

Rok Sim

Linguistics Program
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Education

Sep 2019 – present **Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Linguistics, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA**
Dissertation defense scheduled Jan 16, 2026; expected May 2026.

Dissertation *The Development of Indefinites in Korean: A Corpus-Based Analysis*

Advisors Stanley Dubinsky; Emily Manetta

Committee Anne Bezuidenhout; Brett Sherman; Jiwon Yun (Stony Brook University)

Sep 2014 – Feb 2017 **M.A., English Linguistics, Department of English Language and Literature, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea**
Advisor: Jong-Bok Kim

Mar 2008 – Aug 2014 **B.A., English, School of English, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea**

Research and Teaching

Research Language change and variation; Korean linguistics and Korean language studies; applied linguistics; corpus and experimental methods; GenAI/LLM evaluation

Teaching Korean (elementary–intermediate; university and community settings); culture- and media-integrated instruction; prepared to teach applied linguistics, corpus methods, and research methods

Methods Corpus analysis; quantitative modeling; perception and experimental design

Languages Korean (native); English (fluent)

Teaching Experience

Sep 2023 – present **Instructor of Record, Korean, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of South Carolina**
○ Elementary Korean 121 (Fall 2023; Spring 2024; Fall 2024)
○ Basic Proficiency in Korean 122 (Spring 2024; Spring 2026)

Sep 2019 – May 2022 **Korean Instructor, Korean School of Columbia, Columbia, SC**
○ Adults: Korean as a foreign language (Beginner; Intermediate)
○ Youth: Korean as a foreign language (Beginner; Advanced)

Teaching Development

Technology	Developed a Korean learning app (link) featuring authentic, learnable videos, with AI-supported guided practice and structured shadowing for pronunciation and vocabulary learning.
Assessment	Designed scaffolded lessons and proficiency-aligned assessments; provided frequent formative feedback.
Engagement	Organized Hangul (한글) writing competitions in celebration of Hangul Day (한글 날) (Oct. 9) and other cultural activities; led weekly K-drama-based discussion sessions (Summer–Fall 2025; e.g., <i>When Life Gives You Tangerines</i> link); will serve as the facilitator for Korean Language Table (Spring 2026) at the University of South Carolina.

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **In press.** Noh, Hyeseon* and Rok Sim*†. Constructing the “Other”: Online racialized hate speech and perceived threats in South Korea. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. ♦ WoS: SSCI [PDF](#)
- **In press.** Sim, Rok* and Jungsoo Kim*†. A collostructional approach to the concealed passive construction in English. *English Language and Linguistics*. ♦ WoS: A&HCI, SSCI [PDF](#)
- 2025. Sim, Rok* and Jungsoo Kim*†. Dialectal and constructional variation in the *out of V-ing* construction: A corpus-based analysis. *Language and Information*, 29(3), 149–185. ♦ KCI [PDF](#)
- 2025. Sim, Rok. Framing K-Beauty in U.S. and U.K. news: A corpus-based study. *The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal*, 33(4), 129–161. ♦ KCI [PDF](#)
- 2025. Kim, Jungsoo* and Rok Sim*†. Persuasive Americans vs. brutal Brits? A collostructional study of the transitive *out of V-ing* construction. *Linguistic Research*, 42(3), 739–769. ♦ WoS: ESCI ♦ KCI [PDF](#)
- 2025. Crosby, Drew* and Rok Sim*†. -Nuntey for not-at-issue content: A preliminary survey of procedural meaning in Korean. *The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal*, 33(3), 97–128. ♦ KCI [PDF](#)
- 2025. Sim, Rok* and Drew Crosby*†. Phonology meets AI: Can ChatGPT detect and differentiate cuteness in Korean aegyo? *The Journal of Linguistic Science*, 114, 389–419. ♦ KCI [PDF](#)
- 2024. Blanchette, Frances, Stanley Dubinsky, Amanda Harman, and Rok Sim. This construction needs understood: An experimental study of the Alternative Embedded Passive (AEP). *American Speech: A Quarterly of Linguistic Usage*, 1–29. ♦ WoS: A&HCI, SSCI [PDF](#)
- 2024. Kim, Jungsoo* and Rok Sim*†. A collostructional and constructional approach to the transitive *out of V-ing* construction. *English Studies*, 105(2), 263–289. ♦ WoS: A&HCI [PDF](#)
- 2023. Sim, Rok*, Drew Crosby*†, and D. Eric Holt. A vestige-theory variationist approach to the variable assimilation pattern in Korean nasal-liquid sequences. *Korean Journal of Linguistics*, 48(4), 855–889. ♦ KCI (Excellent Accredited Journal) [PDF](#)

