

Kangdi Liu

Division of Humanities
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EDUCATION

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Sep. 2023 – present
Division of Humanities (HUMA) MPhil / PhD
Linguistics GPA: 4.3/4.3 (MPhil); 4.15/4.3 (PhD)
MPhil Thesis: Mandarin-speaking Older Adults' Memory Consolidation of Non-native Tonal Contrasts: The Role of Encoding Strength

Nankai University (NKU) Sep. 2020 – Jun. 2023
College of Chinese Language and Culture MA
Linguistics and Applied Linguistics GPA: 91.85/100 (Ranking: 1/25)
MA Thesis: The Production and Perception of Tone Variation in Qixian Jin Chinese

Northeast Normal University (NENU) Sep. 2016 – Jun. 2020
Faculty of Arts BA
Chinese Language and Literature GPA: 91.49/100 (Ranking: 2/119)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- Liu, K.**, Feng, Y., & Qin, Q. Z. (preprint). Overnight consolidation of Cantonese tones in Mandarin-speaking older adults: the role of encoding strength.
- Liang, L., **Liu, K.**, Liao, Z., & Wang, J. (2025). A diachronic study of individual tone variation. *Linguistic Sciences*, 24(6), 621-634. [CSSCI]
- Liu, K.**, Liang, L., & Qin, Z. (2024). The role of acoustic cues in the production of checked-unchecked merging tones from the Qixian Jin dialect. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letters*, 4(12), 125202.
- Liu, K.**, Chen, Y., & Liang, L. (2021). Gender variation of entering tone in Tongcheng dialect, *Experimental Linguistics*, 10(2), 64-68.

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- Liu, K.**, & Liang, L. (2023). Usage-based second language acquisition for verb-resultative construction in Modern Chinese. In J. Zheng, J. Yin, & M. Hu (Eds.), *New Ideas and Explorations in International Chinese Education: Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy (ICCLP-16)* (pp. 118-127). Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

PRESENTATIONS

- Liu, K.** & Qin, Z. (2026). Tracking overnight lexicalization of non-native phonological contrasts. Poster presentation at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language*

- (SNL), Geneva, Switzerland.
- Liu, K.,** Feng, Y., Mao, Z., & Qin, Z. (2026). Prior knowledge modulates the consolidation of nonnative tone learning during daytime naps in Mandarin-speaking older adults: the role of coupling strength. Poster presentation at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)*, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Liu, K.,** Feng, Y., & Qin, Z. (2026). Vocabulary size predicts Mandarin-speaking older adults' perceptual learning of non-native tones. Oral presentation at the *Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language 2026*, Seoul: Hanyang University, Korea.
- Liu, K.,** Feng, Y., & Qin, Z. (2025). Tone learning in aging: an encoding-enhanced training paradigm to promote overnight consolidation. Poster presentation at the *6th Joint Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Acoustical Society of Japan*, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
- Liu, K.,** Feng, Y., & Qin, Z. (2025). Extended pre-sleep training reinforces memory consolidation of Cantonese tones in older adults. Oral presentation at the *Joint Postgraduate Student Symposium on Language, Culture and Cognition*, Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- Liu, K.,** Feng, Y., & Qin, Z. (2024). Does prior knowledge benefit Mandarin-speaking older adults' memory consolidation in Cantonese tone learning? Poster presentation at the *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Asia (AMLaP Asia-2024)*, Singapore: National University of Singapore.
- Liu, K.,** Feng, Y., & Qin, Z. (2024). Prior knowledge benefits older adults' tonal consolidation through talker generalization. Poster presentation at the *186th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA)*, Ottawa, Canada.
- Liang, L., & **Liu, K.** (2023). The new trend of tone evolution in Taiyuan dialect: Evidence from acoustic and perceptual studies. Oral presentation at the *29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-29)*, Macau: Macau University of Science and Technology.
- Liu, K.** (2022). The semantic acquisition of verbs in verb-resultative construction. Oral presentation at the *10th International Symposium on Chinese Function Words and Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language* (Awarded the Excellent Paper for Young Researchers), Shanghai: Shanghai Normal University.
- Liu, K.,** & Liang, L. (2022). The evolution of entering tones in Qixian dialect. Oral presentation at the *34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-34)*, Bloomington: Indiana University, USA.
- Liu, K.,** & Liang, L. (2022). The acoustic realization and evolutionary trend of entering tones in Qixian dialect. Oral presentation at the *28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28)*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- Liang, L., **Liu, K.,** & Wang, J. (2022). A longitudinal study of individual tone variation. Oral presentation at the *28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28)*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- Liang, L., **Liu, K.,** & Hou, W. (2021). Synchronic tonal variation in Taiyuan Dialect. Oral presentation at the *14th Phonetic Conference of China (PCC-2021)*, Lanzhou: Northwest

