

# XINYU LIAO

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Toronto**  
**PhD in Linguistics**

*Sep 2024 - 2029 (expected)*

**University of Oxford**  
**MPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics**

*Oct 2022 - July 2024*

Final award: Distinction

Thesis: Documenting the Systematicity of Vowel Shifts in Tsat

Thesis advisors: Miriam Meyerhoff, Jose Elias-Ulloa

Specialization: experimental phonetics, phonology, sociolinguistics

**University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC)**  
**BA (Hons.) in English Language and Applied Linguistics**

*Sep 2018 - July 2022*

Final award: First Class with Distinction

Thesis: Gender and Lexical Variation in Mandarin-Speaking Children's Compliments

Thesis advisor: Yanhui Zhang

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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phonetics, morphophonology, variationist sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, fieldwork & typology.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Liao, X.**, & Gardner, M. H. Variable Particle Placement and Speech Planning Time: Implications for Mechanisms of Syntactic Variation. In preparation for *Language*

**Liao, X.** (2023). Performing 'husband and wife' relationships among Chinese gay couples: variations in pitch properties and sibilants in Mandarin. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics (PWPL)*, 29(1), 128 – 138. <https://repository.upenn.edu/pwpl/vol29/iss1/15/>

**Liao, X.** & Zhang, Y. (2023). Stylistic and linguistic variations in compliments: an empirical analysis of children's gender schema development with machine learning algorithms. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 10(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-01648-4>

Miao, W., Ai, B. & **Liao, X.** (2022) International engagement or local commitment? Investigating the publication practices of Chinese returnee scholars in the humanities and social sciences. *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, 53(4), 249 – 270. doi: 10.3138/jsp-2022-0014

## PRESENTATIONS

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2024.05 **Liao, X.** "Areal diffusion and the evolution of Tsat: a mixed language in Hainan, China" Paper presented at Workshop of Languages in China, All Souls College, University of Oxford.

2024.03 **Liao, X.** "Vowel shifts in Tsat: structural and social forces" Paper presented at Language and Society research group, University of Oxford.

2022.10 **Liao, X.** "Co-constructing 'husband and wife' relationships among Chinese gay couples in vlogs: feminine accent and variations of alveolo-palatal initials in Mandarin Chinese" Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 50

2022.03 **Liao, X.** “Reappropriating heteronormative practices among Chinese gay couples in social media: variations and indexicality of pitch and sibilant fricatives.” Paper presented at the 46th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 46)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE: TEACHING ASSISTANT

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### Exploring Languages’ Sound Systems

2023

Main instructor: John Harris (University College London)

- Designed and taught seven phonetics & phonology tutorials to 17 undergraduate students.
- Topics of the tutorials: description of consonants, description of vowels, basics of acoustic analysis, phonological rules, distinctive features, phonological change

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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Research Travel Fund, funded by Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics: USD 625 2023 - 2024

Research Travel Fund, funded by St Hilda’s college: USD 625 2023

National Scholarship, awarded by PRC government: USD 1, 100 2022

President Scholarship, awarded by UNNC: USD 4,200 2020 - 2022

Best Student of the Year, awarded by UNNC: USD 4,200 2020 - 2022

## SKILLS/LANGUAGES

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**Software:** Praat & praat scripting, R programming, Python, Psychopy (Descending in proficiency)

**Languages:** Mandarin (native); Changsha Xiang (native); English (near native), Cantonese (beginner), French (beginner), Tsat (research knowledge)

## NON-DEGREE EDUCATION

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Advanced Core Training in Linguistics (ACTL), University of York July 2024

Phonetic Documentation of Under-studied Languages, Leiden University July 2022

Introduction to Data science with R and R studio, Radboud University Nijmegen August 2021

Contemporary Phonetics & Phonology, Beijing Language and Culture University July 2021

Childhood across Cultures (Anthropology), London School of Economics Sep 2019