

# Cherry Chit-Yu Lam

## Curriculum Vitae

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### AREAS OF INTEREST

Broad interests: Comparative syntax, Semantics, Language change and variation, Language documentation and conservation  
Specific topics: Negation, Aspect, Classifiers, Definiteness and specificity, Yes-no questions, Backchannel (minimal responses)  
Frameworks: Minimalist Program (in practice), Lexical-Functional Grammar (working knowledge)  
Language specialisation: Sinitic (Mandarin and Cantonese varieties)

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021.9 – 2023.8 Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, Hong Kong Shue Yan University  
2019.8 – 2021.8 Research Assistant Professor, School of Education and Languages, Hong Kong Metropolitan University

### EDUCATION

2014–2019 Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics  
University of Cambridge, the UK  
Dissertation title: *Negation and Aspect: a comparative study of Mandarin and Cantonese varieties*  
Supervisors: Ian Roberts and David Willis  
Viva committee: Lisa Cheng and Adam Ledgeway  
2013–2014 M.Phil. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (Distinction)  
University of Cambridge, the UK  
Dissertation title: *Disambiguating [±Specific] noun phrases in Chinese: A comparative study of Cantonese and Mandarin*  
Supervisor: Ian Roberts  
Viva committee: Theresa Biberauer and Dora Alexopoulou  
2009–2012 B.A. in Linguistics; Language and Communication (First Class)  
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

## GRANTS

- 2021.12–2023.5      Principal investigator  
*A comparative corpus linguistic study of Cantonese and English yes-no questions and answers in structured and non-structured conversations.*  
HKSYU University Research Grant, Grant no. URG/21/03 (£3738).
- 2021.6–2022.5      Co-investigator,  
*Study of reading texts in Chinese language education*  
PI: Edith Cheung  
HKMU School Research Fund (School of Education & Languages),  
Grant no. R4095 (£3000).
- 2021.1–2021.11      Principal investigator  
*An exploratory study of yes-no questions in Cantonese and Mandarin: Inventory and functions*  
HKMU Financial Support for Pilot Work for Resubmission of Promising Faculty Development Scheme (FDS) Proposals, Grant no. R6397 (£14,880).
- 2020.6–2021.6      Principal investigator  
*Yes-no questions and answers in natural conversations: A study of Hong Kong Cantonese*  
HKMU School Research Fund (School of Education & Languages),  
Grant no. R4091 (£1700).

## AWARDS

- 2023.1–2024.1      Research-Active Teaching Relief Scheme (HKSYU)  
2014–2015          Doris Zimmern HKU-Cambridge Hughes Hall Scholarship  
2013–2014          Cambridge Assessment Scholarship

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal articles

- Lam, C. under review. Standard negation and aspectual compatibilities in Mandarin and Cantonese. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*. (first review completed) (SSCI)
- Lam, C. accepted. Standard negation in Gaozhou Yue. *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*. (SSCI)
- Lam, C. 2023. Rethinking postverbal ‘acquire’ and related constructions in Cantonese: Polyfunctionality and parameters. *Language and Linguistics* 24(4). 674-732. (SSCI)
- Lam, C. 2018. On the interaction between negation and aspect in grammaticalization: a cross-linguistic study of three Chinese varieties. *Current Research in Chinese Linguistics* 97(1). 215-232.

## Book chapters

- Lam, C. submitted. Negation in Cantonese. In Andy Chin, Shin Kataoka & Bit-chee Kwok (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Cantonese Linguistics*. Routledge.
- Lam, C. 2022. Croft's Cycle in Mandarin and Cantonese through history and across varieties. In Ljuba Veselinova & Arja Hamari (eds.), *The Negative Existential Cycle from a historical-comparative perspective (Studies in Diversity Linguistics Series)*, 357-401. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Lam, C. 2020. Beyond one, two, three: Number matters in classifier languages. In András Bárány, Theresa Biberauer, Jamie Douglas & Sten Vikner (eds.), *Syntactic architecture and its consequences I: Syntax inside the grammar*, 511–525. Berlin: Language Science Press.

