

Kitty Wenyang Liu

PHD STUDENT IN LINGUISTICS

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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

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

Edinburgh Theoretical and Historical Linguistics Summer School (ETHL)

June 2026

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

- Topics: Theoretical approaches to linguistics, applying them to diachrony

Multivariate Analysis in R

Feb - March 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Research skills training for conducting multivariate analysis

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

UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN

- Course: Chinese historical phonology and Sino-Tibetan comparative linguistics
- Instructor: Prof Nathan W. Hill

Major Awards

Cambridge International Scholarship

Full fees and stipend

CAMBRIDGE TRUST

March, 2025

- PhD scholarship, starting Oct 2025

Anna Morpurgo Davies Masters Bursary

£ 12,000

THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Aug 2023

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

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]

CORPUS MATERIAL

Faggionato, C., Hill, N. W., **Liu, K. W.**, Meelen, M., Mulraney, S. May 2026. Classical Tibetan annotation manual Part II – segmentation & POS tagging. Version 2. [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20105720]

Presentations

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Liu, K. W. July 2026. Nanosyntactic insights on the historical morphology of Tibetic verbs. ‘Distributed Morphology Meets Nanosyntax’ workshop, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

Klaus, H. M., Hu, S., Isik, E., Korhonen, A., **Liu, K. W.**, Meelen, M. July 2026. Revitalising endangered languages and cultural heritage through language technology: A pilot study for Dzardzongke. Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages (ComputEL-9), at the Association for Computational Linguistics conference, San Diego, CA, USA

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.

INVITED TALKS

Liu, K. W. June 2026. Phrasal spell-out for non-concatenative morphology: A Nanosyntactic attempt at the historical morphology of Tibetan verbs. SyntaxLab, University of Cambridge, 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 Variation & Change** (introduction to variationist and historical linguistics, with focus on English);
 - Li7 Phonology and Morphology** (advanced undergraduate course);
 - 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

ACADEMIC EVENTS

Reading group co-convenor

Oct 2025 - (ongoing)

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS READING GROUP

- Choosing readings, 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

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

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

OTHER TEACHING

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

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
- [\[my staff writer page\]](#)

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