- 2023. Nykiel, Joanna, Jong-Bok Kim, and **Rok Sim**. Case-matching effects under clausal ellipsis and the cue-based theory of sentence processing. *Journal of Linguistics*, 59(2), 327–360. ♦ WoS: A&HCI, SSCI
[PDF](#)
- 2019. Kim, Jungsoo, Mija Kim, and **Rok Sim**. Iconicity and properties of Korean *-ceny* ‘before’ and *-hwuey-nase* ‘after’ temporal clauses: A corpus-based perspective. *Korean Journal of Linguistics*, 45(3), 477–513. ♦ KCI (Excellent Accredited Journal)
- 2018. Kim, Jong-Bok and **Rok Sim**. Horn-amalgam constructions: A construction-based analysis. *Studies in Generative Grammar*, 28(4), 677–698. ♦ KCI
- 2015. **Sim, Rok**^{*} and Jong-Bok Kim^{*†}. The transitive *out of V-ing* construction in English: A corpus-based study (in Korean). *The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal*, 23(4), 189–210. ♦ KCI

REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2024. **Sim, Rok**^{*†} and Stanley Dubinsky^{*}. Two classes of ‘anyone’: A contrastive analysis of *amwu* and *nwukwu* in Korean. In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 47)*, 147–155.
- 2021. **Sim, Rok**^{*†} and Stanley Dubinsky^{*}. Concealed passives and the syntax and semantics of *need/philyo* in English and Korean. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 8(1), 1–8.
- 2019. Kim, Jong-Bok, Jungsoo Kim, and **Rok Sim**. Conceptual metaphorical extensions of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ in English and Korean: A usage-based approach. In *Proceedings of the 30th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation*.
- 2018. Nykiel, Joanna, Jong-Bok Kim, **Rok Sim**, and Okgi Kim. Morphosyntactic form of Korean fragments is relevant to their resolution. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 27(3), 1–14.

Conference Presentations

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025. Kim, Jungsoo and **Rok Sim**. English concealed passive constructions: A collostructional and constructional approach. KSLI Summer Conference, June 14, Kyungpook National University.
- 2025. **Sim, Rok**. This syntax needs updating: A corpus-based study of the concealed passive. GSLING Student Research Symposium (SRS) Brown Bag, April 18, University of South Carolina.
- 2025. Noh, Hyeseon and **Sim, Rok**. Dynamics of racialized hate speech. Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Science, March 11–15, Denver, CO.
- 2024. **Sim, Rok** and Drew Crosby. Robotic cuteness: ChatGPT evaluations of Korean aegyo. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52 (NNAV 52), November 7–9, Miami, FL.
- 2024. Kim, Jungsoo and **Rok Sim**. A collostructional approach to the English concealed passive

construction. Summer Linguistics Joint Conference, August 20–21, Chungnam National University.

- 2024. **Sim, Rok**, Amanda Dalola, and Drew Crosby. Talking cute: How age and gender shape perceptions of Korean aegyo. LabPhon 19: The 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, June 27–29, Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2024. **Sim, Rok**, Drew Crosby, and D. Eric Holt. A vestige-theory approach to the variable assimilation pattern in Korean nasal-liquid sequences. Poster presented at the Linguistic Society of America 98, January 4–7, New York, NY.
- 2023. **Sim, Rok**, Drew Crosby, and D. Eric Holt. The effect of age, morphological structure, and syllable count on the realization of Korean nasal-liquid sequences. Linguistic Society of Korea Winter Conference, December 9, Kyung Hee University.
- 2023. Kim, Jungsoo and **Rok Sim**. Transitive *out of V-ing* construction: A collostructional and constructional approach. Linguistic Society of Korea Winter Conference, December 9, Kyung Hee University.
- 2023. **Sim, Rok**, Drew Crosby, and D. Eric Holt. Factors conditioning variable assimilation in Korean nasal-liquid sequences. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51 (NWA 51), October 13–15, Queens College.
- 2023. **Sim, Rok** and Stanley Dubinsky. Two classes of ‘anyone’: A contrastive analysis of *amwu* and *nwukwu* in Korean. 47th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 47), March 18–19, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2023. Blanchette, Frances, Stanley Dubinsky, Amanda Harman, and **Rok Sim**. This construction needs understood: An experimental study of the vernacular verbal passive. Linguistic Society of America 97, January 5–8, Denver, CO.
- 2022. **Sim, Rok**. Koreans’ perception of the baby-talk register aegyo: An experimental study. GSLING Student Research Symposium (SRS) Brown Bag, November 19, University of South Carolina.
- 2022. **Sim, Rok** and Amanda Dalola. How can I sound cuter? Age and gender effects in the perception of Korean aegyo. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 50 (NWA 50), October 13–15, Stanford University.
- 2022. Blanchette, Frances, Stanley Dubinsky, Amanda Harman, and **Rok Sim**. The syntax and semantics of *needs washed*: The vernacular verbal passive. American Dialect Society Annual Meeting, January 6–9, Washington, DC.
- 2021. **Sim, Rok** and Jungsoo Kim. The transitive *out of V-ing* construction in American and British English: A corpus-based investigation. GSLING Student Research Symposium (SRS) Brown Bag, November 6, University of South Carolina.
- 2021. **Sim, Rok** and Stanley Dubinsky. Pseudo-passive noun objects of English *need* and Korean *philyo*. Discover UofSC, April 23, virtual.

