

Kevin Tang

Ph.D. (UCL), M.Eng. (Cambridge), M.A. (Cambridge & UCL), CMALT

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Academic employment

2015–Present Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA

POSITION: Postdoctoral Associate in Linguistics
SUPERVISOR: Ryan Bennett

Education

2011–2015 University College London, London, United Kingdom

Ph.D. in Linguistics, October 2015
THESIS: *Naturalistic Speech Misperception*
ADVISORS: Andrew Nevins (Primary) & Stuart Rosen (Secondary)
VIVA COMMITTEE: John Harris (Internal) & Bert Vaux (External)

2010–2011 University College London, London, United Kingdom

M.A. in Linguistics, November 2011
DISSERTATION: *Phonetic trends in slips of the ear*
SUPERVISOR: Andrew Nevins
CLASS: Distinction (Dissertation and all modules)

2009–2010 University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

M.Eng. in Engineering, June 2010
DISSERTATION: *Water quality modelling of a real catchment, using a Geographic Information System and a Hydrological Simulation Program to model the water quality (E-coli level) in Beaver Creek, Virginia*
ADVISORS: Dong Fang Liang & Rebecca Zeckoski
CLASS: Honours Pass (Dissertation: Honours with Merit; Modules: Honours Pass)

2006–2009 University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

B.A. in Engineering, June 2010
CLASS: 2.i.

Publications

PH.D. THESIS

- 2015 **Kevin Tang**. 2015. *Naturalistic speech misperception*. University College London dissertation [pdf] [bib]

This thesis yielded a new corpus containing \approx 5,000 instances of naturally occurring misperception of conversational English. Please see the SEAR (Slips of the **EAR**) Project for more details: www.searproject.org

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND PROCEEDINGS (PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED)

- 2016 Peter Howell, **Kevin Tang**, Outi Tuomainen, Sin Kan Chan, Kirsten Beltran, Avin Mirawdeli & John Harris. 2016. Identification of fluency and word-finding difficulty in samples of children with diverse language backgrounds. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*. n/a–n/a. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1460-6984.12305> [pdf] [bib]
(Part of the **Fluency In School Team** project: www.fistproject.org)
- 2015 Andrew Nevins, Cilene Rodrigues & **Kevin Tang**. 2015. The rise and fall of the L-shaped morpheme: diachronic and experimental studies. *Probus: International Journal of Latin and Romance Linguistics* 27(1). 101–155. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/probus-2015-0002> [pdf] [bib]
(Equal contribution authorship.)
- 2014 **Kevin Tang** & Andrew Nevins. 2014. Measuring segmental and lexical trends in a corpus of naturalistic speech. In Hsin-Lun Huang, Ethan Poole & Amanda Rysling (eds.), *Proceedings of the 43rd meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, vol. 2, 153–166. GLSA (Graduate Linguistics Student Association) [pdf] [bib]

JOURNAL ARTICLES (SUBMITTED)

- Submitted **Kevin Tang** & Andrew Nevins. Submitted. Expectation and lexical retrieval in conversational, mondegreen, and experimental misperception. *PLoS ONE*
- Submitted Ryan Bennett, **Kevin Tang** & Juan Ajsivinac. Submitted. Laryngeal co-occurrence restrictions as constraints on sub-segmental articulatory structure. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*

WORKING PAPERS

- 2013 **Kevin Tang** & Andrew Nevins. 2013. Quantifying the diachronic productivity of irregular verbal patterns in Romance. *UCL Working Papers in Linguistics* 25. 289–308 [pdf] [bib]
- 2012 **Kevin Tang**. 2012. A 61 Million Word Corpus of Brazilian Portuguese Film Subtitles as a Resource for Linguistic Research. *UCL Working Papers in Linguistics* 24. 208–214 [pdf] [bib]

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- In prep. Ryan Bennett, **Kevin Tang** & Juan Ajsivinac. In prep. The perception of stop consonants in Kaqchikel.
- In prep. **Kevin Tang** & Ryan Bennett. In prep. Examining the smooth signal hypothesis in Kaqchikel.
- In prep. **Kevin Tang** & John Harris. In prep. A functional-load account of geminate contrastiveness: a meta-study.
- In prep. Peter Howell, Li Ying Chua, Kaho Yoshikawa, John Harris & **Kevin Tang**. In prep. An In-School Intervention for Reception-Class Children who have Fluency Difficulty.
- In prep. John Harris, Nicholas Neasom & **Kevin Tang**. In prep. Phonotactics with [awt] rules: the learnability of a simple, unnatural pattern in English.
- In prep. M.M.C. DeMille, **Kevin Tang**, C. Mehta, Christopher Geissler, J.G. Malins, N.R. Powers, B.M. Bowen, Y. Kong, A.K. Adams, D.T. Truong, J.C. Frijters & J.R. Gruen. In prep. Worldwide distribution of the DCDC2 READ1 element and its relationship with linguistic feature variation across languages.

