Kevin Liang

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EDUCATION

- **University of California, Los Angeles** — Los Angeles, CA
  MA, PhD, Linguistics — *September 2022 - June 2027*
  - **Research Interests**: Phonology, Language Acquisition
  - **GPA**: 4.0/4.0
  - **Coursework**: Phonology I, Phonology II, Syntax I, Semantics I, Semantics II, Experimental Phonetics, Computational Linguistics, Research Methods, Phonetic Theory, Child Speech Development, Phonetics-Phonology Interface

- **University of Pennsylvania** — Philadelphia, PA
  BA, BS — *Aug. 2018 – May 2022*
  - **Majors**: Linguistics, Computer and Information Science **Minor:** Anthropology
  - **GPA**: 4.0/4.0
  - **Coursework**: Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Computational Linguistics, Algorithms, Psycholinguistics, Phonology, Phonetics, Formal Semantics, Syntax, Probability, Multivariable Calculus, Discrete Mathematics

PUBLICATIONS

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, Victoria Mateu, and Bruce Hayes. (2024, September). *Wug testing Catalan consonant alternations.* Poster session presented at the 4th Summer School of Catalan Linguistics, Brno, Czechia.

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 2024*
Teaching Assistant for LING 185B: Computational Linguistics II, 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

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*

Experience

- **Research Intern** — Palo Alto, CA
  Stanford Language and Cognition Lab, Supervisor: Michael Frank, George Kachergis — *Summer 2021 - Summer 2022*
  - Ran a large-scale comparison of various cross-situational word-learning models
  - Implemented models using R, processed CHILDES data using tidyverse package, optimized models

- **Student Researcher** — Philadelphia, PA
  Supervisor: Charles Yang — *Summer 2020 - Summer 2022*
  - Developed a new computational model for child part of speech acquisition using the Tolerance Principle
  - Programmed model in Python, outperforming previous models on CHILDES data

- **Student Researcher** — Philadelphia, PA
  Supervisor: Eugene Buckley — *Summer 2019*
  - Elicited recordings of tone production from native speakers of Taishanese
  - Applied optimality theory to describe superhigh tones in Taishanese

- **Research Assistant** — Philadelphia, PA
  Penn Phonetics Lab, Supervisor: Jianjing Kuang — *Fall 2018 - Spring 2020*
  - Segmented recordings of Q'eqchi' and Mandarin using Praat
  - Analysis of voice quality of glottalic stops in Q'eqchi' using Voicesauce and R

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

Intermediate - Italian, Catalan

Reading - French

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

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