members of ICLON. Our time together was marked by the exchange of ideas, the forging of friendships, countless moments of joy, and sharing of life experience. Special appreciation goes to Roeland van der Rijst and Ben Smit for their unwavering support and kind words. Xiaomei, your patience in addressing my academic queries, your presence in our intellectual discussions, and your reassuring guidance through moments of confusion have been invaluable.

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