

Kitty Wenyong Liu

HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS · TIBETIC LANGUAGES

✉ 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 Wenyong 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]

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 & 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 & 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-convenors
- 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