

## EDUCATION

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- **University of California, Los Angeles** Los Angeles, CA  
June 2024 - Present  
*PhD, Linguistics*
  - **Dissertation:** The Learnability of “Unnatural Phonology”: Experimental Evidence from Catalan
  - **Committee:** Megha Sundara (co-chair), Bruce Hayes (co-chair), Victoria Mateu, Kie Zuraw
- **University of California, Los Angeles** Los Angeles, CA  
September 2022 - June 2024  
*MA, Linguistics*
  - **Thesis:** The influence of phonotactics on suffix discovery in infancy
  - **Committee:** Megha Sundara (chair), Bruce Hayes, Laurel Perkins
- **University of Pennsylvania** Philadelphia, PA  
August 2018 – May 2022  
*BA, Linguistics; BS, Computer and Information Science*
  - **Thesis:** Distributional Learning of Syntactic Categories
  - **Advisor:** Charles Yang

## NON-DEGREE EDUCATION

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- **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona** Barcelona  
*Visiting Graduate Student*October 2025 - December 2025

## PUBLICATIONS

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Kevin Liang, Victoria Mateu, and Bruce Hayes. (Under Review). Productivity of exceptional and unnatural phonology: Evidence from Catalan consonant alternations.

Kevin Liang, and Megha Sundara. (2025). Infants discover English suffixes allomorph by allomorph. *Journal of Child Language*.

Kevin Liang, Diana Marsala, and Charles Yang. (2022). Distributional Learning of Syntactic Categories. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Cascadilla Press.

## PRESENTATIONS

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Kevin Liang, and Gemma Repiso Puigdelliura. (2026, June). *Infants learn saltatory alternations: evidence from Catalan*. Talk at the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Canada.

Kevin Liang, and Megha Sundara. (2024, November). *The influence of phonotactics on morphological decomposition in infancy*. Talk at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.

Kevin Liang, Victoria Mateu, and Bruce Hayes. (2024, November). *An experimental study of Catalan consonant alternations*. Talk at the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2024, New Brunswick, NJ.

Kevin Liang, and Megha Sundara. (2024, July). *Probing early morphological decomposition: the role of distributional and phonotactic cues*. Talk at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Infant Studies, Glasgow, UK.

Kevin Liang, and Megha Sundara. (2024, June). *Phonotactic cues are necessary for infant morphological decomposition*. Talk at the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Seoul, South Korea.

Kevin Liang, and Charles Yang. (2022, January). *Distributional Learning of Syntactic Categories*. Talk at the 96<sup>th</sup> Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Kevin Liang, and Charles Yang. (2021, November). *From Lexical Frames to Syntactic Categories*. Poster session presented at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.

Kevin Liang. (2020, March). *An Optimality Theoretic Analysis of Rising Changed Tones in Taishanese*. Talk at the 44<sup>th</sup> Penn Linguistics Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19)

Kevin Liang, and Jianjing Kuang. (2019, December). *Contextual and Speaker Variation of Glottalic Stops in Q'eqchi'*. Poster session presented at the 178<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, CA.

## INVITED TALKS

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Kevin Liang. (2025, November). *An experimental study of Catalan consonant alternations*. Centre de Lingüística Teòrica, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona.

Kevin Liang. (2025, April). *An experimental study of Catalan consonant alternations*. Department of Linguistics, California State University, Fresno, CA.

## TEACHING

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|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Instructor for LING 185A: Computational Linguistics I, UCLA                | Summer 2025 |
| Instructor for LING 185A: Computational Linguistics I, UCLA                | Summer 2024 |
| Teaching Assistant for LING 1: Introduction to Study of Language, UCLA     | Winter 2026 |
| Teaching Assistant for LING 119A: Applied Phonology, UCLA                  | Spring 2025 |
| Teaching Assistant for LING 103: Introduction to General Phonetics, UCLA   | Winter 2025 |
| Teaching Assistant for LING 103: Introduction to General Phonetics, UCLA   | Summer 2024 |
| Teaching Assistant for LING 185B: Computational Linguistics II, UCLA       | Spring 2024 |
| Teaching Assistant for LING 185A: Computational Linguistics I, UCLA        | Fall 2023   |
| Teaching Assistant for CIS 522: Deep Learning, UPenn                       | Spring 2022 |
| Teaching Assistant for CIS 350: Software Design and Engineering, UPenn     | Spring 2022 |
| Learning Assistant for LING 172: Data Science for Language and Mind, UPenn | Fall 2021   |
| Learning Assistant for LING 001: Intro to Linguistics, UPenn               | Fall 2020   |

## AWARDS & HONOURS

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| Ladefoged Scholarship Award, UCLA                            | August 2025             |
| Paula Menyuk Award for top-rated student abstracts, BUCLD 49 | November 2024           |
| Biggs - Hayes Fellowship (\$10,500), UCLA                    | Winter 2024             |
| University Scholar, UPenn                                    | Fall 2018 - Spring 2022 |
| Phi Beta Kappa, UPenn  | Spring 2021             |
| Travel Grant, Acoustical Society of America                  | Fall 2019               |
| Summer Research Grant (\$4,500), UPenn CURF (x3)             | Summer 2019, 2020, 2021 |
| Bronze Medalist, International Linguistics Olympiad          | Summer 2018             |

## SERVICE

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| Psycholinguistics Faculty Search Committee Member, UCLA                          | Fall 2024 - Winter 2025 |
| Research Peer Advisor, UPenn   | Fall 2019 - Spring 2022 |
| Co-Chair Organizing Committee, North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad | 2018 - 2022             |
| Problem Writer, U.K. Linguistics Olympiad  | 2018 - 2022             |
| Problem Writer, Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad                | 2018 - 2022             |

## MEDIA

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(2025, December 5). El català interessa als Estats Units: la Universitat de Califòrnia aterra a Parets [Catalan is of interest in the United States: the University of California lands in Parets]. *Línia vallès.*

<https://liniaxarxa.cat/liniavalles-vallesoriental/noticies/universitat-california-aterra-parets-estudiar-catala/>

(2025, November 24). Es fa un estudi sobre la fonologia del català entre els infants de les bressol [Study conducted on Catalan phonology among nursery school children]. *Parets al dia.*

<https://www.parets.cat/actualitat/parets-al-dia/pad-num-257-27-11-25.html>

## LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

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Native - English, Mandarin

Advanced - Spanish, Catalan

Intermediate - Italian

Reading - French

Programming - Python, R, Java, C, JavaScript, OCaml, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Packages - NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, NLTK, Matplotlib, TensorFlow, Tidyverse