

EDUCATION	University of Edinburgh <i>Ph.D., Linguistics</i>	Edinburgh, UK 2024 - 2028 (<i>expected</i>)
	Harvard University <i>Fellow, Department of Linguistics</i>	Cambridge, MA January - May 2027
	SOAS University of London <i>M.A. with Distinction, Linguistics and Indonesian</i>	London, UK 2020 - 2022

JOURNAL ARTICLES	* denotes equal contribution to coauthored works	
	1. Engels, James and Robert Barnett. Developing a Semantic Search Engine for Modern Tibetan. <i>Revue D'Etudes Tibétaines</i> 74, pp. 261-283. 2025.	
	2. Kyogoku, Yuki, Franz Xaver Erhard, James Engels , & Robert Barnett. LLMs in Low-resourced language NLP: Developing a SpaCy Modern Tibetan Language Model from Scratch. <i>Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines</i> 74, pp. 187-220. 2025.	
	3. Barnett, Robert & James Engels *. Rules, Vectors and Transformers: Approaches to Text-mining for Modern Tibetan. <i>Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines</i> 74, pp. 5-43. 2025.	
	4. Uegaki, Wataru, Anne Mucha, James Engels , Ella Hannon, & Fred Whibley. Cross-linguistic dataset of force-flavor combinations in modal elements. <i>Linguistic Variation</i> 25:2, pp. 269-302. 2025.	

REVIEWED PROCEEDINGS	1. Mucha, Anne, James Engels , Fred Whibley & Wataru Uegaki. Negative Modality in Hausa, Thai and Kîtharaka. <i>Proceedings of TripleA 10</i> , pp. 1-17. University of Potsdam. 2024.
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IN PREP/SUBMITTED	1. Engels, James. <i>Xiesheng</i> imputation: a new computational method for studying Old Chinese phonology. In revision in <i>Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale</i> . Expected 2027.
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ABSTRACT- REVIEWED TALKS	1. Engels, James J. "Inaccessible and Undesirable Situations". <i>Sinn und Bedeutung</i> 31. Nantes Université. September 2026; Full paper to appear in accompanying proceedings.
	2. Engels, James and Atticus W. Mulligan. "De-Particularization as Primitive: Evidence from Tashelhiyt Berber". <i>Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain</i> (LAGB 2026). University of Edinburgh. September 2026.
	3. Engels, James. "Proximatives, Tense, and Event Sequencing in Kalenjin". <i>55th Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics</i> (CALL 55). Leiden University. August 2026.
	4. Engels, James & Federico Falletti. "Graded Tense, Temporal Reference, and Counterfactuality in Sengwer." <i>Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology</i> (ALT 16). Université Lumière de Lyon. July 2026.
	5. Engels, James. "Songlin and Himalayan Connections to Proto-Hmong-Mien". <i>Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society</i> (SEALS 35). Nanyang Technological University. June 2026.
	6. Engels, James & Tim Bodt. "Qiangic Interrelatedness and Macro-Gyalrongic: new data from Songlin." <i>International Conference of Historical Linguistics</i> (ICHL 27). Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. August 2025.
	7. Mucha, Anne, James Engels , Fred Whibley & Wataru Uegaki. "Negative modality in Hausa, Thai and Kîtharaka." <i>TripleA Workshop for Semantic Fieldworkers 10</i> . University of Potsdam. June 2023.
	8. Uegaki, Wataru, Anne Mucha, James Engels & Fred Whibley. "Negative modals cross-linguistically." <i>Workshop on Modality in Understudied Languages</i> . Humboldt University of Berlin. April 2023.
	9. Engels, James. "Adopting Old Chinese rhyme orphans with <i>xiesheng</i> imputation." <i>International Workshop on Digital Methods in Historical Linguistics, Philology, and Palaeography</i> . University of Vienna. April 2022.

