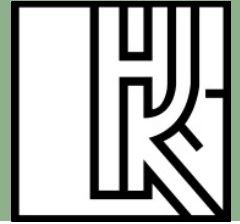


LSHK Newsletter

Spring 2019



Upcoming events

- ARF-2019 (to be held at The Education University of Hong Kong on 7/12/2019, deadline of abstract: 30/9)
- LSHK Outstanding Thesis Award (Nomination deadline: 10/9/2019)
- LSHK Outstanding Student Paper Award on Cantonese Linguistics (to be held at the 24th International Conference on the Yue Dialects, Lingnan University, full paper submission deadline: 1/9/2019)
- LSHK Student Fieldwork Subsidy (application deadline: 15/10/2019)

LSHK publications for online viewing

The LSHK produced a number of publications. They are now made available on the LSHK website for viewing.

Studies in Chinese Linguistics
Studies in Chinese Linguistics II
Studies in Cantonese Linguistics
Studies in Cantonese Linguistics 2
Language and Education in Post-colonial Hong Kong
Selected Papers from the 2006 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong
Selected Papers from the 2007 Annual Research Forum of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong
A Bibliography of Yue Dialect Studies
A Proficiency Course in Zhuang

Inside LSHK 2019:1

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News from around HK	9
Members' contributions	12
Current trends in linguistics	15

The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong's Annual Research Forum 2017

The Annual Research Forum (ARF), the main annual event organized by the LSHK, was held on 1 December 2018 by the Department of Linguistics and Translation of City University of Hong Kong. The ARF was well attended with 13 parallel sessions and more than thirty talks. One Outstanding Thesis Award in the PhD category was awarded to Liu Liming. He was a student at PolyU under the supervision of Prof. Kathleen Ahrens. The title of his thesis was "Examining Syntactic Complexity in EFL Academic Writing". The thesis Award in the Mphil category was awarded to Oscar Wong. He was a student at CUHK under the supervision of Dr. Lawrence Cheung. The title of his thesis is "Wh-doublets in Cantonese".

Thesis Award in the MA category was awarded to Emily Anna Jantien Koenders. She was a student at CUHK under the supervision of Prof. Galdys Tang. The title of the thesis is "Noun Classifiers in Hong Kong Sign Language".



LSHK Student Fieldwork Subsidy

Four applicants received a fieldwork subsidy worthy of HK\$3000:

1. Lee Man Hei 李文希 (CUHK) 蔡家話牛角井方言詞彙調查
2. Li Xuan 李煊 (CUHK) 白語體標記比較研究
3. Wei Yang 魏陽 (HKUST) Jin Chinese Entering Tones: Acoustics, Types, Evolution
4. Xu Yifa 徐毅發 (HKUST) 粵語表方式的動後助詞的語法調查

The 19th Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-19) Cantonese Study: An Empirical Approach

The Nineteenth Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-19), co-organized by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong and the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University was held successfully on Saturday, 13 April 2019. The theme of WOC-19 was “Cantonese Study: An Empirical Approach 粵語研究：實證，實正！” The workshop has attracted scholars conducting theoretical and psycholinguistic researches to share their studies on various aspects of Cantonese. A total of 12 presentations were given to the audience during the full-day workshop.



The 19th Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-19)

Cantonese Study: An Empirical Approach

The titles of the presentations and the speakers were as follows:

Titles	Authors
香港粵語句末助詞的社會語言學研究	莊子貝、張凌 (深圳大學及香港教育大學)
Relative clause production as vulnerable linguistic feature of developmental language disorder in Cantonese	Jane Lai, Angel Chan, Anita Wong, Franklin Chang and Evan Kidd (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
Relations between mental terms and false-belief understanding in Cantonese-speaking children	Candice Chi-Hang Cheung, Yicheng Rong, Man Tak Leung, and Tempo Po Yi Tang (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
The index of syntax development: A structural language analysis framework for Cantonese-Chinese speaking preschool children	Wong, A.M.-Y., Lo, J.M.-W, and Wan. E.K.-H. (The University of Hong Kong)
廣東話‘嘅’‘啲啲’關係子句	林子鈞 (香港恒生大學)
香港粵語中‘係’之用法—以依存樹庫為本之量化研究	黃得森、李思源 (香港理工大學及香港城市大學)
粵語虛詞語法化之外在標記	張美蘭 (香港浸會大學)

