

Zhang, Longyu 张龙宇

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Education

Ghent University (Ph.D. student)	Ghent, Belgium
Oriental languages and cultures: China	Oct. 2023 - now
Ghent University (Master)	Ghent, Belgium
Oriental languages and cultures: China	Sept. 2021- Sept. 2023
Graduated with <i>summa cum laude</i> honour (‘met grootste onderscheiding’) in 2023.	
Shanghai University (Bachelor)	Shanghai, China
Chinese Language and Literature; GPA: 3.92/4.00	Sept. 2018- Jul. 2022

Doctoral Research

“Modality in Buddhist Textuality: The Grammaticalization of peripheral Modal Markers in Middle Chinese”

This project examines how Middle Chinese Buddhist texts contributed to the grammaticalization of modal expressions in Middle Chinese, with a particular focus on “peripheral” modal markers whose diachronic trajectories have received relatively little scholarly attention. Based on transmitted Chinese corpora from the Eastern Han to the Tang dynasty, supplemented where possible by Sanskrit parallels, the project investigates how grammaticalization paths influenced by Buddhist texts through different mechanisms. It further argues that, in the study of Chinese historical linguistics, the Buddhist corpus should neither be neglected nor simply incorporated into the non-Buddhist corpus as a neutral representation of Classical Chinese.

Articles under Review

Zhang, Longyu, “Formal Conservatism and Semantic Innovation in the Grammaticalization of *kǒng* 恐 in Middle Chinese Buddhist Texts.” Under review.

Zhang, Longyu, “The Grammaticalization of *nìngkě* 寧可 in Middle Chinese.” Under review.

Conferences

2026 The 13th International Conference of the European Association for Chinese Linguistics (EACL-13, Paris)

- Presentation: “Covert grammaticalization: Structural-Semantic asymmetry of *kǒng* 恐 in Middle Chinese Buddhist Texts.”

2026 The 26th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS-26, Venice)

- Organized and chaired the panel “Buddhist and Nestorian Texts as Multilingual Contact Zones: Phonological, Lexical, and Grammatical Evidence”
- Presentation: “Delayed Grammaticalization of *kǒng* 恐 in Buddhist Chinese: Constraints from Discourse-specific Semantic Domain”

2025 The 31st Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-31, Venice)

- Presentation: “Interpreting Possibility in 5th-Century Vinaya Translations: A Comparison of *néng* 能 and *kān* 堪”.

2024 European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS-25, Tallinn)

- Presentation: “Research on the grammaticalization of *níngkě* 寧可 in Medieval Chinese”.

Research Projects & Academic Activities

Sichuan Buddhist Sites: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Ghent University, 2025 – 2030

- Researcher

Doctoral School “Anyue Buddhist Sites: Iconography, Inscriptions, and Fieldwork Methodologies”

Ghent University, 2026

- Presentation: “A comparison of Liu Benzun carvings at *Bǎodǐngshān* 寶頂山 and *Pílúdòng* 毗盧洞”

Doctoral School “Current Research on Middle Chinese and Buddhist Hybrid Chinese”

Ghent University, 2025

- Co-organizer, with Prof. Dr. Christoph Anderl
- Presentation & Lecture:
 - Grammaticalization of *níngkě* 寧可 in Middle Chinese Buddhist Texts
 - Corpora and digital resources for Chinese historical linguistics

LCDDT: Lausanne Corpus of Digital Tangut Texts

Independent collaborative project, 2026 –

- In collaboration with doctoral researchers at the University of Lausanne and the University of Vienna

Research cluster “Typologies of Text: Image Relations in Buddhist Narratives”

FROGBEAR, 2022

- Published a report for the blog of the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies*.
- Co-authored “A Virtual Survey of the *Pílúdòng* 毗盧洞 Site with an Emphasis on the Tableau of Liǔ Běnzūn 柳本尊”, for the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* (in progress).

Glorisun International & Intensive Program on Buddhism

Glorisun, 2022

Internship: Database of Medieval Chinese Texts (DMCT)

Ghent University, 2021-2022

Grants and Academic Funding

2026 Panel Sponsorship, Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections

The 26th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies, Venice

Panel “Buddhist and Nestorian Texts as Multilingual Contact Zones: Phonological, Lexical, and Grammatical Evidence” (organizer, chair)

2026 FWO Grant for participation in a workshop or course abroad, Research Foundation Flanders (Belgium)

Classical Buddhist Chinese Language Summer Workshop, Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (DILA), New Taipei City

2026 Outgoing Stay Grant, Faculty Research Fund (Ghent University)

The 13th Conference of European Association of Chinese Linguistics, Paris

2025 Outgoing Stay Grant, Faculty Research Fund (Ghent University)

The 31st Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics, Venice

Teaching Experience

Co-lecturer and coordinator: Linguistic research: East Asian Languages (BA course)

Ghent University, 2024 & 2026

- Historical development of Sinitic languages
- Dialects
- Non-Sinitic languages in China

Co-lecturer: Current Research on Middle Chinese and Buddhist Hybrid Chinese (Doctoral School)

Ghent University, 2025

- Session on philological and linguistic research using corpus and digital tools, co-lecture with Anni Wang.

Academic Training

Classical Buddhist Chinese Language Summer Workshop

Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (DILA), 2026

“Methods in Language Sciences” Summer School

Ghent University, 2026

- Introduction to R
- Introduction to statistics with R

“Methods in Language Sciences” Summer School

Ghent University, 2025

- Introduction to Python
- Natural Language Processing with Python

Leiden Summer School in Languages and Linguistics

Leiden University, 2025

- Introduction to Historical Linguistics
- Introduction to Syntax
- Diachronic Changes in the Morpho-syntax of Chinese

Intensive Seminar on Digital Humanities and their Applications in Buddhist Studies

Hamburg University, 2024

Languages

Chinese (native)

Sanskrit (intermediate reading knowledge)

English (professional proficiency)

Dutch (B1)