

# Kitty Wenying Liu

HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS · TIBETIC LANGUAGES

✉ [wl399@cam.ac.uk](mailto:wl399@cam.ac.uk)

## Education

---

### PhD in Linguistics

Oct 2025 - (ongoing)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Topic: The development of clause chaining in Tibetic languages, with fieldwork in Humla, Nepal
- Supervisor: Dr Marieke Meelen

### MPhil (by Thesis) in Linguistics

Oct 2023 - June 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Thesis title: 'Verb paradigms in Tibetic: Morphophonology in diachronic perspective' [\[link\]](#)
- Supervisor: Dr Marieke Meelen; Examiners: Prof Bert Vaux, Prof Nathan W Hill
- Awarded grade: Pass with no corrections

### BA (Hons) in Linguistics

Oct 2020 - June 2023

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Areas of interest: Historical linguistics; Phonetics/Phonology; Morphology; Multilingualism
- Dissertation title: 'The development of z/ in Tibetic languages: Assessing sound change pathways and functional load';  
Supervisor: Dr Marieke Meelen; [\[link to published portion\]](#)
- Awarded grade: First Class

## Additional academic training

---

### Cambridge Historical Linguistics Reading Group

Oct 2022 - (ongoing)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Reading group leaders: Núria Bosch, Sarah Gordon, Dr Marieke Meelen, Kitty Wenying Liu

### Seminars on Tibetan language and anthropology

Nov 2024 - (ongoing)

PARIS SCIENCES ET LETTRES UNIVERSITY

- Class leader: Prof Charles Ramble
- Topics: Readings from pre-Buddhist ritual texts, readings from 19th century administrative texts, language class on modern South Mustang Tibetan

### International School in Linguistic Fieldwork ('FieldLing')

Sept 2025

PARIS UNIVERSITIES & LINGUISTIC LABORATORIES

- Topics incl.: Fieldwork ethics, practical considerations, community-focused language revitalisation, typological theory, software & data management, elicitation practice (target language: Tahitian)

### Summer School for Ancient Trans-Himalayan Languages

June 2025

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

- Topics: Classical Tibetan, Tangut, historical Chinese phonology and palaeography, Classical Newar

### Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) for automated transcription (Workshop)

Nov 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Workshop leaders: Dr Rachel Griffiths, Dr Marieke Meelen

### Tangut Verbal Morphology Reading Group

Oct 2024 - May 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Reading group leaders: Dr Marieke Meelen, Amelia Sodhi

### Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) for Endangered Languages workshop

April 2023

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Workshop leaders: Prof Rolando Coto-Solano, Dr Marieke Meelen

### Chinese historical phonology and Sino-Tibetan comparative linguistics (Summer school)

July 2021

LEIDEN SUMMER SCHOOL IN LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN

- Instructor: Prof Nathan W. Hill

## Awards

---

### Cambridge International Scholarship

CAMBRIDGE TRUST

- PhD scholarship, starting Oct 2025

*Full fees and stipend*

*March, 2025*

### Martin Burr Travel & Fieldwork Bursary

THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Funding attendance costs for the 2025 LSA Annual Meeting, to present my MPhil research

*£ 1,000*

*Sept, 2024*

### Anna Morpurgo Davies Masters Bursary

THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Merit-assessed scholarship for UK-based masters student working on language change

*£ 12,000*

*Aug 2023*

### Tripos Prize

SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

- For excellent undergraduate exam performance

*£ 80 x 2*

*2021, 2023*

## Publications

---

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Liu, K. W.** 2024. The development of *zl* in Tibetic languages. *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale*, 53(1), 32–67.  
<https://doi.org/10.1163/19606028-bja10038>.

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**Liu, K. W.**, Andersson, S. 2025. Development of Tibetic Verb Paradigms: Diachronic and paradigm-based explanations. In *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, Vol. 10 [[doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v10i1.5918](https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v10i1.5918)]

## Presentations

---

### PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

**Liu, K. W.** March 2026. Investigating Classical Tibetan clause-chaining in a part-of-speech tagged corpus. ‘Data in Historical Linguistics’ seminar series, King’s College London, UK.

Meelen, M., Faggionato, C., **Liu, K. W.**, Liu, L., Hill, N. W. March 2025. Pragmaticalisation of the Speaker and Addressee in the history of Tibetan and Newar. ‘Charting Honorific and Addressee Morphosyntactic Processes’ workshop, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

**Liu, K. W.**, Andersson, S. Jan 2025. Development of Tibetic Verb Paradigms: Diachronic and paradigm-based explanations. Annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

**Liu, K. W.** April 2023. The development of *<zl>* in Tibetic languages: Assessing sound change pathways and functional load. Annual meeting of the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK.

