

Nikolas E. Webster

he/him/his • newebste@ucsc.edu • people.ucsc.edu/~newebste/

Department of Linguistics
University of California, Santa Cruz
1156 High St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Research interests

Syntactic theory, nominal syntax, argument structure, language typology, experimental syntax; Korean, Turkish, and other head-final languages

Education

- 2020 – present **University of California, Santa Cruz**
Ph.D. in Linguistics. Primary advisor: [Ivy Sichel](#)
- 2015 – 2019 **New York University**
summa cum laude
B.A. in Linguistics, with honors
Minors in Korean Language and Studio Art

Papers

Manuscripts

- 2023 [Webster, N.](#) Investigating prominence alignment pressures in Korean event nominals. [Second qualifying paper, UC Santa Cruz].
- 2022 [Webster, N.](#) Nominal argument structure in Korean: an analysis of argument realization in non-derived nominals. [First qualifying paper/MA thesis, UC Santa Cruz].

Presentations

Conference talks

- May 2024
(upcoming) Cao, Y. & [Webster, N.](#) Head Movement as PF-Raising: Evidence from Swahili RCs. *Talk at the 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, ACAL55*. McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada. May 2-4.

Poster presentations

January 2024 [Webster, N.](#) & Wagers, M. Processing thematic (mis)alignment in Korean nominals. *Poster at the 6th California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, CAMP[6]*. Stanford University, Stanford, CA. January 13-14.

Reading groups & colloquia

October 2023 [Webster, N.](#) On the argument structure of eventive nominals in Korean. *Syntax and Semantics Circle at the University of California, Berkeley*.

February 2023 [Webster, N.](#) New prospects for the nature of argument structure: on eventive nominals in Korean. *S-Circle, a forum for syntax and semantics at UC Santa Cruz*.

Local invited talks

March 2023 [Webster, N.](#) Eventive nominals in Korean and the nature of argument structure. *Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz*.

May 2022 [Webster, N.](#) Nominal argument structure in Korean: an analysis of argument realization in non-derived nominals. *Graduate Research Symposium, UC Santa Cruz*.

Research positions

Summer 2021 **Graduate Research Assistant (GSR)**
University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics
PIs: [Jaye Padgett](#), [Ryan Bennett](#), [Grant McGuire](#)
Fellow graduate collaborator: [Maya Wax Cavallaro](#)
Reviewing, analyzing and correcting EdgeTrack traces of ultrasound frames for mentors' work on tongue-body position of Irish and Russian palatized consonants.

Summer 2017 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
New York University, Department of Linguistics
PIs: [Maria Gouskova](#), [Gillian Gallagher](#)
Root identification and affix segmentation of Bolivian Quechua corpus, for mentors' extended research projects on non-local phonological alternations.

Teaching experience

2021 – present **Teaching Assistant**
University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics

- 2023 – 2024 Spring 2024 – LING 80K: Invented Languages. Head instructor: [Andrew Angeles](#)
 Winter 2024 – LING 113: Syntax II. Head instructor: [Mia Gong](#)
 Fall 2023 – LING 112: Syntax I. Head instructor: [Ivy Sichel](#)
- 2022 – 2023 Summer 2023 – LING 80K: Invented Languages. Head instructor: [Andrew Angeles](#)
 Spring 2023 – LING 112: Syntax I. Head instructor: [Maziar Toosarvandani](#)
 Winter 2023 – LING 80C: Language, Society & Culture. Head instructor: [Jaye Padgett](#)
 Fall 2022 – LING 80M: Language and Indigeneity. Head instructor: [Ryan Bennett](#)
- 2021 – 2022 Summer 2022 – LING 131: Spanglish. Head instructor: [Jason Ostrove](#)
 Spring 2022 – LING 50: Introduction to Linguistics. Head instructor: [Matt Wagers](#)
 Winter 2022 – LING 100: Phonetics I. Head instructor: [Amanda Rysling](#)
 Fall 2021 – LING 112: Syntax I. Head instructor: [Andrew Hedding](#)
- 2016 – 2019 **7th & 8th Grade Essay and Writing Tutor**
 New York University, America Reads and Counts
 Stationed at the [Ella Baker School](#) (M225), New York, New York

Pedagogy certifications

- Spring 2022 **Graduate Certificate in Teaching for Equity**
 UC Santa Cruz Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (CITL)
Recognizes completion of a quarter-long professional development series focused on key issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education teaching and learning.

Mentorship and service

- 2023 – present **Linguistics Graduate Representative**
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Responsibilities include attending faculty meetings, providing input on graduate student issues, coordinating student activities related to recruitment, and serving as the graduate student representative for department search committees.
- 2022 – present **Equity in Linguistics (EquiL) Co-organizer**
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Co-organizer and member of [EquiL](#), a student-led working group that focuses on projects to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the department and field.

- Spring 2023 **Honig Undergraduate Research Assistant Program**
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Undergraduate RAs: Seoleen Lee, Alison Sun
 Funded by the [Tanya Honig Development Fund](#)
Corpus annotation of Sino-Korean event nouns
- Spring 2023 **WCCFL41 Organizing Committee Volunteer**
The 41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics
 Hosted by University of California, Santa Cruz
- Spring 2022 **HSP2022 Organizing Committee Volunteer**
The 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing
 Hosted by University of California, Santa Cruz
- 2021 – 2022 **Science Internship Program (SIP)**
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Mentorship to small groups of high school interns, introducing key research skills and demystifying the scientific research process.
- Summer 2022 – Research Mentor and Applicant Reviewer
Code-mixing and multilingual identity in Korean lyricism
 Summer 2021 – Research Mentor
Corpora statistics on pre-nominal elements in Korean

Industry experience

- 2019 – 2022 **Contracted Native EN Linguist**
[Defined.AI](#) via Upwork
 Freelance consultant for projects needing linguistic support, such as text-tagging for AI improvement, X-SAMPA phonetic transcription, and text normalization.

Summer schools

- Summer 2022 CreteLing Summer School at the University of Crete in Rethymno, Greece.
- Summer 2017 HU German Language Academy at Humboldt Universität in Berlin, Germany.
- Summer 2016 Korean Language Institute (KLI) at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea.

Honors, awards, scholarships

- 2023 Ladusaw Research and Travel Supplement Award
 University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics

- 2023 Graduate Dean's Research Travel Grant (Spring 2023)
University of California, Santa Cruz
- 2020 – 2022 Graduate Student Success Fellowship
University of California, Santa Cruz, [The Humanities Institute](#)
- 2020 – 2021 Regents' Fellowship
University of California, Santa Cruz
Funding package for first-year Ph.D. students.
- 2019 Robert A. Fowkes Prize for Excellence and Achievement in Linguistics
New York University, Department of Linguistics
In recognition of exemplary linguistic work completed by a graduating senior.
- 2019 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society – Beta Chapter of New York

Merit-based undergraduate scholarship awards

- 2018 Blume Family Scholarship (New York University)
- 2018 Nathan Sawaya Brick Artist Scholarship (New York University)
- 2018 Gut Family Scholarship (New York University)
- 2017 Gut Family Scholarship (New York University)
- 2015 - 2019 CAS Scholarship (New York University, College of Arts and Sciences)
Four-year funding package for exemplary scholars pursuing a degree in the humanities.

Skills

Languages

English (native), Korean (advanced, research-focused), German (beginner, heritage), Turkish (beginner)

Programming

R, Perl, Python, CSS and HTML

Software

Praat, \LaTeX , Notepad++, RStudio
Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)