

**The K.T. Tang Faculty Excellence Award in Research** is made possible by an endowment established by Wilfred Chan, a 1974 alumnus of PLU, in honor of his former professor, K.T. Tang, Professor Emeritus of Physics. The awards recognize faculty scholars who have made significant contributions to their disciplines through dissemination of research findings related to the discovery, integration, or application of knowledge. This year we honor:

**Dr. Sara Finley, Assistant Professor of Psychology**

Professor Finley's research focuses on the psychological mechanisms that underlie spoken language. A colleague at another university describes Professor Finley as "one of the finest scholars working in experimental phonology today," describing Sara as one of the first researchers to show empirically that our ability to learn language is constrained through the biases we bring to the task of language acquisition.

Professor Finley's breadth of expertise is remarkable. She is an expert in both psychological experimentation and linguistic theory, with particular knowledge of the distribution of grammatical patterns across the world's languages.

Professor Finley's research record is long and distinguished, far exceeding the expectations at this stage in her career. She has 13 publications in top journals and 11 peer-reviewed conference proceedings. Since 2016, she has published 3 articles, given 2 invited talks at other universities, and delivered 6 peer-reviewed conference presentations.

Sara has been described by an international colleague as being "in the top five researchers in her field in her generation."

For her excellence in research, we congratulate Sara Finley.