## Employment

---

### UNIVERSITY TEACHING

#### Undergraduate supervisor

*Oct 2024 - (ongoing)*

DEPT. THEORETICAL & APPLIED LINGUISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Weekly or fortnightly classes (‘supervisions’) with groups of 2-4 students, to discuss course topics and feedback on essays and other assignments
- Courses: **Li1 Sounds & Words** (introduction to phonetics, phonology, morphology); **Li4 Linguistic Variation & Change** (introduction to variationist approaches and historical linguistics, with a focus on English); **Li11 Historical Linguistics** (advanced undergraduate course)

### RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

**Research assistant: Language revitalisation through NLP-assisted technologies***June 2025 - (ongoing)*

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Project creates language-learning and -practice resources for minority languages in Nepal, helping these languages to be taught in schools

**Research assistant: The emergence of egophoricity in Tibetic languages***Aug 2024 - (ongoing)*

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

- Building a diachronic corpus of Tibetan texts to analyse the grammaticalisation of discourse participants

**Research assistant: Pre-processing for data on polysemy***March - Oct 2023*

DEPT. COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Project studies the computational modelling of polysemy

## Outreach and service

---

### ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

**Judge: Year 12 essay competition***Sept 2025*

CAMBRIDGE LANGUAGE COLLECTIVE

- Assessing competition essays on linguistics-related topics from Sixth-form students

**Outreach tutor: Linguistics***Aug 2025*

STEPPING STONES RESIDENTIAL, LINACRE INSTITUTE &amp; ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

- Designing and delivering Linguistics seminars to Sixth-form students, as part of a residential course aimed at improving access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

**Outreach tutor: Linguistics***Jan - March 2025*

CAMBRIDGE HIGHER ASPIRATIONS SCHEME, GONVILLE &amp; CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

- Designing and delivering Linguistics classes that introduce university-style learning, as part of a supercurricular programme aimed at improving access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

### ACADEMIC EVENTS

**Reading group co-convenor***Oct 2025 - (ongoing)*

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS READING GROUP

- Organising and leading sessions with the other co-conveners

**Workshop co-organiser***Nov 2024*

HANDWRITTEN TEXT RECOGNITION FOR AUTOMATED TRANSCRIPTION WORKSHOP

- Making sure workshop materials are clear and legible, assisting attendants on the day

**Conference volunteer***Nov 2024*

CAMBRIDGE LANGUAGE SCIENCES ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2024

- Assisting with conference registration and roving mics

**Maths tutor for Key Stage 2***Jan - July 2024*

CHANDRAN FOUNDATION

- Maths tutoring for children in KS2 at primary schools in deprived areas of London

**Open day volunteer***July 2022, July 2023*

CAMBRIDGE UNDERGRADUATE OPEN DAYS

- Providing information about Cambridge and linguistics at panel sessions and information desks
- Encouraging student from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply

### STUDENT JOURNALISM

**Magazine editor: Linguistics***May 2021 - Dec 2022*

UNDERGRADUATE LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF BRITAIN

- Coordinating and editing contributions from student writers, including interviews with linguists in academia and industry
- [\[magazine issues\]](#) [\[2022 interview with Because Language podcast\]](#)

## Content writer: Linguistics

Oct - Dec 2021

### CAMBRIDGE LANGUAGE COLLECTIVE BLOG

- Writing accessible articles about linguistics for a general-interest audience
- [\[my staff writer page\]](#)

## Hobbies

---

### MUSIC

#### Choral singer: Alto

Oct 2022 - (ongoing)

#### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SCHOLA CANTORUM (FORMERLY ST JOHN'S VOICES)

- Director: Graham Walker; Singing teacher: Kate Symonds-Joy

#### Choral scholar: Alto

Oct 2020 - Dec 2022

#### SELWYN COLLEGE CHAPEL CHOIR, SELWYN COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

- Director: Sarah MacDonald FRCO; Singing teacher: Bradley Smith

### ARTS

#### Knit and crochet artist

n.d.

#### @NO\_THOUGHTS\_JUST\_KNITS (INSTAGRAM)

#### Poetry & prose editor

Oct 2022 - June 2023

#### NOTES (CAMBRIDGE-BASED ARTS MAGAZINE)

## Skills

---

### LANGUAGES

Working: English, Mandarin

Research: Old and Classical Tibetan (reading), modern Tibetan varieties (beginner), Ancient Greek (reading)

Other: Swedish (intermediate)

### COMPUTING

Work-flow: Microsoft Office, LaTeX

Programming: Python, R, HTML

Linguistics-specific: Praat, ELAN, Sketch Engine, Pyrrha, Transkribus