

Zhendong Liu (updated Dec. 2025)

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Department of Linguistics, GFS 301

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA 90089-1693

Education

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| 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) : <i>Cyclic movement and phonologically-conditioned chain resolution: A new look at Swahili relative clauses</i>
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

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| To appear | Liu, Zhendong. The semantic composition of event counting expressions within nominals in Mandarin Chinese. <i>Proceedings of the 35th meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)</i> . |
| 2024 | Liu, Zhendong. Cyclic movement and chain resolution in Swahili relative clauses. <i>Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America</i> 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., <i>University of Rochester Working Papers in the Language Sciences</i> 9: 31–54. |

Conference Presentations

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| Mar 2026 | <i>Spurious inwardly syntactic-feature-sensitive allomorphy in Rnga.ba Amdo-Tibetan (joint work with Lang Gaji)</i>
GLOW in Asia 2026 The 2nd Workshop for Young Scholars, Nagoya, Japan |
| Nov 2025 | <i>Poly-functional phrasal nominalizers in Lhasa Tibetan</i>
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.
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Teaching Assistanceship

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)