Question 1: Are subject relatives harder to process than object relatives in Chinese, as Hsiao & Gibson (2003) and others claim? Four self-paced reading studies show this may not be true.

1. [SR subj. mod.] GAP shushi furen de jingli yujian le mushi The manager who knows the tycoon met the priest.
2. [OR subj. mod] furen de jingli yujian le mushi tycoon knows knows manager met priest. The manager who the tycoon knows met the priest.
3. [SR obj. mod.] mushi yujian le GAP shushi furen de jingli The outstanding writer who the prof. knows met the priest.
4. [OR obj. mod.] mushi yujian le furen shushi GAP de jingli The manager who the tycoon knows met priest.

Results of Expts 1-3: We uniformly find faster reading times at head noun in subject RCs compared to object RCs, regardless of whether the RC is preceded by context or not.

Question 2: Is there any evidence in Chinese RCs for integration cost as defined in DLT (Gibson 2000)? Expt 4 suggests yes.

A. OR, no adjective intervener chusede jiaoshou renshi GAP de zuojia outstanding professor know writer The writer who the outstanding prof. knows.
B. OR, adjective intervener jiaoshou renshi GAP de chusede zuojia professor know outstanding writer The outstanding writer who the prof. knows.
C. OR, no PP intervener chuleide jiaoshou renshi GAP de zuojia in car professor know writer The writer who the prof. in the car knows.
D. OR, PP intervener jiaoshou renshi GAP de chuleide zuojia in car professor know writer The writer in the car who the prof. knows.
E. SR, adjective not modifying head-noun GAP verb adjective object de subject E. SR, adjective not modifying head-noun GAP verb adjective subject
F. SR, adjective modifying head-noun GAP verb object de adjective subject
G. SR, PP not modifying head-noun GAP verb PP subject
H. SR, PP modifying head-noun GAP verb object de PP subject

Conclusions:
1. Subject RCs are easier to process than object RCs, contra Hsiao & Gibson 2003.
2. This result holds even when context is provided (contra Wu & Gibson, submitted).
3. The subject RC advantage can be explained in terms of structural frequency; the integration account makes the wrong prediction.
4. Nevertheless, Expt 4 presents evidence consistent with the claim (Gibson 2000) that introducing a discourse referent between dependencies makes integration more difficult.

References:
Correspondence should be addressed to vasishth@uni-potsdam.de