

SZETO Pui Yiu 司徒沛堯

Division of Humanities

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Education background

2016–19	PhD in Linguistics The University of Hong Kong
2012–15	MPhil in Linguistics The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2011–12	MA in Linguistics The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2009–10	MSc in Evolution of Language and Cognition The University of Edinburgh
2005–08	BA (Hons) in Translation and Interpretation Minor: Life Sciences City University of Hong Kong

Research interests

Language contact, linguistic typology, areal linguistics, language variation and change, bilingualism and multilingualism, grammaticalization, pidgin and creole languages, East Asian languages (especially Sinitic and its neighbouring languages)

Professional appointments

Jan 2025– present	Visiting Scholar	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Jan 2022– Dec 2024	Non-tenured Assistant Professor (Ricercatore “lettera a” – RTDa)	Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Sep 2020– Jan 2022	Lecturer	The University of Hong Kong
Jan 2020– Dec 2020	Research Associate	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Sep 2019– Dec 2019	Teaching Assistant	The University of Hong Kong
Jul 2019– Dec 2019	Research Assistant	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Oct 2018	Visiting Researcher	University of Helsinki
Apr 2016– Aug 2016	Junior Research Assistant	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Sep 2015– Mar 2016	Research Assistant I	The University of Hong Kong
Oct 2008– Jul 2009	Research Assistant	City University of Hong Kong

Selected publications

- Szeto, Pui Yiu (under contract). *Language contact and areal convergence: Typological change in China and beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu (to appear). The Mainland Southeast Asian linguistic area, with special reference to Cantonese. In Andy Chin, Shin Kataoka, Bit-chee Kwok (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Cantonese Linguistics*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Yurayong, Chingduang*, Pui Yiu Szeto & Sami Honkasalo. 2024. Areal typology of Sinitic in the temperate zone: Focusing on adjustable quantification and negation asymmetry. In Dan Xu & Cong Wang (eds.), *Chinese language contact and typology* (Journal of Chinese Linguistics Monograph Series 30), 67–104. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press of Hong Kong.
- Brombal, Daniele, Sergio Conti* & Pui Yiu Szeto. 2024. Lexical indicators for Chinese language ecological discourse analysis: Design and testing of a novel framework. *Language Sciences* 104. 101634.
- Yurayong, Chingduang & Pui Yiu Szeto. 2023. Clustering and evolution of phonological systems across languages in Coastal East Asia. *Journal of Language and Culture* 42(2). 78–114.

- Szeto, Pui Yiu.** 2023. On the raison d'être of the notion of Sprachbund, with special reference to languages in China. *Journal of Chinese Linguistics* 51(3). 692–705.
- Lu, Wen* & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2023. Polyfunctionality of 'give' in Hui varieties of Chinese: A typological and areal perspective. *Languages* 8(3). 217.
- Lin, Shuhan & Pui Yiu Szeto*.** 2023. Disposal constructions in Chaoshan Southern Min: An apparent time study of the Chenghai dialect. *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale* 52(1). 100–131.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu* & Chingduang Yurayong.** 2022. Establishing a Sprachbund in the Western Lingnan region: Conceptual and methodological issues. *Folia Linguistica* 56(1). 25–55.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu.** 2021. Revisiting the Amdo Sprachbund: Genes, languages, and beyond. *Himalayan Linguistics*. 123–145.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu* & Chingduang Yurayong.** 2021. Sinitic as a typological sandwich: Revisiting the notions of Altaicization and Taicization. *Linguistic Typology* 25(3). 551–599.
- Ansaldo, Umberto & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2020. Pidgin and Creole ecology and evolution. In Umberto Ansaldo & Miriam Meyerhoff (eds.), *The Routledge handbook of Pidgin and Creole languages*, 504–519. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Yurayong, Chingduang & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2020. Altaicization and de-Altaicization of Japonic and Koreanic. *International Journal of Eurasian Linguistics* 2(1). 108–148.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu*, Jackie Yan-ki Lai & Umberto Ansaldo.** 2019. Creole typology is analytic typology. *Language Ecology* 3(1). 89–119.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu*, Stephen Matthews & Virginia Yip.** 2019. Bilingual children as “laboratories” for studying contact outcomes: Development of perfective aspect. *Linguistics* 57(3). 693–723.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu*, Umberto Ansaldo & Stephen Matthews.** 2018. Typological variation across Mandarin dialects: An areal perspective with a quantitative approach. *Linguistic Typology* 22(2). 233–275.
- Ansaldo, Umberto, Walter Bisang & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2018. Grammaticalization in isolating languages and the notion of complexity. In Heiko Narrog & Bernd Heine (eds.), *Grammaticalization from a typological perspective*, 219–234. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu, Stephen Matthews & Virginia Yip.** 2017. Multiple correspondence and typological convergence in contact-induced grammaticalization: Evidence from Cantonese-English bilingual development. *Journal of Language Contact* 10(3). 485–518.

