JENNIFER KUO

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[September 2026]

EMPLOYMENT

2023–…	**Assistant Professor,** Cornell University, Dept of Linguistics

EDUCATION

2023	**PhD in Linguistics,** University of California, Los Angeles Thesis: *Phonological markedness effects in paradigm reanalysis* Committee: Bruce Hayes (chair), Kie Zuraw, Claire Moore-Cantwell, David Goldstein
2020	**MA in Linguistics,** University of California, Los Angeles Thesis: *Evidence for base-driven alternation in Tgdaya Seediq* Committee: Bruce Hayes (chair), Kie Zuraw, Claire Moore-Cantwell
2018	**BA in Linguistics**, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH *Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa* Thesis: *A Large-Scale Smartphone-based Study of Dialect Variation in Taiwan Mandarin* Advisor: James N. Stanford

GRANTS

2026-2027	Cornell Einaudi Center Seed Grant Award ($$9,335) "Language shift and linguistic knowledge in Paiwan"
2024-2025	Cornell Center for Social Sciences Grant ($8,000) "Frequency and naturalness in heritage language acquisition"
2022-2023	ULCA Dissertation Year Fellowship ($20,000)
2021-2022	Mellon Pre-dissertation Fellowship ($8,000)
2021-2022	J Yang Scholarship ($12,510)
2020-2021	UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship ($20,000)
2019	UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship ($6,000)
2018-2019	Dartmouth postgraduate grant ($5500) "Sociolinguistic Variation of the Na language in Mosuo Communities"
2017-2018	Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan. "Word Classes, Morphology, & Applications to Language Teaching in Yami" *with Prof. Victoria Rau*
2017	Undergraduate Travel Grant, Dartmouth College, for workshop attendance in Miyakojima, Okinawa, Japan ($650)
2017	Neukom Travel Grant, to present at a conference in Brisbane, Australia ($1500)
2017	Dartmouth College, Undergraduate leave-term research grant ($4800)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018	Academic Achievement Award, *Dartmouth College Program in Linguistics*
2018	Pray Modern Language Prize in Japanese, *Dartmouth Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literature*
2016-2018	Rufus Choate Scholar, Dartmouth College
2017	James O. Freedman Presidential Scholars, Dartmouth College

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS [blue = work done at least in part after starting at Cornell]

[revise and resubmit]	Kuo, Jennifer. Limits to the learnability of abstract underlying representations in Maga Rukai. Submitted to *Phonology.*
2025	Zhao, Fengyue and **Kuo, Jennifer**. The Role of Contextual Variation in Learning Cantonese Tones from Naturalistic Speech. *Proc. Interspeech 2025*, 4453-4457, doi: 10.21437/Interspeech.2025-1876
2024	Kuo, Jennifer. Phonetic naturalness in the reanalysis of Samoan thematic consonant alternations. *Journal of Phonetics (Special Issue of HISPhonCog) 107*, 101355. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2024.101355
2024	Kuo, Jennifer. Phonological reanalysis is guided by markedness: the case of Malagasy weak stems. *Phonology*, 41:e3. doi:10.1017/S0952675724000174
2023	Kuo, Jennifer. Evidence for prosodic correspondence in the vowel alternations of Tgdaya Seediq. *Phonological Data and Analysis, 5*(3), 1-31. https://doi.org/10.3765/pda.v5art3.77
2018	Kuo, Jennifer. A large-scale smartphone-based sociophonetic study of Taiwan Mandarin. *Asia-Pacific Language Variation, 4*(2), 197–230.

PROCEEDINGS

in prep.	Zhang, Yao and **Kuo, Jennifer**. Cross-domain faithfulness and individual variation in Nuosu Yi loanword phonology. To be submitted to the *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP 2026)*.
2025	Kuo, Jennifer. Types of statistical knowledge in alternation learning: insights from artificial grammar learning. *Proceedings of the 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics.*
2024	Kuo, Jennifer. Hiatus avoidance and the development of Māori passive allomorphy. In N. Bahrani, S. Phadnis, C. Spellerberg, & C. Wilkinson (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 52,* 31-40.