## Conference proceedings

- Lam, C. 2022. Standard negation and aspectual definiteness: new evidence from Cantonese. *Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 24)*, 59-81. Seoul: Hankook Munhwasa.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited talks

- 2024 Negation and existence: A new perspective on the Chinese negation puzzle. SyntaxLab. University of Cambridge. 18 June 2024.
- 2022 Cohesion analysis of texts: A study on reading comprehension and teaching effect of Chinese pre-service teachers. The Hong Kong Metropolitan University RIBiLT seminar series. 26 January 2022. (with Edith Cheung)
- 2020 Rethinking polysemy: An all-in-one framework of *dak1* in Cantonese. The Open University of Hong Kong RIBiLT seminar series. 23 September 2020.
- 2016 Cantonese: the biggest endangered language. Cambridge Endangered Languages and Cultures. University of Cambridge. 2 March 2016. (with Ricky Chan)

### Peer-reviewed conference presentations

- 2024 The evolution of Chinese polar questions: from negative particle to A-not-A. 37<sup>th</sup> Paris Meeting on East Asian Linguistics (JLAO37). The Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l'Asie Orientale (CRLAO), Paris. 4–5 July 2024.
- 2022 Standard negation and aspectual definiteness: new evidence from Cantonese. 24<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 24). Korean Generative Grammar Circle. 12–14 August 2022 [online due to pandemic].
- 2022 Revisiting postverbal 'acquire' in Cantonese. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28). The Chinese

- University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. 20–22 May 2022 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2021 Postverbal acquisitive modal and related constructions. a parametric approach. 23<sup>rd</sup> Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 23). Korean Generative Grammar Circle. 11–13 August 2021 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2021 Postverbal “acquire” in Cantonese: a unified analysis. 33<sup>rd</sup> North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL 33). University of Chicago. 24–25 June 2021 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2020 Number matters in Mandarin and Cantonese. 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Yue Dialects. University of Macau. 13–14 November 2020 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2020 Verbal definiteness and presupposition effects in Gaozhou Cantonese standard negation. North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL 32). University of Connecticut. 18–20 September 2020 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2020 A Chinese negation puzzle revisited: A study of Mandarin and Cantonese varieties. Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics (WICL 5). The Ohio State University. 18–19 April 2020 [moved online due to pandemic].
- 2019 A DP account for variation in classifier dependency in Cantonese and Mandarin. LSHK Annual Research Forum. The Education University of Hong Kong. 7 December 2019.
- 2018 Presupposition effects and standard negation in Gaozhou Cantonese. LSHK Annual Research Forum. City University of Hong Kong. 1 December 2018.
- 2017 Polyfunctional GET marker in Chinese varieties: a unified account of postverbal DAK. 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Yue Dialects. The Education University of Hong Kong. 8–9 December 2017.
- 2017 The shaping of Mandarin negation - a new perspective from grammaticalisation. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-25). Budapest, Hungary. 24–28 June 2017.
- 2017 Croft's negative existential cycle and the shaping of the negation system in varieties of Chinese. Negative existential cycle workshop. Stockholm, Sweden. 4–5 May 2017.
- 2015 On the interaction between negation and aspects in grammaticalisation: a cross-linguistic study of three Chinese varieties. 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Yue Dialects. The Chinese University of Hong Kong. 11–12 December 2015.
- 2015 On the shaping of Chinese negation systems – interaction between Croft's negative-existential cycle and BE/HAVE evolution. 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL 9). Stuttgart, Germany. 24–26 September 2015.
- 2014 Explaining variation in classifier dependency in Mandarin and Cantonese nouns. 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian and European Linguistic Conference (AE-Link 2). Newcastle, United Kingdom. 5–6 December 2014.

## **Other scholarly presentations**

- 2017 ‘What do you mean by acceptable?’: rethinking the acceptability-grammaticality divide. Re-thinking grammaticality judgment workshop. University of Cambridge. 11 March 2017.
- 2017 The emergence of *mei(ou)* as a perfective negator in Mandarin Chinese: a Croft’s Cycle account. Negative cycles workshop. University of Cambridge. 23 February 2017.
- 2016 Unified polyfunctional postverbal DAK: a study of four Chinese varieties. SyntaxLab. University of Cambridge. 31 May 2016.
- 2016 Post-verbal DAK in Chinese: a comparative study of three Chinese varieties. Syntax research cluster workshop. University of Cambridge. 11 March 2016.
- 2015 Negation strategies: A dialectal study of Hong Kong Cantonese and Cantonese in western Guangdong Province, China. British Council Researcher Links workshop - Documenting and preserving indigenous languages: principles, practices and tools. Bangkok, Thailand. 8–14 February 2015.
- 2014 The evolution of A-not-A questions: From 19th century to present-day Hong Kong Cantonese. Cambridge postgraduate research seminar. 13 March 2014.