Presentations

PEER-REVIEWED TALKS

- [2017] Ryan Bennett & **Kevin Tang**. May, 2017. Laryngeal co-occurrence restrictions reflect sub-segmental articulatory structure. *25th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2017 Ryan Bennett & **Kevin Tang**. January, 2017. Acoustic and lexical effects on speech perception in Kaqchikel (Mayan). The 91st Annual meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America*, Austin, TX, USA. [[Handout](#)]
- 2016 Ryan Bennett & **Kevin Tang**. November, 2016. Perceptual similarity in the stop consonants of Kaqchikel. *Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics IV*, Universidad de Oriente, Valladolid, Yucatán, México.
- 2016 Ryan Bennett & **Kevin Tang**. October, 2016. Against phonetic realism as the source of root co-occurrence restrictions. *Annual Meeting on Phonology*, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA. [[Handout](#)]
- 2016 Ryan Bennett & **Kevin Tang**. July, 2016. Modeling phonetic and phonological variation with ‘small’ data: evidence from Kaqchikel Mayan. *The 15th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, Cornell University, USA.
- 2016 John Harris, Nicholas Neasom & **Kevin Tang**. May, 2016(a). Phonotactics with [awt] rules: the learnability of a simple, unnatural pattern in English. *24th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, University of Manchester, UK. [[Handout](#)]

- 2016 Ryan Bennett & **Kevin Tang**. May, 2016. Modeling the production and perception of Kaqchikel Mayan with ‘small’ data. *24th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, University of Manchester, UK.
- 2014 **Kevin Tang** & John Harris. September, 2014. A functional load account of geminate contrastiveness: a meta-study. Annual Meeting of the *Linguistics Association of Great Britain*, University of Oxford, UK.
- 2014 **Kevin Tang**. May, 2014. Using subtitle corpora to model aspects of spoken language. *Corpus Linguistics in the South 7: Spoken Language*, University College London, UK.
- 2014 **Kevin Tang** & Yan Lou. January, 2014. Mandarin Chinese speech perception in noise: phonological implications. *The 11th Old World Conference in Phonology*, Amsterdam-Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2013 **Kevin Tang**, Sam Green & Stefanie Anyadi. November, 2013. When interdisciplinarity assists peer-learning: PeerWise at UCL. Higher Education Academy (HEA) STEM: Interdisciplinary show case, BBC Broadcast Centre, London, UK. [[Slides](#)]
- 2013 **Kevin Tang**, Andrew Nevins & Michael Becker. January, 2013(a). Prosody drives alternations: evidence from a 61 million word corpus of Brazilian Portuguese. *The 10th Old World Conference in Phonology*, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2012 **Kevin Tang** & Andrew Nevins. October, 2012. Naturalistic speech misperception - a computational corpus-based study. The 43rd Annual Meeting of the *North East Linguistic Society*, Computational Linguistics Workshop, New York City, NY, The City University of New York, USA
- 2012 **Kevin Tang** & Andrew Nevins. May, 2012. Learning from mistakes: computational modelling of slips of the ear. *20th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, University of Manchester, UK.

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 **Kevin Tang** & Ryan Bennett. March, 2017. Expectation shapes speech perception in Kaqchikel Mayan: Psycholinguistics with “Small Data”. *Staff Talk*, Haskins Laboratories, USA.
- 2017 **Kevin Tang**. March, 2017(a). Experience and expectation predict fine details of perception and production. *Linguistics and Modern Language (LML) Seminar Series*, The Education University of Hong Kong, China