2023 Grabowski, Emily and **Kuo, Jennifer**. Comparing K-means and OPTICS clustering algorithms for identifying vowel categories. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America, 8*(1), 5488. https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v8i1.5488

2023 Elkins, Noah* and **Kuo, Jennifer***. A prominence account of the Northern Mam weight hierarchy. *Supplemental proceedings of the 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology.* https://doi.org/10.3765/amp.v10i0.5433 [equal contribution]

MANUSCRIPTS

[in progress] Input, frequency, and phonotactics in alternation learning: insights from artificial language experiments.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 Zhang, Yao and **Kuo, Jennifer**. "Source-language influence and cross-domain faithfulness in Nuosu Yi loanword phonology". Poster to be presented at the *33rd Annual Meeting on Phonology*, College Park, Maryland, USA.

2026 **Kuo, Jennifer**. "Generational shift in Maga Rukai vowel alternations as a window into learning biases". Talk presented at the *33nd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA33),* Wellington, New Zealand.

2026 **Kuo, Jennifer**, Elizabeth Zeitoun, and a tahesh kaybaybaw, lalo'. "The phonemic status of vowel quality and length in Saisiyat: a phonetic perspective". Talk presented at the *35th Meeting of the Southeast Linguistics Society (SEALS35),* Singapore.

2026 Charan, Dhanya* and **Kuo, Jennifer***. "Evidence for the Maximum Onset Principle In morpheme segmentation". Poster presented at the *50th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 50),* Pennsylvania, USA [equal authorship].

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "Abstractness avoidance in Maga Rukai". Talk given at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP2025),* Berkeley, CA, USA.

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "The breakdown of underlying representations in Maga Rukai." Talk presented at the *32nd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA32),* Jakarta, Indonesia.

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "Restructuring of composite underlying forms in Maga Rukai". Talk given at the *Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM31),* Manchester, UK.

2025 Zhao, Fengyue and **Kuo, Jennifer**. "Distributional Learning Across Contexts: Learning Cantonese Tones in Naturalistic Speech". Talk given at the *3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI 2025),* Herrsching, Germany.

2024 Kuo, Jennifer. "The interaction of phonotactics and frequency-matching in alternation learning". Talk given at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP 2024)*, Rutgers, NJ,

USA.

2024 Kuo, Jennifer. “Types of statistical learning in the acquisition of alternations: insights from artificial grammar learning”. Poster presented at the *42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 42)*, UC Berkeley, CA, USA.

2024 Kuo, Jennifer. “Hiatus avoidance and the development of Māori passive allomorphy”. Poster presented at *NELS 54 (54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society)*, MIT, Boston, USA.

2023 Kuo, Jennifer. “Markedness effects in the history of Samoan thematic consonants”. Talk presented at *AFLA XXX (Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association)*, Lund, Sweden.

2023 Kuo, Jennifer. “Markedness effects in the reanalysis of Samoan thematic consonants”. Talk presented at *HISPhonCog 2023 (Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language,* Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea.

2023 Grabowski, Emily and **Kuo, Jennifer**. “Comparing k-means and OPTICS clustering algorithms for identifying vowel categories." Talk presented at the *LSA 2023 Annual Meeting*, Denver, Colorado, USA.

2022 Kuo, Jennifer. “Markedness effects in paradigm reanalysis: the case of Malagasy consonant alternations.” Poster presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP),* UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA.

2022 Elkins, Noah and **Kuo, Jennifer**. "A prominence account of the Northern Mam weight hierarchy.” Poster presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP),* UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA.

2022 Kuo, Jennifer. "Substantive bias in paradigm reanalysis: the case of Malagasy weak stem alternations." Talk presented at the *Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (TripleAFLA),* Manchester (remote).

2022 Kuo, Jennifer and **Elkins, Noah**. "Phonetic Realization of Vowel Length and Glottalization in Todos Santos Mam." Talk presented at the *182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA),* Denver, CO, USA.