*Corresponding author

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Recent conference presentations

Szeto, Pui Yiu. 2025. Optional past tense marking in Chinese-English heritage bilingual children.

- Paper presented at the Symposium on Language Acquisition In Diverse Contexts: From Bilingualism To Multilingualism. The Chinese University of Hong Kong. 17–18 January.
- Lu, Wen, Man Shan Hui & **Pui Yiu Szeto**. 2024. Convergence zones in Central China. Paper presented at the 15th Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT 15). Nanyang Technological University, 4–6 December.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu** & Yijun Shi. 2024. Southwestern Mandarin as a typological group: Unity in diversity. Paper presented at the 12th International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL-12). Roma Tre University. 19–20 September.
- Conti, Sergio, Laura Locatelli, Daniele Brombal & **Pui Yiu Szeto**. 2024. Novel approaches to ecolinguistics: Methodological tools and their application to Chinese texts. Paper presented at the 25th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS). Tallinn University. 27–30 August.
- Conti, Sergio, Laura Locatelli, Daniele Brombal & **Pui Yiu Szeto**. 2024. Environmental sustainability in the ESG reports of Chinese listed companies: A preliminary corpus-assisted analysis from an ecolinguistic perspective. Paper presented at the 7th Corpora & Discourse International Conference. University of Innsbruck. 17–19 July.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu** & Zhiwei Zheng. 2024. Contact-induced change in Dongtou Southern Min. Paper presented at the 8th edition of the Study Days on Chinese Linguistics of the Italian Association of Chinese Linguistics (AILC 2024). University of Verona. 19–20 June.
- Sandman, Erika, Richard Kerbs, Mithun Banerjee, Chingduang Yurayong & **Pui Yiu Szeto**. 2024. What is so peculiar about head-initial structures in Chinese? A Sino-Tibetan perspective. Paper presented at the 30th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-30). Yonsei University. 25–27 May.
- Chingduang Yurayong, **Pui Yiu Szeto** & Sami Honkasalo. 2024. Typological profiling and contact of endangered languages in Temperate Asia: Focusing on adjustable quantification and negation asymmetry. Paper presented at the Third Conference on the Endangered Languages of East Asia (CELEA3). Ca' Foscari University of Venice. 6–8 May.
- Conti, Sergio, Laura Locatelli & **Pui Yiu Szeto**. 2023. La lingua dei report ESG sulla sostenibilità delle aziende cinesi quotate: Un'analisi preliminare corpus-assisted secondo la prospettiva ecolinguistica [The language of ESG sustainability reports of Chinese listed companies: A preliminary corpus-assisted analysis from an ecolinguistic perspective]. Paper presented at XIX Convegno AISC 2023. Sapienza University of Rome. 21–23 September.
- Yurayong, Chingduang, Sami Honkasalo, **Pui Yiu Szeto**, Charlotte Ye Xu, Andrew Logie, Utain Wongsathit, Sombat Mangmeesuksiri, Kangvol Khatshima, Youngchan Oh, Ohyoung Kwon, Junyoung Park & Cheunsoo Park. 2023. An archaeolinguistic approach to Indianisation and Sinicisation of languages in Eastern Eurasia. Paper presented at the 26th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL26). Heidelberg University, 4–8 September.
- Honkasalo, Sami, Chingduang Yurayong & **Pui Yiu Szeto**. 2023. Quantification of verbal events: A