- 2017 **Kevin Tang**. March, 2017(b). Experience and expectation predict fine details of perception and production. *Linguistics Seminar Series*, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China
- 2017 **Kevin Tang**. March, 2017(c). Experience and expectation predict fine details of perception and production. *Linguistics Seminar Series*, University of Hong Kong, China
- 2017 **Kevin Tang**. March, 2017(d). Experience and expectation predict fine details of perception and production. *The Ling-Lang Lunch series*, Brown University, USA.
- 2017 **Kevin Tang**. March, 2017(e). Pushing the lexicon to its limits. *Shortlisted Job Talk*, University of Essex, UK.
- 2016 **Kevin Tang**. December, 2016. What is your vision for research-led teaching in corpus linguistics at the undergraduate level? *Shortlisted Job Talk*, University College Dublin, Ireland.
- 2016 John Harris, Nicholas Neasom & **Kevin Tang**. May, 2016(b). Phonotactics with [awt] rules: the learnability of a simple, unnatural pattern in English. *Cambridge Linguistics Society*, University of Cambridge, UK.
- 2016 Lawrence Solan, Silvia Dahmen & **Kevin Tang**. March, 2016. Legal indeterminacy in the spoken word. *Linguistics Friday Lunch Time Talk*, Yale University, USA.
- 2015 Andrew Nevins & **Kevin Tang**. September, 2015. A graceful degradation account of lexical retrieval – evidence from naturalistic misperception. *Linguistics Monday Colloquia*, Yale University, USA.
- 2014 **Kevin Tang**, Sam Green & Stefanie Anyadi. November, 2014. The importance of peer-learning: a case study on PeerWise. Learning Technology & Innovation Show & Tell, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK.
- 2013 Sam Green & **Kevin Tang**. November, 2013. The importance of peer-learning: a case study on PeerWise. *The 1st Internet of Education conference*, Knowledge 4 All Foundation Ltd (K4A) and the Artificial Intelligence Lab, Jožef Stefan Institute. Ljubljana, Slovenia. [Video: <https://goo.gl/jHlPvK>]
- 2013 **Kevin Tang** & Sam Green. May, 2013. Implementing a peer learning tool at UCL – Peerwise. *UCL: Summits and Horizons*: Using technology to give better and faster feedback. University College London, London, UK.

PEER-REVIEWED POSTERS

- 2017 **Kevin Tang** & Faruk Akkus. February, 2017. The importance of sampling and task effects: Turkish Partial Reduplication revisited. The 14th *Old World Conference in Phonology*, Düsseldorf, Germany.
- 2017 **Kevin Tang** & Andrew Nevins. January, 2017. Expectation and lexical retrieval in naturalistic and experimental misperception. The 91st Annual meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America*, Austin, TX, USA. [Poster]
- 2016 M.M.C. DeMille, J.C. Frijters, **Kevin Tang**, Christopher Geissler, N.R. Powers, B.M. Bowen, A.K. Adams, D.T. Truong & J.R. Gruen. October, 2016. An investigation of the evolution and worldwide distribution of the READ1 element in DCDC2 and its contribution to language development. The 66th Annual Meeting of the *American Society of Human Genetics*, Vancouver, Canada. [Poster]
- 2015 **Kevin Tang**, Ye Tian, E-L. Schwabe, Jyrki Tuomainen & Judit Druks. January, 2015. Chinese abstract verbs and nouns electrified: behavioural and electrophysiological evidence for grammatical class difference at single word processing level. *Thirty-Third European Workshop on Cognitive Neuropsychology*, Bressanone, Italy. [Poster]
- 2014 **Kevin Tang** & Brent de Chene. July, 2014. A new corpus of colloquial Korean and its applications. *The 14th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, Tachikawa, Tokyo, Japan. [Poster]
- 2013 **Kevin Tang**, Andrew Nevins & Michael Becker. January, 2013(b). Prosody drives alternations: evidence from a 61 million word corpus of Brazilian Portuguese. The 87th Annual Meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. [Poster]

Outreach

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- 2015 M.C. Carmo & **Kevin Tang**. 2015. Alternância, ‘auternância’ ou ‘arternância’: variação dos sons da fala. *Diário da Região*. 28 February 2015, 4C–4C [Article: <https://goo.gl/QT6WKQ>]

Fellowships, awards, and grants

WHILE AT YALE (POST-DOC)

- 2017 Research Grant. \$14,500. Salomon Award. “Multi-purpose corpora for modern Mayan languages”. Co-applicant with Prof. Scott AnderBois (Brown), Prof. Ryan Bennett (Yale) and Prof. Robert Henderson (Arizona)
- 2016 Research Grant. £1200. International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA) “The Phonetics of Trademark Law”. Co-applicant with Silvia Dahmen (University of Cologne) and Lawrence Solan (Brooklyn Law School)