The 19th Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-19)

Cantonese Study: An Empirical Approach

Titles	Authors
近四十年粵語及閩語流行曲歌詞之比較——以修辭成分為中心	黃得森 (香港理工大學)
The effect of overnight consolidation in the perceptual learning of non-native tonal contrasts	Zhen Qin and Caicai Zhang The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
語詞接觸所反映的香港粵方言外來詞之類型——兼談雙音節英語音譯借詞的‘聲調規律’	陳世安、陳詠詩 國立臺灣師範大學國文所
‘粵語懶音測試及糾正’網站的建構	林茵茵 香港理工大學
The Corpus of Mid-20th Century Hong Kong Cantonese (Second Phase) and its Applications	Andy Chin and Alistair Tweed The Education University of Hong Kong

Jyutping Competition

The 3rd Jyutping competition was successfully held at the City University of Hong Kong, Oct, 20, 2018. The training materials can be found at this link: [Jyupting Training Class 2018 \(粵語拼音訓練班補充教材\) \[size: 7.5M\]](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6ChrGjfv-A&feature=youtu.be>



Cantonese Read-Aloud Test

The first Cantonese Read-Aloud Test will be held on 15th June 2019 at City University of Hong Kong. The test has been widely covered by the media, including TVB News. We received 152 registrations within two days, and we plan to run the test on a regular basis. Details about the test can be found here: <https://lshk.org/crat/>

The Jyut Jyu Si Work Group will continue to develop a set of separate Cantonese tests under the CEFR framework. All members are welcome to join.



粵音朗讀測試

2019年第1期

<http://lshk.org/crat>

費用

\$180

截止報名

1/6

2019年
(額滿即止)

考試日期

15/6

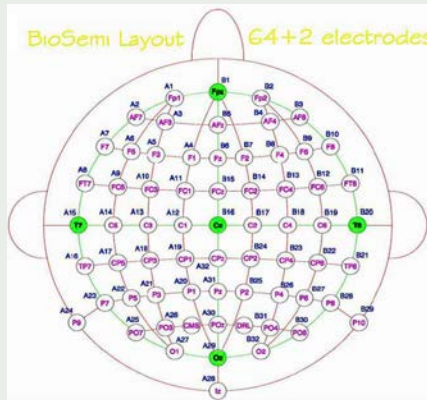
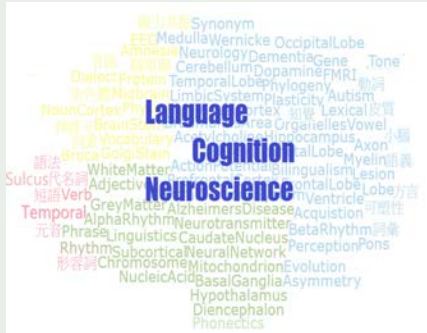
2019年

The Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (HKLO)

Hong Kong has been accredited by the Board of International Linguistics Olympiad! The Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (HKLO) is a contest for secondary school students in solving linguistic puzzles. These puzzles require only logical ability, patient work and the willingness to think around corners. No prior knowledge of linguistics or second languages is required. Students can learn more about the knowledge of world languages and improve their abilities of observation, logic and awareness of diversity while solving problems involving language data. The working language for HKLO is English. IOL (International Linguistics Olympiad) and APLO (Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad)'s working language can be chosen by individual contestant (English/Chinese).



PolyU CBS Summer School 2019 – Language, Cognition & Neuroscience (LCN)



Language, cognition and neuroscience (LCN) is a new frontier of brain research, which brings together linguistics, psychology and neuroscience to understand the neurobiology of language. The summer school on LCN is designed primarily for postgraduate students in a broad range of disciplines (e.g., linguistics, psychology, neurolinguistics, speech therapy, rehabilitation sciences), while senior-year undergraduate students who are interested in LCN are also welcome.

The Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (CBS) is pleased to offer two undergraduate courses and two postgraduate courses in the PolyU International Summer School 2019 under two themes:

1. Language and Culture (two undergraduate courses)
2. Language, Cognition and Neuroscience (two postgraduate courses)

More details can be found at the website:

<http://www.cbs.polyu.edu.hk/2019summer-school/index.php>

Heterotopic Junction Graduate Conference 2019

The First Heterotopic Junction Graduate Conference in Language, Literature and Culture was held at the Hong Kong Baptist University on 13 April 2019 and opened by Prof Mette Hjort, the Dean of Arts, HKBU. The conference was attended by more than 80 participants including four keynote speakers (Prof Grace Mak of CUHK, Dr Phoenix Lam of PolyU, Dr Jeff Clapp of EduHK, and Dr Mingxing Li of HKBU) and 22 graduate student speakers in two parallel sessions throughout the day.

The event was sponsored by the MA (Comparative and Literary Studies) and the MA (Language Studies) programmes as a platform for graduate students around the world to showcase their research. Abstracts from around the world (USA, UK, Europe, Asia, Australia) were received and independently reviewed a panel of four established scholars and a majority was rejected to select the 22 paper presentations. The best paper award, selected by the four keynote speakers, went to Emily Koenders (CUHK) for her paper on “Noun classifiers in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL)”.

The conference was organized in part by postgraduate students Holden Q Liang and Bella Y Zhang under the leadership of the programme directors of the event sponsors.



The Second Forum on Cantonese Linguistics

Forum on Cantonese Linguistics (FoCaL) is a student-oriented conference in Hong Kong. We hope to provide a platform for students' presentation on any area related to Cantonese linguistics. We also strive to foster collaboration among students and researchers.

FoCaL-2 will be held by the Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies of The Education University of Hong Kong on 1st June, 2019. There will be three invited talks and 14 accepted oral presentations. Each presentation will be five minutes, followed by a twenty-five-minute Q&A session. All are welcome.

Details as follows:

Date: 1 June 2019 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: The Education University of Hong Kong

Website: <https://focalhongkong.wordpress.com/>


 第二屆粵語語言學論壇
 The Second Forum on Cantonese Linguistics
 2019.6.1
 9:00am - 6:00pm
 香港教育大學
 The Education University of Hong Kong

歡迎屬於以下範疇嘅粵語研究!
 Any Cantonese study belonging to the fields below is welcome!
 語音學 音系學 形態學 句法學 語義學
 語言習得 心理語言學 神經語言學
 Phonetics Phonology Morphology Syntax Semantics
 Acquisition Psycholinguistics Neurolinguistics

摘要提交截止日期 Abstract submission deadline 2019.3.23	摘要評審結果公佈日期 Notification date of acceptance 2019.4.15
提交摘要 Submission https://eatschait.org/conferences/fofal-focal2	詳情請 For more details http://focalhongkong.wordpress.com/


 查詢 Enquiry
focalhongkong@gmail.com


主辦單位 Organizer
 香港教育大學 語言學及現代語言系
 Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

The 16th International Pragmatics Conference will be held at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 9-14 June 2019.

Conference chair: Winnie CHENG (Professor, Department of English, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

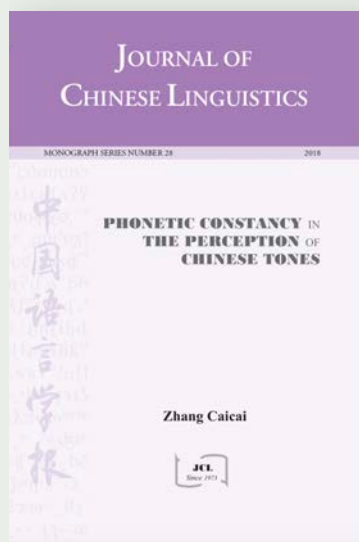
The venue for the 16th International Pragmatics Association is The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The conference opening on Sunday 9 June 2019, as well as all plenaries on 9, 12, and 14 June will take place in the Jockey Club Auditorium (Wing S-T). On Sunday the adjacent Q-T wing podium will also be the location of the registration desk.

