


Project Abstracts for PhD Student Recruitment AY2025/26

Department of English Language and Literature

Project title	The Effects of Phonological Status on Phonetic Variation: The Acoustic and Articulatory Properties of Sibilants Across Chinese Dialects	
Research Clusters	<input type="checkbox"/> Creative Media/Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Drug Discovery <input type="checkbox"/> Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence in X ✓ Humanities and Cultures	 <p data-bbox="1499 1019 1738 1052">Dr LI Mingxing</p> <p data-bbox="1344 1105 1656 1166"><i>Email address:</i> mingxingli@hkbu.edu.hk</p> <p data-bbox="1344 1211 1864 1308"><i>Learn more:</i> http://eng.hkbu.edu.hk/li-mingxing/ https://sites.google.com/view/mingxingli/</p>
Keywords	<i>phonological contrast, sibilant, acoustics, variation, Chinese dialects</i>	
Project abstract	<p>This project investigates the potential influence of phonological status of a sound on the variation of its acoustic and articulatory properties, focusing on two research questions: (i) Does the existence of a phonological contrast introduce a reduced variation in the phonetic properties of a sibilant consonant? (ii) Is there a trade-off between the variation of a phonetic property and its importance to a phonological contrast? Acoustic and articulatory measurements are adopted on the production of sibilants in Chinese dialects representing different sibilant inventories. This research is expected to deepen the understanding of the relation between phonological status and phonetic property.</p>	