WHILE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (GRADUATE)

- 2013 European Science Foundation Short Visit Grant received by NetWordS - 09-RNP-089, The European Network on Word Structure. Openlexicons project at the Center for Reading Research, Department of Experimental Psychology, Ghent University, Belgium
- 2013 The Big Data Hackathon - April - Data Science London. Second Prize for the Data Visualization Challenge (in 24 hours): develop a data visualization based on data provided by Peerindex (with Joaquin Atria, Mauricio Figueroa & Tim Schoof) [See the final product “Twittrends”: <https://goo.gl/o243ZI>]
- 2011–2012 Teaching Innovation Grant (Holder: Prof. Andrew Nevins), University College London, London. As part of a small interdisciplinary university-wide team to develop and implement the use of the peer-assisted learning package, *PeerWise*.
- 2011 Arts and Humanities Research Council. M.Phil./Ph.D. Studentship: M.Phil./Ph.D. in Linguistics at University College London

WHILE AT UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE (UNDERGRADUATE)

- 2009 The Institution of Engineering and Technology. The IET Innovation Award, Finalist: Gap year project: Automatic Testing of Novel High Resolution X-ray Optics Using Matlab
- 2009 Cambridge University Language Centre. Bursaries for Science and Medical Students for Language Courses Abroad: Summer Intensive Course for Modern Greek at University of Cyprus
- 2006 The Year In Industry Contribution to Business Award, Finalist: Gap year project
- 2005 The Institution of Engineering and Technology. The IET Fuse Scholarship: University

Teaching

YALE UNIVERSITY

- 2017 *Quantitative Linguistics using Corpora*
Primary Instructor
- 2016 *Topics in Phonology: The Phonetics-Phonology Interface*
Primary Instructor (with Prof. Ryan Bennett)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

- 2014 *Introduction to Statistics for Linguists using R*
Primary Instructor
- 2012, 2013 *Introduction to Statistics for Linguists using R*
Primary Instructor (with Dr. Ye Tian)
- 2011, 2012 *Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology B*
Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Prof. Andrew Nevins.)
- 2011, 2012 *Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology A*
Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Prof. Andrew Nevins.)

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

- 2017 *Slips of the Ear as a Window into Grammar*
Brown University, USA
Course: CLPS 0050M, Host: Prof. Scott AnderBois, Date: March 8th 2017
- 2017 *Sufficient Data, Not 'Big' Data – A case of using 'Small' Data to Model the
Production and Perception of Kaqchikel Mayan*
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Course: Computational Linguistics, Host: Prof. Alexandros Tantos, Date:
June 2nd 2016

Advising

PH.D. STUDENTS: QUALIFYING PAPER ADVISEES (AT YALE)

2015–Present Luke Lindemann and Martin Fuchs

PH.D. STUDENTS: UNOFFICIAL ADVISEES (AT YALE)

2015–Present Jun Chen, Nick Frisch and Josh Philips

GRADUATE: M.A. DISSERTATIONS (AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON)

- 2013 Carly Morris, *The Effect of Alcohol on Consonant Cluster Reduction Distinction* (Co-advising with Prof. John Harris)
- 2013 Mike Hindley, *A Study into the Effect of Alcohol on L2: Germans Speaking English Distinction* (Co-advising with Prof. Andrew Nevins)
- 2013 Ji Hye Kwon, *The Effect of Alcohol on the L2 Vowels of Korean L1 Speakers Distinction* (Co-advising with Prof. Andrew Nevins)
- 2013 Yan Lou, *Mandarin Chinese Speech Perception in Noise Distinction* (Co-advising with Prof. Andrew Nevins)
- 2013 Yuen Lam, *Slips of the Ear in Mandarin Chinese Pass* (Co-advising with Prof. Andrew Nevins)

Service to the field

ARTICLE REVIEWING

- Ad hoc* PLOS One – The world’s first multidisciplinary Open Access journal (3)
(3 journals) *Lingua* – An International Review of General Linguistics (1, pre-*Glossa*)
Opticon1826 – An all-faculty, peer reviewed academic journal, run and edited by University College London postgraduate students (1)

ABSTRACT/PAPER REVIEWING FOR CONFERENCES

- [2017] Interspeech 2017, Stockholm, Sweden, August 2017
2017 ICASSP, The 42nd IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing, New Orleans, USA, March 2017
2016 Interspeech, San Francisco, USA, September 2016
2016 24th Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (CONSOLE), York, UK, January 2016
2015 2nd University College London Graduate Conference in Linguistics, London, UK, November 2015
2013 1st University College London Graduate Conference in Linguistics, London, UK, November 2013