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Grants

Strengthened Funding Support for HKPFS Awardees (Research Grants Council)	2025 – 2026
Research Fund for PhD Students (HKUST)	2025 – 2026
Postgraduate Research Grant (HKUST)	2023 – 2025
Postgraduate Student Research Training Project (NKU)	2021
Awarded the Excellent Project (award rate: around 10%, 11 out of 91 funded projects)	

Travel Grants

Conference Travel Allowance (Research Grants Council)	2026
Student Transportation Subsidy (Acoustical Society of America)	2024
Research Travel Grant (HKUST)	2024
International Conference Travel Grant (NKU)	2023

Honors, Awards & Scholarships

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (Research Grants Council)	2025/2026/2027
Outstanding Thesis Award (Linguistic Society of Hong Kong)	2025
RedBird PhD Award (HKUST)	2025
Dr. Charles Chan Postgraduate Scholarship (HKUST)	2024
Excellent Student (Summer School for Postgraduate Students in Jiangsu Province)	2024
Postgraduate Studentship (HKUST)	2023/2024
Excellent Paper for Young Researchers (International Symposium on Chinese Function Words and Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language)	2022
First-class Award in the Paper Competition of the College (NKU)	2021
Scholarship for Recommended Students with Admission Exam Exemption (NKU)	2021
Gongneng Scholarship (NKU)	2020/2021/2022
Excellent Graduate (NENU)	2020
National Scholarship (Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China)	2019
Scholarship for Academic Specialty (NENU)	2018
Presidential Scholarship (NENU)	2017/2018/2020
Excellent Student (NENU)	2017/2018/2019/2020

RESEARCH

Project of the HKUST-Southeastern University (SEU) Joint Research Seed Fund (Prof. Quentin Qin; SEU PI: Prof. Yu Chen) Member of the Joint Research Team	2026 – 2027
Project of the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (PI: Prof. Quentin Qin) Research Assistant (data collection and analysis)	Summer 2024
Project of the Institute for Emerging Market Studies (PI: Prof. Quentin Qin) Research Assistant (data collection and analysis)	Winter 2024

TEACHING

HUMA 2400 Approaches to Humanities in China Studies (HKUST) Teaching Assistant	Spring 2024/2025/2026
HUMA 1676 Marco Polo and His Book of Travels (HKUST) Teaching Assistant	Fall 2025
HUMA 1010 Introduction to Language (HKUST) Teaching Assistant	Fall 2024

SERVICE

HUMA Research Postgraduate (RPg) Student Representative (HKUST)	2024 – present
Student Assistant (International Cooperation and Exchange Office of NKU)	2023
Social Practice Activity in the Summer Vacation (NKU)	2021
Academic Representative of the Postgraduate Student Class Committee (NKU)	2020 – 2023

MEMBERSHIPS

Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)	2026 – present
The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK)	2025 – present
Acoustical Society of America (ASA)	2024 – present
International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL)	2022 – 2023

SKILLS

Phonetics: Praat; VoiceSauce
Psychology: E-prime; Psychopy; Paradigm; DmDX; EEG data acquisition; Unity (virtual reality)
Data preprocessing and analysis: R; Python; MATLAB (EEGLAB); SPSS
Language: Mandarin (native); English (IELTS 7); Cantonese (beginner)