

SINITIC LANGUAGES IN AREAL PERSPECTIVE

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Course syllabus

This course will take place over five sessions (one week). In a crosslinguistic and areal perspective, it aims to highlight some of the more unusual features of Sinitic, and to strongly challenge the widely held viewpoint that Chinese languages are representatives of the analytic, isolating type *par excellence*.

- Topic 1 *Typological features of Sinitic languages*
- 1.1. Background on Sinitic languages (Sinitic, Sino-Tibetan)
 - 1.2. Basic word orders:
 - 1.3. Was proto-Chinese SVO or SOV? –The historical evidence
 - 1.4. A new typological profile
- Topic 2 *Areal linguistics in China*
- 2.1. The five main linguistic areas of China
 - 2.2. Contact with Zhuang (Tai) languages in the south
 - 2.3. Contact with Mongolian and Turkic languages in the northwest
 - 2.4. Austronesian and tonal: the Huihui language of Hainan
- Topic 3 *Morpho-phonological phenomena*
- 3.1. Tones and tone sandhi: grammatical functions
 - 3.2. Morphologization (Case 1): Diminutives
 - 3.3. Morphologization (Case 2): Aspect marking
 - 3.4. Emergence of case
- Topic 4 *Classifiers and the noun phrase:*
- 4.1. Classifier systems and default classifiers
 - 4.2. Bare classifiers and lone anaphors
 - 4.3. Possession and classifiers
 - 4.4. Sinitic languages losing their classifiers
- Topic 5 *Common grammaticalization pathways in Sinitic languages and their areal characteristics*
- 5.1. Differential object marking constructions
 - 5.2. Dative and ditransitive constructions
 - 5.3. Quotative verbs and complementizers, mirative discourse markers
 - 5.4. Comparative markers: polarity, topic, *surpass* and *win/defeat* types