ZHANG Caicai (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University):

Phonetic Constancy in the Perception of Chinese Tones

Variability is an inherent feature of speech signals. A speech sound produced by two different speakers can be rather different in its physical form, which leads to the fundamental question of phonetic constancy – how do humans achieve constancy in the perception of a speech sound despite acoustic variations? It appears that human listeners can perceive a speech sound constantly rather effortlessly, pointing to efficient cognitive and neural mechanisms that support phonetic constancy, but these mechanisms are not well understood. Several theories have been proposed to account for phonetic constancy based primarily on studies of the perception of consonants and vowels, looking for clues of a talker's voice and phonetic features either within a speech sound (e.g., intrinsic normalization mechanism) or outside of it (e.g., extrinsic normalization mechanism). However, few studies have examined the perception of lexical tones, which are highly susceptible to the influence of talker variation. As a result, it is not very clear what mechanisms support the perceptual normalization of tones, to what extent those mechanisms proposed based on consonant and vowel studies apply to tones, and more importantly, what are the neural signatures of the normalization processes. In this monograph, the author reported a series of behavioral and neuroimaging studies conducted to examine the psychological mechanisms and neural processes of talker normalization, using Chinese tones as an investigation case. With these studies and related work in the literature, an understanding of how phonetic constancy is achieved in speech perception is emerging.

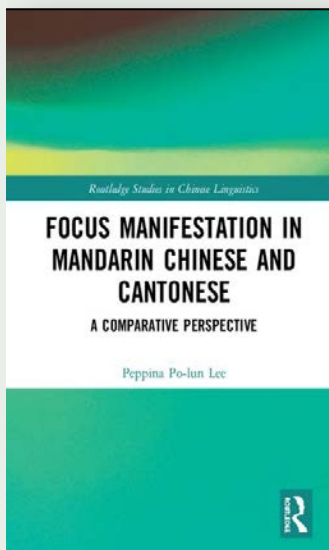


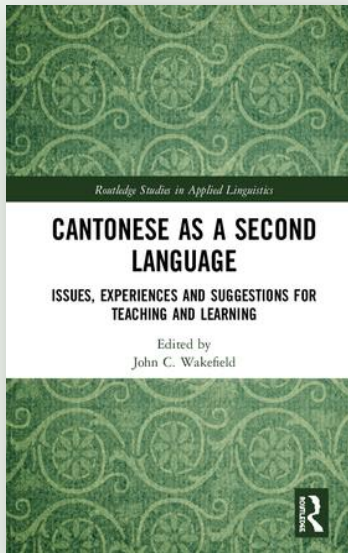
Peppina Po-lun LEE (City University of Hong Kong)

Focus Manifestation in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese: A Comparative Perspective

One prominent function of natural language is to convey information. One peculiarity is that it does not do so randomly but in a structured way, with information structuring formally recognized to be a component of grammar. Among all information structuring notions, focus is one primitive needed to account for all phenomena.

Focus Manifestation in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese: A Comparative Perspective aims to examine from a semantic perspective how syntactic structures and focus adverbs in Mandarin Chinese and semantic particles in Cantonese conspire to encode focus structures and determine focus manifestation in Chinese. With both as tonal languages, Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese manifest different morpho-syntactic configurations to mark focus. A general principle governing focus marking in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese is given in the book, which aims to give a better understanding of the underlying principles the two use to mark additive and restrictive meanings, and related focus interpretations. Particular attention is also drawn to the co-occurrence of multiple forms of restrictive and additive particles in Cantonese, including adverbs, verbal suffixes, and sentence-final particles. Linearity has been shown to be an important parameter to determine how focus is structured in Cantonese.