- 2021. **Sim, Rok** and Stanley Dubinsky. The syntax and semantics of *need/philyo* in English and Korean. Poster presented at Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7–10, virtual.
- 2020. Kim, Jong-Bok, Jungsoo Kim, and **Rok Sim**. Discourse-based answering systems: An experiment-based analysis. Poster presented at Linguistic Evidence 2020, February 13–15, Universität Tübingen.
- 2019. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. Andrew-amalgams in English: A construction-based perspective. Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society, April 26–28, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2018. Kim, Jong-Bok, Jungsoo Kim, and **Rok Sim**. Conceptual metaphorical extensions of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ in English and Korean: A usage-based approach. 30th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC 30), December 1–3, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- 2018. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. Horn-amalgam constructions: A construction-based approach. Fall Conference of the Linguistic Association of Korea, October 20, Chosun University.
- 2018. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. The so-called *it*-cleft amalgam in English: A construction-based approach. Northwest Linguistics Conference (NWLC), April 28–29, Simon Fraser University.
- 2018. Nykiel, Joanna, Jong-Bok Kim, **Rok Sim**, and Okgi Kim. Morphosyntactic form of Korean fragments is relevant to their resolution. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, January 4–7, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2016. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. Cleft amalgams in English: A usage-based approach. UTASCILT, November 4, University of Texas at Arlington.
- 2016. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. Cleft amalgams in English: A construction-based perspective. Linguistic Science Society Summer Conference, Kyungpook National University.
- 2016. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. *Wh*-syntactic amalgams in English: A construction-based perspective. Northwest Linguistics Conference (NWLC), April 23–24, University of Washington.
- 2015. **Sim, Rok** and Jong-Bok Kim. The transitive *out of V-ing* construction in English: A usage-based approach. Rice Linguistics Society, March 20–21, Rice University.

Manuscripts Under Review and In Draft

PAPERS SUBMITTED TO JOURNALS

- **Revise & Resubmit.** Crosby, Drew, **Rok Sim**, and Amanda Dalola. Too cute to compute: A simple metric for listener sensitivity to phonetic variation in Korean aegyo. Submitted to *Linguistic Research*. ♦ WoS: ESCI ♦ KCI PDF
- **Revise & Resubmit.** **Sim, Rok**. Wh-amalgams in English: A construction-based analysis. Submitted to *The Journal of Linguistic Science*. ♦ KCI PDF

- **Under review.** Sim, Rok and Drew Crosby. Aegyo as a phonology benchmark for LLMs: Gradient cuteness and a markedness penalty. Submitted to *Journal of Language Sciences*.  [KCI](#) [PDF](#)
- **Under review.** Sim, Rok and Jiyeon Song. Covert domain restriction and distributivity in Korean -ssik across humans and LLMs. Submitted to *The Journal of Studies in Language*.  [KCI](#) [PDF](#)

MANUSCRIPTS

- **In manuscript** (previously rejected from *Language Sciences*). Sim, Rok, Amanda Dalola, and Drew Crosby. Vocal cuteness: Age and gender effects in the perception of Korean aegyo.  [WoS: A&HCI, SSCI](#)
- **In manuscript** (previously received revise & resubmit from *Syntax*). Song, Jiyeon, Stanley Dubinsky, and Rok Sim. Korean anti-quantifier -ssik 'each': Experimental evidence for its semantics and syntax.  [WoS: A&HCI, SSCI](#)
- **In draft.** Sim, Rok. Animacy and the applicative split in Korean *philyoha-* 'need' constructions. [PDF](#)
- **In draft.** Sim, Rok. Concealed passive constructions in English and Korean. [PDF](#)
- **In preparation.** Sim, Rok, Jiyeon Song, and Stanley Dubinsky. What do models say they used? Explanations for covert domain restriction in Korean -ssik.

Invited Talks

- **2024.** Sim, Rok. A perception study of Korean aegyo: Comparing human and ChatGPT responses. Invited talk, LING 205 (Korean Popular Culture and Language), University of South Carolina, Fall 2024 (host: Dr. Elaine Chun).

Workshops

- **2022.** Sim, Rok. Playing with PsychoPy: An introduction to online experimental design. Workshop, Kyung Hee University, Spring 2022 (host: Dr. Jungsoo Kim).

Fellowships

Sep 2019 – present **Graduate Assistantship**, *University of South Carolina*, Columbia, SC, USA
 Sep 2014 – Feb 2017 **Research Assistant Scholarship**, *Kyung Hee University*, Seoul, Korea

Professional Memberships

2025 – present American Association of Teachers of Korean
 2025 – present Linguistic Science Society
 2025 – present Linguistic Association of Korea
 2025 – present Language and Information

2018 – present Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

2017 – 2019 Institute for the Study of Language and Information (ISLI)

Skills

Corpus and quantitative methods Corpus analysis (historical and contemporary); quantitative modeling; data management and visualization.

Experimental methods Perception study design; survey and rating tasks; experimental materials development.

Language technology GenAI/LLM evaluation; comparative human–model analysis.

Tools Node.js; R; Python; L^AT_EX; Praat; PsychoPy; PennController (IBEX).