## **TEACHING & COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Hong Kong Shue Yan University (2019, 2021–2023)**

Course instructor and developer:

*Academic Writing* – Undergraduate Year 2

*Introduction to Linguistics* – Undergraduate Year 1

*Issues in Pragmatics* – Undergraduate Year 4

*Linguistic Approaches to Translation* – Undergraduate Year 4

Course developer:

*Foundations to Applied Linguistics*

*The Interplay between Grammar and Meaning*

*English Usage* – Undergraduate Year 1, course instructor

### **Hong Kong Metropolitan University (2019–2020)**

*Effective Use of English I* – Undergraduate Year 1, course instructor

### **The City University of Hong Kong (2019–2020)**

*English Academic Writing Workshop* – Undergraduate and Postgraduate

### **The University of Hong Kong (2019)**

*MAES Capstone experience: dissertation* – Postgraduate, course instructor

*MA dissertation (Linguistics)* – supervisor

**Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK (2016)**

*History of the English Language* – Undergraduate Year 2, module leader

**University of Cambridge (2015–2016)**

*Structures and Meanings* – Undergraduate Year 1, supervisor

**The University of Hong Kong (2012–2013)**

Course coordinator and Tutor:

*Syntactic Theory* – Undergraduate Year 2 &3

*Grammatical Description* – Undergraduate Year 2

Course tutor:

*Introduction to Linguistics* – Undergraduate Year 1

*Human Language: nature vs. nurture* – Undergraduate Year 1

**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP**

- 2012–2013    Data collection on Chinese classifiers  
Supervisor: Adams Bodomo  
Department of Linguistics, The University of Hong Kong
- 2011–2013    Literature review on Kwa and Sinitic syntax  
Supervisor: Umberto Ansaldo  
Department of Linguistics, The University of Hong Kong
- 2011–2012    Psycholinguistic experiments on implicit learning  
Supervisor: Janny Leung  
School of English, The University of Hong Kong

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Departmental service**

- 2022–2032    Department secretary  
2021–2023    Undergraduate mentor

**Reviewing**

- 2023–present    Reviewer, *Language and Linguistics* (John Benjamins)  
2023–present    Reviewer, *The English Teacher (Malaysian Journal of ELT Research)*  
2022–present    Reviewer, *Australian Journal of Linguistics* (Routledge)  
2021–present    Reviewer, *Journal of Linguistics* (Cambridge University Press)  
2021–present    Reviewer, *Journal of Historical Linguistics* (John Benjamins)  
2019–present    Reviewer, *Studies in Chinese Linguistics* (CUHK Press)  
2018            Reviewer, Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe  
(ConSOLE)  
2017            Reviewer, Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain (ULAB)

## **Organising**

- 2021 Coordinator, RIBiLT monthly seminars, The Open University of Hong Kong (duties: invite speakers and design theme and programme)
- 2017 Organiser, Re-thinking grammaticality judgments workshop, University of Cambridge
- 2017 Organiser, Historical Linguistics research cluster workshop ‘Negative Cycles’, University of Cambridge
- 2016–2017 Coordinator, Historical Linguistics cluster, University of Cambridge (duties: invite speakers and design programme for historical linguistics cluster meetings)
- 2015–2017 Secretary, Cambridge University Linguistic Society (duties: invite speakers and host bi-weekly linguistic talks)

## **OTHER TRAINING**

- 2016 Lancaster summer schools in corpus linguistics and other digital methods  
Lancaster University, the UK
- 2016 Norwegian summer institute on language and the mind  
University of Oslo, Norway
- 2015 Language documentation workshop  
SOAS, University of London, the UK and Mahidol University, Thailand
- 2015 Autumn school of Advanced Core Training in Linguistics (ACTL)  
University College London, the UK
- 2012 Swahili summer school  
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2011 Spanish language training  
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

## **LANGUAGES**

Cantonese (native), Mandarin (fluent), English (fluent, IELTS 8.5); Korean (beginner)  
Fieldwork knowledge in Gaozhou Cantonese;  
Coursework on Swahili and Spanish.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (since 2015)  
The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (since 2015)  
International Association of Chinese Linguistics (since 2016)  
European Association of Chinese Linguistics (2015)

*last updated in September 2024*