

## EDUCATION

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- **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

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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*. Cascadia Press.

## PRESENTATIONS

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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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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, Fresno, CA.

#### TEACHING

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

#### AWARDS & HONOURS

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

#### SERVICE

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Psycholinguistics Faculty Search Committee Member, UCLA	<i>Fall 2024 - Winter 2025</i>
Research Peer Advisor, UPenn	<i>Fall 2019 - Spring 2022</i>

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