John Wakefield (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Cantonese as a second language

Cantonese is a language from southern China that is spoken by roughly 70 million people worldwide. It is the language of Hong Kong cinema and has traditionally been the most prominent language spoken in Chinatowns around the world. People choose to learn Cantonese for a variety of social and economic reasons: because it is a heritage language that one's relatives speak; because it is the language of one's partner and monolingual in-laws; because it is necessary for living and working in Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, or other Cantonese-speaking communities; because it is the bridge to fully appreciating and understanding Cantonese culture; or simply because it is an irresistible challenge. Whatever the motivation, more and more people are choosing to learn Cantonese as an additional language. This book discusses many issues related to both acquiring and teaching Cantonese. If you are a learner of Cantonese, this long overdue volume is essential to understanding both the grammatical and the social issues involved with learning this notoriously difficult language. If you are a teacher, this book will be invaluable to gaining insight into your students' motivations and needs. And finally, if you are an applied linguist, the unique aspects related to the acquisition of Cantonese offer a fascinating contribution to the literature.



Dr. Christophe Coupé

Assistant Professor

Department of Linguistics

University of Hong Kong

Toward broader ecologies of language

Structuralism has left a strong imprint on linguistics, and emphasized a view of language as an autonomous system, paying little attention to potential influences of external, non-linguistic, factors. Since then, linguists and especially sociolinguists have however demonstrated the role social structures and social variability have, not only on the rate of language change or on the distribution of idiolects, but on the linguistic structures themselves. Recently, the relationship between the size of sound inventories and the size of linguistic communities has been debated, and a more general connection has been suggested between social complexity and linguistic complexity.

While the term “language ecology” is often used while equating ecology with sociocultural context, we argue in favor of broader ecologies, which additionally consider the weak variability in physiological, cognitive, genetic and even environmental factors inherently associated with human beings. Attention is for example being paid to how small variations in the shape of the vocal tract, or in the density of the surrounding vegetation, can bear an impact on languages. This is the result of recent progress in quantitative linguistics: the application of advanced statistical models to large typological databases indeed allow to detect ‘weak effects’ affecting languages around the world, and to recognize that they can have a significant impact as they get reinforced through time. Far from being autonomous, language should thus be considered as an embodied and situated activity, performed by different speakers in different environments.

Reference:

Coupé, C. (2018). Toward a unified view on language evolution and linguistic change: Comment on “Rethinking foundations of language from a multidisciplinary perspective” by T. Gong et al. *Physics of Life Reviews* 26–27: 173-175.



Dr. Albert Lee

Assistant Professor

Department of Linguistics and Modern
Language Studies

The Education University of Hong Kong

As in other subfields in phonetics and phonology (see Prof. Lian-Hee Wee's article in LSHK Newsletter 2018 Issue 1), speech prosody has seen tremendous changes in recent years – moving from descriptive analyses of tone and intonation systems across languages to more technically sophisticated studies that answer a wider range of research questions. At recent meetings of the biennial International Conference on Speech Prosody, there have been more studies looking at atypical populations (e.g. amusics) and lesser-known or understudied languages, alongside traditional topics such as tone, prosodic focus, and question intonation. Apart from standard speech production experiments based on voice recordings, more experimental tools are being employed, ranging from electroglottography (contact of vocal folds) to eye-trackers (eye movement) and electroencephalography (brain cortical activity). In terms of theoretical models, competing theories continue to coexist (e.g. Autosegmental-Metrical Theory, Fujisaki Model, PENTA Model), with one model being more popular than the other for a particular group of languages. As these models continue to develop to account for prosodic patterns in a broad range of languages, and with better modelling tools for direct theory-testing (one attempt being the 'Common Prosody Platform'), it is hopeful that in the foreseeable future linguists can achieve an even better understanding of how prosody works across languages than we already do.