- new perspective for studying convergence and divergence across Altaic languages. Paper presented at 65th Annual Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC). Nazarbayev University, 31 July–3 August.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu.** 2023. Beyond Altaicization and Taicization: A quantitative approach to the study of Sinitic typology. Paper presented at the International Workshop on Chinese Dialect Grammar in Typological Perspective. Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 27–28 April.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu & Chingduang Yurayong.** 2023. Dissecting Altaicization and Tibetanization in Amdo-Mandarin. Paper presented at the International Conference on Chinese Language Contact and Typology. The Education University of Hong Kong, 24–25 March.
- Conti, Sergio, Pui Yiu Szeto & Daniele Brombal.** 2022. Exploratory design of an ecological discourse analysis framework for Chinese environmental texts. Paper presented at the Sixth International Conference on Ecolinguistics (ICE-6). University of Graz. 21–24 September.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu & Shuhan Lin.** 2022. Functional range of disposal markers in Chaoshan Southern Min. Paper presented at the 7th edition of the Study days on Chinese Linguistics of the Italian Association of Chinese Linguistics (AILC 2022). University of Bergamo. 9–10 September.
- Conti, Sergio, Pui Yiu Szeto & Daniele Brombal.** 2022. Exploratory design of an ecological discourse analysis framework for Chinese environmental texts. Paper presented at the 7th edition of the Study days on Chinese Linguistics of the Italian Association of Chinese Linguistics (AILC 2022). University of Bergamo. 9–10 September.
- Lu, Wen & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2022. Grammaticalization of 'give' in Hui varieties of Chinese: A typological and areal perspective. Paper presented at the 35th Paris Meeting on East Asian Linguistics (JLAO 35). Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l'Asie Orientale. 7–9 July.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu & Shuhan Lin.** 2022. Disposal construction in Chenghai Southern Min: Age-related variation and beyond. Paper presented at the 11th International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL-11). Palacký University Olomouc. 1–2 July.
- Conti, Sergio, Pui Yiu Szeto & Daniele Brombal.** 2022. Exploratory design of an ecological discourse analysis framework for Chinese environmental texts. Paper presented at the Fourth International Symposium on Chinese Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (ISOCTAL-4). University of Leeds. 20–21 June.
- Szeto, Pui Yiu, Ziyin Mai, Stephen Matthews & Virginia Yip.** 2022. Verbal inflection in heritage bilinguals' English: Parallels with East and Southeast Asian contact languages. Paper presented at the Workshop on Population Movements, Language Contact in East Asia and Southeast Asia, and Evolutionary Linguistics. The Hong Kong Jockey Club University of Chicago Academic Complex | The Francis and Rose Yuen Campus, 8–11 June.
- Shi, Yijun & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2022. Modern diglossia in Chongqing: Stability and change. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28). The Chinese University of Hong Kong. 20–22 May.
- Yurayong, Chingduang & Pui Yiu Szeto.** 2022. A typological split of Tai-Kadai languages along

political and natural borders. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-28). The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 20–22 May.

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Funded projects

Grammaticalization of ‘give’ in Hui varieties of Chinese: A Typological and Areal Perspective

Funding source: CPCE Research Fund (Ref: LC-2021-244(E))

Role: Co-Investigator

Date: 1 Jul 2022–30 Jun 2023

Teaching experience

As an instructor:

2024-25	(UG) Structure of the Chinese Language	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2024-25	(UG) The Cantonese Language	
2024-25	(PG) Cantonese Grammar in Contemporary Linguistic Theories	
2023-25	(UG) Cantonese language	Ca' Foscari University of Venice
2022-25	(PG) Ecolinguistics for sustainability science and practice	
2022-25	(PG) Environmental humanities and ecolinguistics in China	
2021-22	(UG) Languages of China	The University of Hong Kong
2020-22	(UG) Sociolinguistics	
2020-21	(PG) Language types and universals	
2018-19	(UG/PG) Variation across Chinese dialects	University of Helsinki

As a tutor:

2019–20	(UG) The life and death of languages: Diversity, identity and globalization	The University of Hong Kong
2018–19	(UG) Language evolution	
2016–17	(UG) Introduction to language	
2014–15	(PG) Topics in sociolinguistics	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2013–14	(PG) Topics in bilingualism	
2012–15	(PG) Foundations in language acquisition	
2012–13	(UG) Exploring grammar: English	

UG=Undergraduate courses, PG=Postgraduate courses

Thesis supervision

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

(MA) Torrìsi, Roberta. 2024. *What role for culture in Sustainable Development? The contribution of cultural diplomacy: The IIC of Beijing.*

The University of Hong Kong

(MA) Zhuang, Hailu. 2024. *Comparative constructions of the Jieyang variety of Chaoshan in the new generation: Influences of Putonghua and Hakka.*

(MA) Zheng, Zhiwei. 2023. *Language contact in Dongtou: Dongtou Southern Min and Wenzhou Wu.*

(MA) Huang, Xuxing. 2022. *An ecological discourse analysis of news on the COVID-19 pandemic.*

(MA) Chung, Ka Fai. 2021. *Languages in Far Southern China: A typological overview.*

(MA) Lin, Shuhan. 2021. *Disposal construction in the Chenghai dialect of Chaoshan.*

