Ping Hei Yeung 楊秉羲

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Georgetown University
Department of Linguistics
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Research interests

Sociophonetics, automatic speech recognition, tonal phonology, articulatory phonetics, contact-induced sound change, language ideology

Education

Georgetown University — Washington, DC
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics — 2021–Present
Advisor: Jennifer Nycz
Dissertation: *Standard language ideology in Malaysian English: A Sociophonetic Perspective*

Georgetown University — Washington, DC
Master of Science in Linguistics — 2021–2024
Advisor: Jennifer Nycz
Thesis: *Contact-induced tonogenesis in Hong Kong English*

University of Hong Kong — Hong Kong
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, Minor in Spanish — 2016–2020
Advisor: Jonathan Havenhill
Thesis: *An articulatory perspective on differential substitution: the production of the English voiceless (inter)dental fricative by Mandarin and Cantonese speakers*

Publications

Yeung, Ping Hei. (Under review). Should we use ASR in sociophonetic research? Benchmarking WhisperX for downstream vowel analysis.

Yeung, Ping Hei. (Under review). Tonogenesis in a contact language: An acoustic study of tonal minimal pairs in Hong Kong English.

Nycz, Jennifer, & **Yeung, Ping Hei**. (In preparation). Phonology in Sociocultural Linguistics. In R. Kennedy & P. Strycharczuk (Eds.), *Elements in Phonology.* Cambridge University Press.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2026. Social perception of TH-stopping and postvocalic rhoticity in Malaysian English. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America, 11*(1), 6050. https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v11i1.6050

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2023. Contact-induced tonogenesis in Hong Kong English. In R. Skarnitzl & J. Voln (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Guarant International. 1921-1925.

Thompson, Arthur Lewis, Chan, May Pik Yu, **Yeung, Ping Hei**, & Do, Youngah. 2022. Structural Markedness and Depiction: The Case of Lower Sequential Predictability in Cantonese Ideophones. *The Mental Lexicon, 17*(2), 300-324. https://doi.org/10.1075/ml.21016.tho

Do, Youngah, & **Yeung, Ping Hei**. 2021. Evidence against a link between learning phonotactics and learning phonological alternations. *Linguistics Vanguard, 7*(1). https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2020-0127

Presentations

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2026. Evaluating the application of Automatic Speech Recognition in sociophonetic research. Paper accepted at the 54th New Ways of Analyzing Variation Conference (NWAV53), Montreal, Canada.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2026. Social perception of TH-stopping and postvocalic rhoticity in Malaysian English. Paper presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2026 Annual Meeting (LSA2026), New Orleans, LA.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2025. Interaction between standard language ideology and sociophonetic variation in Malaysian English. Poster presented at the 53rd New Ways of Analyzing Variation Conference (NWAV53), Ann Arbor, MI.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2025. Morphologically conditioned tone changes in Cantonese are grammatical tones. Poster presented at the Linguistic Society of America 2025 Annual Meeting (LSA2025), Philadelphia, PA.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2024. Constructing Hong Kong English identity through vowel mergers: Indexical meanings of local phonological features in the Outer Circle of English. Paper presented at the 52nd New Ways of Analyzing Variation Conference (NWAV52), Miami Beach, FL.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2023. Modeling sociophonetic variation in L2 varieties of English: considerations of proficiency and norm orientation. Poster presented at the 51st New Ways of Analyzing Variation Conference (NWAV51), New York, NY.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2023. Contact-induced tonogenesis in Hong Kong English. Paper presented at the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS2023), Prague, Czech Republic.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2023. "I speak Hong Kong English, not American or British English.": The effect of language affiliation on vowel production among L2 English speakers in Hong Kong. Paper presented at the 25th conference of the International Association of World Englishes (IAWE25), Stony Brook, NY.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2023. Tonal alternation of the proximal demonstrative suffix -na in Dagaare. Paper presented at the 54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL54), Storrs, CT,

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2022. Diachronic reversal of /ɪ/-tensing in Hong Kong English: a result of dialect contact with non-local English varieties? Paper presented at the 7th meeting of the New Ways of Analyzing Variation – Asia Pacific (NWAV-AP7), Bangkok, Thailand.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2022. Can English become a tone language? Production of lexical tones in Hong Kong English. Poster presented at the 18th Conference on Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon18).

Yeung, Ping Hei, and Havenhill, Jonathan. 2021. Acoustic ambiguity leads to articulatory re-analysis: Affricate palatalization in Hong Kong Cantonese. Paper presented at the 33rd meeting of the North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-33), Chicago, IL.

