

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). 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

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

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

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

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

(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-attera-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