Lingzi ZHUANG

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Academic appointment

Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Linguistics, Dept. of Language Studies, UTM

Areas of interest

semantics, pragmatics; language change; Chinese & Sino-Tibetan linguistics; language documentation & urban fieldwork; teaching of linguistics & the humanitites

Education

2023 PH.D., Linguistics with minor in Cognitive Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY U.S.A.
- ✠ Dissertation: *The surprise factor: a semantic theory of mirativity*
- ✠ Committee: Sarah Murray, Mats Rooth, John B. Whitman, Scott AnderBois (Brown University)

2019 M.A., Linguistics, Cornell University
- ✠ Qualifying paper: *Definiteness in pseudo-incorporation: revisiting Mandarin post-verbal bare nouns*

2016 B.A. *summa cum laude*, Linguistics with concentration in Computer Science, Columbia University, New York, NY U.S.A.
- ✠ Honors thesis: *Two-dimensional transitivity hierarchy and verb types in Gurung*

Major grants, honours & awards

2025 Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research grant [collaborator w/ Dr. Naijing Liu (PI) on "Documentation of Oral Literature in Kuke, Nepal"]

2025 Jackman Humanities Institute Scholars-in-Residence Project grant, *University of Toronto*

2024 Research Opportunities Program grant, *UTM* [for research experience course on Newar]

2021 Engaged Cornell *Serve In Place* Fund, *Cornell University* [for community work on Tibetan]

2021 Hsien Wu and Daisy Yen Wu Scholarship, *Cornell University* [nomination-only award for outstanding research]

2019-20   Hu Shih Fellowship in Chinese Studies, *Cornell East Asia Program* [for dissertation research]
2017   Language Study Grant, *Cornell East Asia Program* [for Tibetan study & fieldwork]
2017   Research Travel Grant, *Cornell University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences* [for Gurung fieldwork]
2016   University Summer Course Grant, *Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst*
2016   Phi Beta Kappa

Teaching

University of Toronto Mississauga

LIN475	Topics in Chinese Linguistics	(new course, Winter 2025)
LIN399	Research Opportunities Program:	
	Learning Indigenous Language for Globalized Scholarship: Nepal Bhasa in Toronto	
LIN375	Chinese Linguistics	
LIN479	Structure of a Specific Language: Chinese & Sinitic languages	
LIN476	Language Diversity and Language Universals	
JAL253	Language and Society	
LIN233	English Words through Space and Time	
LIN231	Morphological Patterns in Languages	

Cornell University

LING3303   Introduction to Syntax and Semantics (TA to Molly Diesing)
ASIAN2212 Introduction to China (TA to Suyoung Son)
CHIN1101-2 Beginner Chinese I/II (graduate co-instructor)
CHIN2202   Intermediate Chinese II (graduate co-instructor)
CHIN4411   Advanced Chinese I (grader & TA)
CHIN1109   Beginner Chinese for Heritage Speakers (graduate co-instructor)

Columbia University

LING1101   Introduction to Linguistics (TA to John McWhorter & Alan Timberlake)

Field and community-engaged work

2023   *Volunteer consulting linguist*, Toronto Newar Summer School
2018-21   *Community English instructor*, Qingmu Education, Lhasa, Tibet
2014-18   *Contributing field researcher*, Gurung documentation project, Endangered Language Alliance, New York, NY USA & Sikles-Parche VDC, Gandaki Pradesh, Nepal

Publications & talks

ARTICLES

2022   GL-impsing Bodish: Agentive transitivization prefix g- in Tamangic and Tibetan. *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale* 51(2). 139-174. DOI: 10.1163/19606028-bja10024.

2019   Definiteness in Mandarin post-verbal bare NPs: a thematic account. *Proceedings of the 55th Chicago Linguistics Society Annual Meeting.*

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

ms.   The surprise factor(s): a parametrically-articulated semantic typology of mirativity

ms.   Surprised by what?: Mirativity over sets of propositions.

BOOK REVIEWS

2019   Roland Bielmeyer et al. "Comparative Dictionary of the Tibetan Dialects - Volume 2: Verbs". *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 83/1. 163-164. DOI: 10.1017/S0041977X20000269.

INVITED TALKS

2023   A preliminary "mix-ology" of messy Tibetan verb paradigms. *Linguistics Research Seminar Series.* Trinity College Dublin.

2022   Chinese: Linguistic-ky things you know you'd want to know. *Linguistics Colloquium.* Georgia Institute of Technology.

2021   Semantically-informed morphological reconstruction in Sino-Tibetan: a Bodish case study. *2nd Emerging Scholars Colloquium on Sino-Tibetan Historical Linguistics.* Peking University. [in Chinese]

2019   Connecting Tamangic with Written Tibetan: Verbs and Beyond, *Workshop on Recent Advances in Comparative Linguistic Reconstruction* (ERC project "Asia Beyond Boundaries"). School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

2016   Linguistic Fieldwork in the Himalayas: Aspects and Perspectives. *Linguistics Roundtable.* Renwen Society at the China Institute. [in Chinese]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

In linguistics

06-2025   Gosh, mirativity in questions?! *2025 Annual Conference of the Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA2025).* McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

2025   How reportatives become emotive expressives. Workshop "Expressivity: Variation and Change", *47th Annual Meeting of the German Linguistics Society (DGfS2025).* Universität Mainz, Germany.