Dr. Stephen Politzer-Ahles

Assistant Professor

Department of Chinese and Bilingual
Studies

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

When we read a sentence fragment like *It was windy, so the boy went outside to fly...*, we can predict that the next phrase will probably be a kite and not an airplane. A classic assumption in contemporary theories of language comprehension is that we not only predict upcoming content words (like kite), but also their phonological forms (e.g., because that word starts with a consonant, we predict that we will see a rather than an). A key piece of evidence for this is a seminal report (DeLong, Urbach, & Kutas, 2005) that brain responses to articles *a* and *an* vary in proportion to how predictable the following content word is. Despite the theoretical importance of this finding, it was rarely replicated in the past 10 years. Following a recent increase in attention to the importance of replicability and power (e.g., Open Science Collaboration, 2015), we conducted a large-scale multi-lab effort to replicate this important finding with ten times the original sample size. We found that the effect, if it exists at all, is so small as to be undetectable with typical contemporary methods (Nieuwland, Politzer-Ahles, et al., 2018). Our findings have spurred substantial debate (the paper has been cited 23 times in the year since it was published) about the nature of predictive processes in language comprehension. While there is no doubt that prediction plays an important role in language processing, these findings have highlighted that what is predicted, and how that prediction influences language processing, is still an important question. Our data are openly available, allowing them to be used to address new research questions as well (e.g., Nieuwland et al., 2019).



Dr. Mingxing LI

Assistant Professor

Department of English Language and
Literature,

Hong Kong Baptist University

Phonology has developed with a rapid expansion of scope and a great enrichment of tools. Its scope can be illustrated, for example, by the five volumes of *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*. Some aspects are receiving stronger recognition than before, such as the gradient nature of a sound pattern in relation to the lexicon and the variation within and across speakers, as can be seen from the difference between the two editions of *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*. Gradience and variation are more recognized as intrinsic to sound patterns with the dynamic interaction between phonology and other components in a grammar and usage factors in communication. For research method, while traditional approaches continue to offer insights, more tools from cognitive sciences are being added such as behavioral experimental paradigms and brain imaging techniques. Two milestones in this trend are the establishment of the journal *Laboratory Phonology* in 2010 and the publication of *The Oxford Handbook of Laboratory Phonology* in 2012. More diverse types of data are obtained, on which sophisticated models can be built to approximate the mental knowledge of the speakers with due incorporation of gradience and variation. With such an advancement, the boundaries between some areas become blurrier than before, for example phonetics vs. phonology, phonological acquisition vs. phonological processing, synchronic pattern vs. diachronic change. It is wise to place phonology in the broader context of cognition and to approach it with an integrated exploration of production, perception, and acquisition.

Cohn, Abigail C., Cécile Fougeron, and Marie K. Huffman. (eds.) (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Laboratory Phonology*. Oxford University Press.

Goldsmith, John. (ed.) (1995). *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Goldsmith, John, Jason Riggle, and Alan C. L. Yu. (eds.) (2011). *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*, Second Edition. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

van Oostendorp, Marc, Colin J. Ewen, Elizabeth Hume, and Keren Rice. (eds.) (2011). *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.



Dr. Lydia Catedral

Assistant Professor

Department of Linguistics and Translation

City University of Hong Kong

Sociolinguists are always looking for new ways to define “context” in order to better understand the relationship between language and social world. Recently, some scholars have found the notion of the “chronotope” particularly useful in this regard. While the term originally comes from Bakhtin (1981) who was using it to analyze novels, in linguistics it has been used to describe the ways in which certain types of people, places and times get bundled together in a type of “mobile context” that both impacts and is impacted by language use (Agha 2007; Blommaert 2017). When we say this context is mobile, we mean that it is not only the people with whom we are speaking face to face in the physical place in the current moment that matter, but it is also our imagination of different types of people in past or future times and other places that influence the way we speak. In my own work I have shown the impact that this imagination has on language. For example, people may speak in different languages depending on which “chronotopic image” of their nation they want to emphasize (Karimzad & Catedral 2017) or they may use language to create different images, which allow them to explain why they had to change their way of speaking after they moved to a new country (Catedral 2017). The applicability of this concept to (socio)linguistic issues is still being developed and critiqued as scholars continue to study the relationship between language and context.