Kevin Liang

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EDUCATION

- **University of California, Los Angeles** — Los Angeles, CA
  PhD, Linguistics — *June 2024 - Present*
  - **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
  MA, Linguistics — *September 2022 - June 2024*
  - **Thesis**: The influence of phonotactics on suffix discovery in infancy
  - **Committee**: Megha Sundara (chair), Bruce Hayes, Laurel Perkins

- **University of Pennsylvania** — Philadelphia, PA
  BA, Linguistics; BS, Computer and Information Science — *August 2018 – May 2022*
  - **Thesis**: Distributional Learning of Syntactic Categories
  - **Advisor**: Charles Yang

NON-DEGREE EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

Kevin Liang, Victoria Mateu, and Bruce Hayes. (Under Review). An experimental study of 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

Kevin Liang, and Megha Sundara. (2024, November). *The influence of phonotactics on morphological decomposition in infancy.* Talk at the 49th 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 24th 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 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Seoul, South Korea.

Kevin Liang, and Charles Yang. (2022, January). *Distributional Learning of Syntactic Categories.* Talk at the 96th 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 46th 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 44th 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 178th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, CA.

TEACHING

Instructor for LING 185A: Computational Linguistics I, UCLA	*Summer 2025*
Instructor for LING 185A: Computational Linguistics I, UCLA	*Summer 2024*
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

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

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*

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Native - English, Mandarin

Advanced - Spanish, Catalan

Intermediate - Italian

Reading - French

Programming - Python, R, Java, C, JavaScript, OCaml, LaTeX

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