2021 Kuo, Jennifer. “Corpus and experimental evidence for base-driven alternation in Tgdaya Seediq.” Talk presented at LSA 2021 Annual Meeting [virtual].

2021 **Kuo, Jennifer**, Yang, Cathryn, & Stanford, James. “Gendered variation in a matrilineal/matrilocal community: Yongning Na of Yunnan, China” Talk presented at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation Asia Pacific 6 (NWAV-AP6)*, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

2020 Kuo, Jennifer. “Evidence for base-driven alternation in Tgdaya Seediq.” Talk presented at the *Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA) 27* [virtual].

2019 Faytak, Matthew**, Kuo, Jennifer**, & Wang, Shun-jie. "Lingual articulation of the Suzhou Chinese labial fricative vowels." Talk presented by Matt Faytak at *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*, Melbourne, Australia.

2019 Kuo, Jennifer. "Trade-offs between labial and lingual activity in the Suzhou Chinese labial fricative vowels." Poster presented at *177th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA)*, Louisville, KY, USA.

2018 Kuo, Jennifer. "Tonal Underspecification in Kikamba." Poster presented at *49th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 49)*, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA.

2018 Kuo, Jennifer. "Large-Scale Smartphone-based Study of Dialect Variation in Taiwan Mandarin". Talk presented at *New Waves of Analyzing Variation Asia Pacific 5 (NWAV-AP5)*, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

INVITED TALKS

2026 Kuo, Jennifer. "The structure of paradigms in Maga Rukai." Invited colloquium speaker at the University of Rochester, to be given March 20, 2026.

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "Restructuring of abstract URs in Maga Rukai" Invited colloquium speaker at the University of Maryland, presented Nov 20, 2025

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "A model of UR learning in Maga Rukai." Invited colloquium speaker at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, presented Nov 14, 2025.

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "Types of Statistical Knowledge in Alternation Learning: Insights From Artificial Grammar Learning." Plenary speaker at the *2nd meeting of Phonetics and Phonology in Upstate New York (PHUNY 2)*, May 3, 2025.

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "How abstract can a UR be? Evidence for limits to abstractness in Maga Rukai." Plenary speaker at the *Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (CULC)*, April 27, 2025.

2025 Kuo, Jennifer. "Limits to abstractness in Maga Rukai". Invited talk presented at the NYU Colloquium series on April 25, 2025.

2023 Kuo, Jennifer. "Prosodic correspondence in Tgdaya Seediq: insights from corpus and experimental evidence." Invited talk (Homecoming Lecture) presented on October 17, 2023, at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA.

2023 Kuo, Jennifer. "Markedness bias in the reshaping of Malagasy paradigms." Invited talk presented on September 17, 2023, at CNY Humanities Corridor Sound Structures Working Group, Syracuse University, NY, USA.

2023 Kuo, Jennifer. "When phonological learning is not statistical: how learning biases

have reshaped Malagasy paradigms." Presented on May 12, 2023, at the UCLA Colloquium series, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

TEACHING

Cornell
Introduction to Linguistics (LING 1101), Fall 2025
Phonology 1 (LING 4401/6401), Fall 2023, Fall 2024
Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology (LING 3302), Spring 2024, Spring 2025
Topics in Phonetics-Phonological Theory (LING 6601), Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025

UCLA
Introduction to General Phonetics (LING 103), Summer 2021

ADVISING

Dissertation committees
John Starr, *Dynamic interaction of linguistic streams during processing: a computational psycholinguistic approach.*
Yao Zhang*, Online tone adaptation from Mandarin to Nuosu Yi: the interaction of individual speaker background and language-general constraints* (**chair**).
Fengyue Zhao*, Articulatory learning of tones in L1 vs L2 Mandarin.*
A-exam (2nd qualifying paper) committees
Annabelle di Lustro, projected 2026, *Voice identification of whispered speech.*
Yao Zhang, 2025, *A corpus study of tone Adaptation from Mandarin to Nuosu Yi* (**chair**)
Fengyue Zhao, 2025 *The Role of Contextual Variation in Learning Cantonese Tones from Naturalistic Speech.* (**co-chair**)
Juhyae Kim, 2024, *Prosodic Disambiguation of Information-Seeking and Rhetorical Questions in Korean* (**chair**)