Invited talks

1. *Optional past tense marking in Chinese-English heritage bilingual children.* Invited speech at the Symposium on Language Acquisition In Diverse Contexts: From Bilingualism To Multilingualism. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 17–18 January 2025.
2. *Reexamining the position of Cantonese within the Mainland Southeast Asian linguistic area.* Invited seminar at the Center for Chinese Linguistics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 6 December 2023.
3. *The Sinitic Sandwich: Quantitative studies in areal typology of Sinitic from the Trans-Eurasian perspective.* Invited speech at the ERC-TRAM workshop. Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, 24 November 2023.
4. *Beyond Altaicization and Taicization: A quantitative approach to the study of Sinitic typology.* Invited Speech at the International Workshop on Chinese Dialect Grammar in Typological Perspective. Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 28 April 2023.
5. *Dissecting Altaicization and Tibetanization in Amdo-Mandarin.* Invited Speech at the International Conference on Chinese Language Contact and Typology. The Education University of Hong Kong, 25 March 2023.
6. *Typological variation across Sinitic languages, with a focus on the convergence phenomena in the Lingnan region.* CPCE Research Seminar, College of Professional and Continuous Education, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 20 March 2023.
7. *Verbal inflection in heritage bilinguals' English: Parallels with East and Southeast Asian contact languages.* Invited Speech at the Workshop on Population Movements, Language Contact in East

Asia and Southeast Asia, and Evolutionary Linguistics. The Hong Kong Jockey Club University of Chicago Academic Complex | The Francis and Rose Yuen Campus, 10 June 2022.

8. *Language contact among Chinese, Tai-Kadai and other Mainland Southeast Asian languages (with a focus on the Lingnan region)*. Seminar in Chinese linguistics, Mahidol University, 11 November 2021.
9. *Language Convergence between Chinese and Tai-Kadai in Lingnan Region, Southern China*. Online Global Campus 2021: New Perspectives on Asia, Mahidol University and University of Helsinki, 14 September 2021.
10. *Historical Chinese linguistics*. Seminar in comparative and historical linguistics, Mahidol University, 26 February 2021.
11. *A quantitative-typological approach to East Asian phonologies*. Seminar in Southeast Asian Linguistics, Mahidol University, 3 February 2021.
12. *Identifying a linguistic area in the Lingnan region: Evidence from Yue dialects and beyond*. Invited Speech at the 24th International Conference on Yue Dialects, University of Macau, 13 November 2020.
13. *Typological variation across Sinitic languages: Contact and convergence*. Outstanding Thesis Award Presentation at the LSHK Annual Research Forum 2019, The Education University of Hong Kong, 7 December 2019.
14. *Grammaticalization in multilingual settings: From Cantonese-English bilingual children to Southeast Asian creoles*. Department of Linguistics Seminar Series, The University of Hong Kong, 13 April 2017.

Academic service

Organizer	International Workshop on Chinese Dialect Grammar in Typological Perspective. Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 27–28 April 2023.
Session chair	The 12th International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL-12). Roma Tre University. 19–20 September 2024. The International Conference on Chinese Language Contact and Typology. The Education University of Hong Kong, 25 March 2023.
Guest editor	<i>Languages</i> (Special Issue “Typology of Chinese Languages: One Name, Many Languages”)
Reviewer	<u>Books/Journals</u> <i>Asian Languages and Linguistics</i> ; <i>Chinese Linguistics in Italy</i> (Bologna University Press); <i>Folia Linguistica</i> ; <i>Himalayan Linguistics</i> ; <i>Journal of Historical Linguistics</i> ; <i>Journal of Language</i>

and Culture; Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages; Language and Linguistics; Languages; Open Research Europe; Studies in Vietnamese Historical Linguistics: Southeast and East Asian Contexts (Springer)

Conferences

Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics; Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology; International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics; International Conference on Yue Dialects; Study Days on Chinese Linguistics

Linguistic Bibliography contributor Brill

Awards

2019	Outstanding Thesis Award (PhD category)	Linguistic Society of Hong Kong
2018	Visiting Research Fellowships	University of Helsinki
2016–19	CEDARS Service Awards	The University of Hong Kong
2016–19	Postgraduate Scholarships	
2012–14	Postgraduate Studentships	The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Other qualifications

2017	Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), USA
2017	NSCA-Certified Personal Trainer (NSCA-CPT) National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), USA
2011	Diploma in Translation (DipTrans) Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL), UK

Languages

Cantonese (native), English (proficient), Mandarin (proficient)