ARTICLE EDITING

- 2013 University College London Working Papers in Linguistics, Volume 25

Departmental service

- 2011–2015 Organiser, Laboratory for Language and Speech Diversions, Director: Prof. Andrew Nevins, University College London
2013–2014 Organiser (with Nicholas Neasom), Phonology Reading Group, University College London
2011–2012 Student academic representative, M.Phil/Ph.D. in Linguistics, University College London

Professional affiliations

- 2014–Present Member, Association for Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon)
2013–Present Member, Linguistic Society of America (LSA)
2013–Present Certified Member of Association for Learning Technology (CMALT)
CMALT is a portfolio-based professional accreditation scheme developed by Association For Learning Technology to enable people whose work involves learning technology to have their professional experience and capabilities assessed by peers. <http://www.alt.ac.uk/cmalt/>.

Experimental–Computational skills

PROGRAMMING	Python & Matlab
DATA COLLECTION	Lab-experiment: PsychoPy; Web-experiment: Experigen (https://github.com/tlozoot/experigen) & Amazon Mechanical Turk
DATA ANALYSIS	R Statistical Software, Praat, Forced-Alignment, EEGLAB & ERPLAB
DOCUMENT	LaTeX, Markdown & {Microsoft, Open} Office
OS	Unix/Linux(Terminal) & Windows

Languages

Cantonese	Native	Primary education in Hong Kong.
English	Fluent	Secondary and higher education in United Kingdom.
Mandarin Chinese	Advanced	Courses at Cambridge University Engineering Language Department, 2006–2008.
Modern Greek	Intermediate	Level 2/5 course at University of Cyprus. July–Aug 2009.
Spanish	Beginner	A1 course at El Instituto Salmantino de Lenguas Aplicadas, Spain, Aug–Sep 2007.

Industry employment

Sep–Dec 2013	Altitude Education Ltd, London, UK – E-Learning
	POSITION: Linguistic consultant (Part-time) DESCRIPTION: Examined and restructured the English phonics encoding for the <i>Pippop</i> phonics course app (www.pippoplearning.com) MANAGER: Alexander Thompson
July–Aug 2008	Hyder Consulting, Hong Kong – Engineering consultancy
	POSITION: Summer Trainee (Part-time) DESCRIPTION: Site investigation, report writing, administrative work
2005–2006	Oxford Danfysik (now FMB Oxford), Oxford, UK – Specialist in synchrotron components.
	POSITION: Year In Industry Student (Full-time) DESCRIPTION: Co-founded a project for automatic testing of novel high resolution X-ray optics using Matlab, which subsequently reached finals of the IET Innovation Awards 2009. This software enables unattended motion testing of synchrotron components which allows 70% of the company’s testing to be automated and gives an approximate annual saving of £20,000. MENTOR: Dr. Alexander Babkevich

References

Name Prof. Andrew Nevins
Title Professor of Linguistics
Relationship Ph.D. supervisor
Affiliation University College London
Address Room 114, Chandler House, 2 Wakefield Street, London, WC1N 1PF
Tel. +442076794278
Email a.nevins@ucl.ac.uk

Name Prof. Ryan Bennett
Title Assistant Professor of Linguistics
Relationship Post-Doc supervisor
Affiliation Yale University
Address Room 304, Dept. of Linguistics, Yale University, P.O. Box 208366, New Haven, CT, 06520-8366
Tel. +12034322454
Email ryan.bennett@yale.edu

Name Prof. John Harris
Title Professor of Linguistics
Relationship Viva Committee and Collaborator
Affiliation University College London
Address Room 109, Chandler House, 2 Wakefield Street, London, WC1N 1PF
Tel. +442076794042
Email john.harris@ucl.ac.uk

Name Prof. Peter Howell
Title Professor of Experimental Psychology
Relationship Collaborator
Affiliation University College London
Address Department of Psychology, University College London, London, WC1E 6BT
Tel. +442076797566
Email p.howell@ucl.ac.uk

Name Prof. Bert Vaux
Title Reader in Phonology and Morphology
Relationship Viva Committee
Affiliation University of Cambridge
Tel. +441223331649
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Name Prof. Lawrence Solan
Title Don Forchelli Professor of Law
Relationship Collaborator
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