Yeung, Ping Hei. 2021. Allophonic variation of coronal affricates in Hong Kong Cantonese. Paper presented at the 6th meeting of the New Ways of Analyzing Variation – Asia Pacific (NWAV-AP6), Singapore.

Fieldwork experience

Malaysian English Spring 2025
University of Malaya — Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Independent sociolinguistic fieldwork for doctoral dissertation; design and execution of sociolinguistic interviews and perception experiments; collaboration with local scholars.

Dagaare Spring 2022
Georgetown University — Washington, DC
Documentation and analysis of the language's phonology, morphology, and syntax.

Hong Kong English Summer 2021
University of Hong Kong — Hong Kong
Independent sociolinguistic fieldwork; design and execution of sociolinguistic interviews.

Gurung Fall 2019
University of Hong Kong — Hong Kong
Documentation and analysis of the language's phonology, morphology, and syntax.

Research assistantships

Research Assistant, Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University
Supervisor: Jennifer Nycz 2021–2024

- Co-authored a forthcoming Cambridge Elements volume on Phonology in Sociocultural Linguistics with Prof. Nycz
- Assisted in preparing the Corpora of Mobile Speakers (COrMS) for public release

Research Assistant, Department of Linguistics, University of Hong Kong
Supervisors: Youngah Do and Jonathan Havenhill 2020–2021

- Developed research projects in experimental phonology employing the artificial language paradigm
- Designed and conducted research in articulatory phonetics using ultrasound tongue imaging to investigate sound change
- Utilized R for statistical modeling and data visualization across phonological and phonetic research projects

Student Research Assistant, Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong
Supervisor: Tong Xiuli Shelley 2019

- Assessed cognitive and linguistic development in school-aged children with ASD using standardized diagnostic tools

Teaching experience

Instructor (Georgetown University)
LING1000 Introduction to Language Fall 2024

- Designed syllabus and assignments, delivered lectures, coordinated with co-instructor, and graded student work

Teaching assistant (Georgetown University)
Led recitations, supported course delivery, graded assignments/exams, and designed course material

LING4431 LLMs for Computational Linguistics Spring 2026
Instructor: Ethan Wilcox
LING5320 Sociolinguistic Variation Fall 2025
Instructor: Jennifer Nycz
LING1000 Introduction to Language Fall 2023
Instructor: Danni Shi
LING001 Introduction to Language Spring 2023
Instructor: Lara Bryfonski
LING215 Sounds of Language Fall 2022
Instructor: Elizabeth Zsiga

Teaching assistant (University of Hong Kong)
Led recitations, supported course delivery, graded assignments/exams, and designed course material

CCHU9066 Human learning: a life-long adventure Spring 2021
Instructor: Youngah Do
LING2004 Phonetics Fall 2020
Instructor: Jonathan Havenhill
LING2027 Phonology Fall 2020
Instructor: Youngah Do

Honors and Scholarships

Dissertation Research Travel Grant (Georgetown University) 2025
Graduate School Conference Travel Grant (Georgetown University) 2024–2025
Linguistics Department Travel Grant (Georgetown University) 2023–2025
Prize in Linguistics (University of Hong Kong) 2019–2020

Dean's Honour List (University of Hong Kong) 2016–2020
Fellow of HKU Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme 2019
HKU Worldwide Undergraduate Student Exchange Scholarships 2018–2019
HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund Reaching Out Award 2018–2019

Service and outreach

Undergraduate Research Mentor, Georgetown University Spring 2024–Present
Mentor in LING 3930 Research-based Undergraduate Linguistics Research Experience (RULE)
Supervised four undergraduate research assistants in sociolinguistics and computational linguistics research projects

Variation Lab, Georgetown University Fall 2023–Fall 2025
Organized and facilitated bi-weekly discussions on current research in variationist sociolinguistics

Abstract reviewer, CogSci2025 2025
Per-reviewed abstracts for scholarly conference submissions

Conference organizer, Georgetown University Round Table 2022: Dialect Contact (GURT 2022) Spring 2022
Coordinated with faculty, student organizers, and presenters to manage logistics, submissions, and scheduling

Skills

Programming
Python, R, Praat scripting, HTML/CSS, JavaScript

Phonetic research tools
Automatic speech recognition (ASR), Praat, Montreal Forced Aligner, ELAN, ultrasound tongue imaging, Articulate Assistant Advanced

Data science
Huggingface, Slurm, Conda

General research tools
PsychoPy, Qualtrics, LaTeX, GitHub

Languages
Cantonese, English: native/bilingual
Mandarin: advanced
Spanish, Italian, Malay, Indonesian: intermediate
Gurung, Dagaare: research