

Zhendong Liu (updated Dec. 2025)

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Department of Linguistics, GFS 301
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Education

2022 – Present
(expected 2027) **University of Southern California** – Los Angeles, CA
PhD in Linguistics

2022 – 2024 **University of Southern California** – Los Angeles, CA
MA in Linguistics
Thesis (MA screening paper) : *Cyclic movement and phonologically-conditioned chain resolution: A new look at Swahili relative clauses*
Committee: Travis Major (Chair); Zuzanna Fuchs; Andrew Simpson; Vicki Carstens

2020 – 2022 **University of Rochester** – Rochester, NY
MS in Computational Linguistics

2016 – 2020 **University of Rochester** – Rochester, NY
BS in Computer Science
BA in Linguistics

Publications

To appear Liu, Zhendong. The semantic composition of event counting expressions within nominals in Mandarin Chinese. *Proceedings of the 35th meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)*.

2024 Liu, Zhendong. Cyclic movement and chain resolution in Swahili relative clauses. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 9 (1): 5707. <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v9i1.5707>.

2023 Liu, Zhendong. A unified operator movement analysis for Adverbial Clauses and Relative Clauses in Swahili. In Ash Asudeh, ed., *University of Rochester Working Papers in the Language Sciences* 9: 31–54.

Conference Presentations

Mar 2026 *Spurious inwardly syntactic-feature-sensitive allomorphy in Rnga.ba Amdo-Tibetan (joint work with Lang Gaji)*
GLOW in Asia 2026 The 2nd Workshop for Young Scholars, Nagoya, Japan

Nov 2025 *Poly-functional phrasal nominalizers in Lhasa Tibetan*
SCAMS-5: The 5th Southern California Annual Meeting on Syntax, Pomona, CA

May 2025	<i>The semantic composition of event counting expressions within nominals in Mandarin Chinese</i>
	SALT-35: The 35th meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory, Cambridge, MA
Mar. 2025	<i>Reconsidering the constituency in semelfactive event counting expressions in Mandarin Chinese</i>
	TEAL-14: The Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics 14, Los Angeles, CA
Jan. 2024	<i>Cyclic movement and copy deletion in Swahili relative clauses</i>
	2024 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New York City, NY
Nov. 2023	<i>Explaining the relative marker distribution in Swahili relative clauses</i>
	The third Southern California Annual Meeting on Syntax, Pomona, CA

Fieldwork

2025 4 weeks of in-situ Fieldwork in Lhasa.

Teaching Assistantship

LING 275: Language and Mind, University of Southern California

LING 115: Language and Society, University of Southern California

LING 285: Human Language and Technology, University of Southern California

LING 225/425: Introduction to Semantic Analysis, University of Rochester

[CSC 242: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence](#), University of Rochester

[CSC 173: Computation and Formal Systems](#), University of Rochester

Scholarships and awards

2025 USC Linguistics Research Development Award: \$1288.27

2025 USC Graduate School Travel/Research Award: \$1500

2025 USC 2025 Summer East Asian Studies Center Graduate Fellowship: \$1000

2022 Provost's fellowship, University of Southern California

2016 – 2020 Dean's Scholarship, University of Rochester

Skills

Programming languages

Proficient in: Python, Java, C

Softwares

Elan, Praat

Languages

Mandarin (native), English (proficient), Lhasa Tibetan (research), Swahili (research)