2025   The surprise factor(s): towards a semantic typology of mirativity. *2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA).* Philadelphia, U.S.A.

2024   Towards a parametrically-articulated typology of mirativity. *15th Biennial Meeting of the Association of Linguistic Typology (ALT15).* Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

2023   When gone is the *jod*-a...: Regular loss of *^{j} in Tamangic (West Bodish). *26th Himalayan Languages*

	Symposium (HLS26). INALCO & Université Paris-Cité.
2022	(With Eszter Ótott-Kovács) A tale of two *-mIş*'s: between evidential and attitudinal semantics. *7th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+7)*. University of Connecticut.
2022	(With Eszter Ótott-Kovács) How reportatives become attitudinal: Turkish "double evidential" in diachronic and cross-linguistic view. *Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA)*.
2021	Subevent-level egophoric evidentiality: Revisiting Lhasa Tibetan *-byung*. *Workshop "Evidentiality 2.0"*. Universität Bern.
2021	Mirativity as temporally-specified (not) knowledge acquisition: A Shanghai Wu case study. *45th Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC45)*. University of Pennsylvania.
2019	(accepted) Learning events in indirect evidentials: beyond indirect evidence. *Workshop "Expressing Evidence" (EE19)*. Universität Konstanz.
2019	Descending (*phap*), or lost (*m□*), into intransitivity: The pathway from perfective transitives to resultative intransitives. *24th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL24)*. Australian National University.
2019	Pseudo-incorporated bare NPs may be definite: the effect of event-level singular atom- icity. *55th Chicago Linguistics Society Annual Meeting (CLS55)*. University of Chicago.
2018	What can TGTM medial *l* tell us about Proto-Bodish prefixes?. *51th International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics (ICSTLL51)*. Kyoto University.
2018	Diachronic development of accusativity in Tibetan subject relative clauses. *20th Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS20)*. University of York.
2018	The status of the verbal prefix *b-* in Proto-Bodish. *24th Himalayan Languages Symposium (HLS24)*. Lucknow University.
2017	Unifying lexical aspect and lexical causatives under CAUSE. *International Summer School for Southeast Asian Linguistics*. Chulalongkorn University.

In teaching & pedagogy

06-2025	(With Yuhan Liu, Bolun Li, Christoph Emmrich & Ian Turner) Students and academic linguistics as consulting learners: Embodying humanistic linguistics through multi-reciprocal language fieldwork. *2025 Annual Conference of the Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA2025)*. McGill University, Montréal, Canada.
2024	(With Yuhan Liu, Bolun Li, Christoph Emmrich & Ian Turner) Students as pedagogical-linguistic consultants: Fostering process-learning & multiple agencies through reciprocating reflection. *5th Symposium of the Southern Ontario Universities*. Western University, London, ON Canada.
2023	Word Journals: Using active, co-constructive assignments to broaden general-interest linguistics. *2023 Conference on Scholarly Teaching and SoTL in Linguistics (CoSTaSiL23)*. University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Services to the profession

Ad hoc reviewer

Journals	*Journal of Semantics*, *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale* (CLAO), *Language and Linguistics*, *Himalayan Linguistics*, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (BSOAS)

Conferences Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA), International Conference for Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics (ICSTLL)

Department of Language Studies, UTM

2024-25	Member, Ad-hoc committee on identity & possible restructuring
2024-25	Member, Research & Grants Committee (Students)
2023-25	Faculty advisor, International Mentorship in Academics & Canadian Culture (IMACC) Program
2023-24	Member, Undergraduate Student Experience Committee
2022-24	Member, Teaching & SoTL Committee

Cornell University

2020-22	Student organizer, Interdisciplinary Semantics Reading Group
2021	Graduate student representative (semantics), Departmental external review
2020	Organizer, LaTeX for linguistics workshop
2018-19	Treasurer, Cornell Linguistics Circle
2017-18	Organizer, Syntax Reading Group

Conference Organization

2021	Student volunteer, Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2021)
2019	Student organizer, 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS49)

Skills

Languages

native-level	English, Chinese - Mandarin, Chinese - Shanghai Wu
conversational	German, Lhasa Tibetan, Chinese - Lower Yangtze Mandarin, Chinese - Cantonese, Nepali
reading	Classical Tibetan, French
research	Gurung, Burmese

Technology

programming	Python, R, Java, MATLAB
NLP/datasci	NLTK, NumPy
linguistics	Praat, FieldWorks Explorer
others	LaTeX, html, Unix shell scripting

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