

Seung Suk Lee

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN LINGUISTICS

McGill University, 1085 Dr. Penfield Avenue, Montréal, QC, Canada H3A 1A7

✉ seung.suk.lee@mcgill.ca | 🏠 seungsuklee.github.io | 📄 github.com/seungsuklee

Employment

Postdoctoral researcher

Montréal, QC, Canada

McGILL UNIVERSITY

September 2025 - July 2027

- PI: Morgan Sonderegger—Explaining sound change through mapping the distribution of phonetic biases and automatic speech analysis
- PI: Meghan Clayards—Towards a robust mode of individual differences in context effects in speech perception

Education

University of Massachusetts

Amherst

PHD IN LINGUISTICS

August 2019 - August 2025

- Dissertation committee chair: Dr. Kristine M. Yu
- Dissertation committee member: Dr. John Kingston
- External committee member: Dr. Mara Breen
- Title: “Simultaneous encoding and decoding of laryngeal contrasts and prosodic structure in Seoul Korean”

Indiana University

Bloomington

BA WITH HONORS IN LINGUISTICS

August 2013 - May 2019

- High Distinction
- Honors thesis: “Speech Rate Effects On VOT in a 3-category Language: Evidence from Hakha Chin”
- Advisor: Dr. Kelly Berkson
- Minor in Second Language Studies
- Minor in Spanish

Publications

Lee, S. S. *Under revision*. “Lenition of lenis obstruents in Seoul Korean spontaneous speech”.

Lee, S. S., Pater, J., Prickett, B. *Under revision*. “Representing and learning stress in a MaxEnt framework”.

Lee, S. S., Pater, J., Prickett, B. *To appear*. “Representing and learning stress in a MaxEnt framework”. Supplemental Proceedings of the 2024 Annual Meeting on Phonology. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America.

Lee, S. S. 2023. Detecting Accentual Phrase boundaries in Seoul Korean using tonal and segmental cues. In: Radek Skarnitzl & Jan Volín (Eds.), Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (pp. 1681–1685). Guarant International.

Hughes, C., **Lee, S. S.**, Farinella, A., and Yu, K. M. 2023. Phonetic implementation of phonologically different high tone plateaus in Luganda. In: Radek Skarnitzl & Jan Volín (Eds.), Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (pp. 1985–1989). Guarant International.

Lee, S. S., Hughes, C., Farinella, A., and Pater, J. 2023. “Learning Stress with Feet and Grids: Annual Meeting on Phonology”. In Noah Elkins, Bruce Hayes, Jinyoung Jo and Jian-Leat Siah (eds.), Supplemental Proceedings of the 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America.

Darcy, I., Rocca, B., Hancock, Z., and **Lee, S. S.** 2020. Do individual differences in stress perception and in selective attention relate to improvements in spontaneous speech? *Fremdsprachen Lehren und Lernen (FLuL)*, 49(2): 28-45. doi:10.2357/FLuL-2020-0017

Lee, S. S. and Berkson, K. 2019. Speech-rate effects in a 3-category language: Evidence from Hakha Chin. *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages and Cultures*, 1(1).

Conference Presentations

[ORAL PRESENTATIONS]

- Yu, Kristine M., Kaiser, Charlotte, Farinella, Alessa, and **Seung Suk Lee**. 2025. "Cross-linguistic evidence for prosodic domains: are tones "different"?". Exploring Boundaries, March 13 2025, UIT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø.
- Lee, Seung Suk**. 2024. Predictability and phonological context interact in conditioning the acoustic reduction of Seoul Korean lenis obstruents. CorpusPhon. Seoul, South Korea.
- Lee, Seung Suk**. 2024. Modeling the variability of the obstruent lenition in Seoul Korean: prosody, phonological context and predictability. PhphoNE. Amherst, MA.
- Hughes, Cerys, **Lee, Seung Suk**, Farinella, Alessa, and Kristine M. Yu. 2023. Phonetic implementation of phonologically different high tone plateaus in Luganda. International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Lee, Seung Suk**, Farinella, Alessa; Hughes, Cerys; and Kristine M. Yu. 2021. Phonetic implementation of phonologically different high tone plateaus in Luganda. 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI), Sonderborg, Denmark.

