

EDUCATION

- **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

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

PUBLICATIONS

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

Kevin Liang, Ekaterina Khlystova, and Megha Sundara. (2026, July). *14-month-old English-learning infants encode positional variants of word-final /t/*. Talk at the 25th International Congress of Infant Studies, Panama City, Panama.

Kevin Liang, and Gemma Repiso Puigdelliura. (2026, June). *Infants learn saltatory alternations: evidence from Catalan*. Talk at the 20th 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 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.

INVITED TALKS

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, 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 |

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| 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

(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

Native - English, Mandarin

Advanced - Spanish, Catalan

Intermediate - Italian

Reading - French

Programming - Python, R, Java, C, JavaScript, OCaml, L^AT_EX

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