Q-exam (1st qualifying paper) committees
Faolán Boyd, projected 2026, *Illusory vowel perception in Spanish-English bilinguals* (**chair**).
Tran Ta-Tran, projected 2026, *Perceptual adaptation in French L2 learners across tasks*
Alison Yu, projected 2026, *Adjectives in Amis*

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Summer 2022	Introductory Linguistics (LING 1), UCLA, Instructor: Jake Aziz
Winter 2022	Experimental Phonetics (LING 104), UCLA, Instructor: Sun-ah Jun
Spring 2020	Introduction to Applied Phonetics (LING 102), UCLA, Instructor: Matt Faytak
Winter 2020	Introduction to Phonology (LING 120A), UCLA, Instructor: Shu-hao Shi
Fall 2019	Introduction to General Phonetics (LING 103), UCLA, Instructor: Matt Faytak
Spring 2017	Introductory Linguistics (LING 1), Dartmouth College, Instructor: Timothy Pulju
2016 - 2018	First-year courses in Japanese (JAPN 1,2,3), Instructor: Mayumi Ishida

SERVICE

Conference reviewing
Northeast Linguistics Society (2023)
Annual Meeting on Phonology (2023, 2024)
Tu+ 9: 9th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (2023)
Laboratory Phonology 19 (2024)
Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association 31 (2024)

Journal reviewing
Natural Language & Linguistic Theory
Journal of East Asian Linguistics
Linguistic Inquiry

Outreach
NACLO (North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition)
Co-organizer, 2023 meeting of Phonetics/Phonology in Upstate NY (graduate student conference)
Co-organizer, 2024 meeting of Phonetics/Phonology in Upstate NY (graduate student conference)
Co-organizer, 2024 Mellon CNY Humanities Corridor working group LIN10 Sound Structures
Co-organizer, 2025 Mellon CNY Humanities Corridor working group LIN10 Sound Structures

Cornell University

2024-present	Graduate first-year advisory committee
2023-present	Admissions committee
2025-present	Faculty mentor for CULC (Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Conference)

UCLA Graduate Student Committees

2020-2021	Vice-president of Graduate Linguistics Circle
2019-2020	Secretary of Graduate Linguistics Circle
	Membership: Open House Scheduling Committee
2018	Membership: Open House Housing Committee

Dartmouth College

2017-2018	International Student Mentor
2017	Women in Science Project Student Mentor

FIELDWORK

2024	**Maolin, Tona Rukai** (Austronesian) preliminary fieldwork in Maolin and Tona, Taiwan, working with six speakers.
2019 - 2020	**Tgdaya Seediq** (Atayalic, Austronesian) preliminary fieldwork in Nantou, Taiwan, working with five speakers (funded by the UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship); second fieldwork trip on December 2019.
August 2018	**Yongning Na** (Tibeto-Burman) month-long fieldwork in Ninglang, Yunnan, China, collecting wordlists and interviews from 47 speakers. Collaborative work with James Stanford and Cathryn Yang (funded by the Dartmouth post-graduate Fellowship)
Fall 2017	**Shona** (Bantu); field methods class in Dartmouth College

Spring 2017 **Kikamba** (Bantu); with a consultant in Hanover, New Hampshire.

NON-DEGREE EDUCATION

Sep 2023	7th Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Potsdam.
Dec 2017	4th Miyako Language Documentation Training Workshop, held at Miyakojima 17th-23rd December, 2017. Organized by the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa

RESEARCH SKILLS

Languages: English (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), Japanese (conversational fluency, JLPT N2), Southern Min (receptively native)
Computing: R (scripting, Tidyverse); Python (scripting, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, OpenSesame); SQL; Git
Linguistics Software: Praat (scripting, UI), PCIbex, ELAN, VoiceSauce, Toolbox
Articulatory instrumental methods: Ultrasound (Ultrasonix, Telemed systems, AAA), electroglottography (EGG)