[POSTERS]

- Lee, Seung Suk**, Pater, Joe, and Brandon Prickett. 2024. Representing and learning stress in a MaxEnt framework. Annual Meeting on Phonology, Rutgers University, NJ.
- Lee, Seung Suk**. 2024. Prosodically conditioned lenition, not voicing, of lenis obstruents in Seoul Korean spontaneous speech. Laboratory Phonology 19, Seoul, South Korea.
- Farinella, Alessa and **Lee, Seung Suk**. 2024. The perception of tonal and segmental cues to phrasing in Seoul Korean. Laboratory Phonology 19, Seoul, South Korea.
- Lee, Seung Suk**. 2023. Detecting Accentual Phrase boundaries in Seoul Korean using tonal and segmental cues. International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Lee, Seung Suk**. 2023. Detecting Accentual Phrase boundaries in Seoul Korean using tonal and segmental cues. HISPhonCog, Seoul, South Korea.
- Lee, Seung Suk**, Hughes, Cerys, Farinella, Alessa, and Joe Pater. 2022. Learning Stress with Feet and Grids: Annual Meeting on Phonology, University of California Los Angeles, CA.
- Hughes, Cerys, **Lee, Seung Suk**, Farinella, Alessa, and Kristine M. Yu. 2022. Phonetic implementation of phonologically different high tone plateaus in Luganda. Laboratory Phonology 18, Virtual.
- Lee, Seung Suk**. 2022. Finding Accentual Phrases in a spontaneous speech corpus of Seoul Korean using segmental allophony. Laboratory Phonology 18, Virtual.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

- 2019 **Provost's Awards for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity in the Social and Applied Sciences category (Advisor: Dr. Kelly Berkson)**, Indiana University
- 2018 **Phi Beta Kappa**, Indiana University
- 2018 **Hotton Honors College Summer Research Grant**, Indiana University
- 2018 **Edward L. Hutton International Experiences Program Grant**, Indiana University

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2024 **Instructor**, Introduction to Linguistics *UMass Amherst*
- Spring 2024 **Teaching Assistant**, Advanced Computational Linguistics, Instructor: Dr. Gaja Jarosz *UMass Amherst*
- Spring 2022 **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Linguistics, Instructor: Dr. Kyle Johnson *UMass Amherst*
- Fall 2021, **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Phonetics, Instructor: Dr. John Kingston *UMass Amherst*
- Fall 2023
- Spring 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Linguistics, Instructor: Dr. Magda Oiry *UMass Amherst*

Mentoring Experience

Fall 2024 **Undergraduate Thesis Advisor**, Co-advised with Dr. John Kingston,
Student: Charlotte Kaiser, “Vietnamese Tone and Segment Coordination”

UMass Amherst

Research Assistantships

Research on learning stress patterns with foot-based and grid-based constraints

UMass Amherst

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: DR. JOE PATER AND DR. GAJA JAROSZ

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

- Created a cleaner database for stress typology
- Implemented a Linear Programming solver for Harmonic Grammar in Python.
- Link to the software: <https://github.com/seungsuklee/SoftStress>
- Investigated differences between Foot-based constraint sets and Grid-based constraint sets in learning the attested stress typology

Research on learning phonological patterns

UMass Amherst

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: DR. JOSEPH PATER AND DR. LISA SANDERS

Fall 2021

- Implemented an online experiment with PClbex to test the learnability of different musical patterns that are analogous to phonological patterns

The Second Language Psycholinguistics Lab

IU Bloomington

LAB DIRECTOR: DR. ISABELLE DARCY

October 2017 - May 2019

- Implemented a psycholinguistic experiment with PsychoPy
- Assisted conducting EEG experiments

Service

Co-editor, Proceedings of the 11th Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas (SULA 11)

Reviewer, Journal of Phonetics

Languages

Korean (native), English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)

Programming and Software

Python, R, Praat, Praat Script, \LaTeX , PClbex, Qualtrics, PsychoPy