INVITED TALKS	1. “Parameters of Variation in Mapudungun Modality.” Departmental Colloquium, Newcastle University. Forthcoming in 2026. 2. “Tense and Aspect in Mapudungun” (Language Tutorial). Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB). September 2026. 3. “Building a context-sensitive search system for a low-resource language.” <i>Mirrors to History: NLP and Historical Newsprint</i>. Leipzig, Germany. November 2025. 4. “Using graph theory to compare two Old Chinese reconstruction systems.” <i>Recent Advances in Digital Philology</i>, University of Vienna. June 2023. Presented with Nathan Hill. 5. “The contribution of the xiesheng hypothesis to competing theories of the Old Chinese vowel system.” <i>Workshop on the Phonology of Han Dynasty Chinese</i>, Trinity College Dublin. April 2022.
INTERNAL TALKS	1. “How Vietnamese donkeys commit the perfect crime: program repetition and indeterminate pronouns”. Meaning and Grammar Research Group, University of Edinburgh. November 2025. 2. “Songlin and the Gyalrongic frontier.” Angus McIntosh Sessions, University of Edinburgh. April 2025. 3. “Deontic priority in the lexicalization of impossibility modals.” With Wataru Uegaki, Anne Mucha, and Keyu Dong. PPLS Research Day, University of Edinburgh. June 2024.
RESEARCH POSTS	Experiment Technical Assistant U. of Edinburgh 2023.07 - 2025.09 Fieldwork Assistant U. of Edinburgh 2022.09 - 2023.06, <i>ad hoc</i> to present Researcher: NLP for Modern Tibetan SOAS/U. of Leipzig 2022.04 - 2024.06 NLP Research Assistant SOAS U. of London 2020.12 - 2021.05
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Graduate Teaching Assistant U. of Edinburgh 2025.09 - present • <i>Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing</i> (Fall 2026) • <i>Introduction to Cognitive Science</i> (Fall 2025, Fall 2026) • <i>Logic 1</i> (Grader only, Spring 2026) • <i>LEL2D (Linguistic Typology)</i> (Spring 2026) Guest Lecturer Various 2025 - present • <i>Introduction to Cognitive Science</i>, University of Edinburgh • <i>Pragmatics</i> (Y2 undergraduate), Newcastle University (UK) Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Hope College, USA 2014.09 - 2015.04 • <i>Ancient Greek I/II</i>
EXTERNAL TRAINING	• Summer School for Ancient Trans-Himalayan Languages (SSATH), Trinity College Dublin, Ireland 2026.06 • Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG), University of Zagreb, Croatia 2025.08 • Automatic Speech Recognition in Low-Resource Languages, University of Cambridge, UK 2023.04 • European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLI), NUI Galway, Ireland 2022.07-08 • International Workshop in Linguistic Fieldwork (FieldLing), INALCO-BULAC, France 2021.07
AWARDS, HONORS, & GRANTS	• AHRC Research Training and Support Grant (£1750) 2026.02 • Tweedie Research Fellowship (£665) 2026.01 • PPLS Research Support Grants (totaling £1155) 2025.08-

- SGSAH Engagement Fund Grant (£2260) 2025.06
- SGSAH/AHRC PhD Fellowship 2024.09-
- Edinburgh PPLS PhD Scholarship (declined)
- Special Language Scholarship, SOAS U. of London (£5000) 2020-2022
- International Postgraduate Scholarship, SOAS U. of London (£3500) 2020-2022

ACADEMIC SERVICE

* denotes committee chair

Reviewing for: *Glossa*, *Journal of Semantics* (co-review)

Conference/Workshop Organization: Edinburgh Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference (LELPGC) 2026*, LELPGC 2025, Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory 6 (2022)

Institutional Service: Co-founder and organizer, WILLOW (Edinburgh working group on understudied languages); Co-founder and organizer, Semantics and Pragmatics Reading Group (2024-); Co-founder and organizer, Native and Indigenous Languages of the Americas Research Group (2024-25; succeeded by WILLOW)

Professional Memberships: Linguistics Association of Great Britain, Philological Society

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Three Minute Thesis Competition, University of Edinburgh. 2026.05

Edinburgh Science Festival: co-presenter, *Let's Grow a Language!* 2025.06

University Challenge (BBC). LSE, first team. 2019.02

NONACADEMIC SERVICE

Literacy Tutor | Thảo Đàn Social Protection Center, TPHCM 2016.10-2017.05

LANGUAGES

NATIVE/Proficient: ENGLISH, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, Malay/Indonesian

Intermediate: Arabic (Egyptian & MSA), Russian

Reading Knowledge: Latin, Ancient Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch

Fieldwork(*) and Research Languages: Mapudungun*, Sengwer*, Classical Chinese, Modern Tibetan

Other Languages Studied: Tangut, Manchu