Nikolas E. Webster

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Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Cruz
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Education

2020 – present **University of California, Santa Cruz**
Ph.D. candidate in Linguistics.
Advisor: Ivy Sichel

2015 – 2019 **New York University**
summa cum laude
B.A. in Linguistics, with honors
Minors in Korean Language and Studio Art

Publications

Proceedings papers

in prep **Webster, N**. Acategorial licensing of internal arguments in Korean. In Proceedings of the 26th SICOGG/18th WAFL.

submitted **Webster, N** & Cao, Y. Derivational timing of auxiliary insertion in Swahili relative clauses. In Proceedings of the 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics.

Edited volumes

to appear **Webster, N**., Kiper, Y., Wang. H., & Lyu, L. (eds). *Proceedings of the 41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL41).*

Manuscripts

2024 **Webster, N**. Acategorial licensing of internal arguments. [Qualifying exam, UCSC].

2023 **Webster, N**. Investigating prominence alignment pressures in Korean event nominals. [Second qualifying paper, UCSC].

2022 **Webster, N**. Nominal argument structure in Korean: an analysis of argument realization in non-derived nominals. [First qualifying paper, UCSC].

Presentations

Conference talks

2024 **Webster, N**. Acategorial licensing of internal arguments in Korean. *Talk at the 18th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics and the 26th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (WALF18 & SICOGG26 joint conference).* Jeonbuk National University, Jeonju, South Korea. August 22-24.

2024 Cao, Y. & **Webster, N**. Head Movement as PF-Raising/Lowering in Swahili RCs. *Talk at the 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, ACAL55.* McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada. May 2-4.

Conference posters

2024 **Webster, N**., Kogan, M., Cartner, M., Wagers, M. & Sichel, I. Subject islands are not caused by information structure clashes: evidence from topicalization. *Poster at the 30th Meeting of AMLaP (Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing).* The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland. September 5-7.

2024 **Webster, N**., Byun, H. & Wagers, M. Processing arguments in Korean nominal predicates. *Poster at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, HSP 37.* University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. May 16-18.

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, USA. January 13-14.

Reading groups

2024 **Webster, N**. Verbal material is not needed for argument structure: evidence from Korean. *S-Circle, a forum for syntax and semantics at UC Santa Cruz.*

2023 **Webster, N**. On the argument structure of eventive nominals in Korean. *Syntax and Semantics Circle at the University of California, Berkeley.*

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 events

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

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 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant (GSR)**
University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics
PIs: Nikolas Webster, Matthew Kogan, Mandy Cartner
Faculty mentors: Ivy Sichel, Matt Wagers
Collaborative experimental research investigating Subject Island effects in large scale acceptability studies. GSR position includes mentorship of three undergraduate RAs.

Summer 2021 **Graduate Research Assistant (GSR)**
University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics
PIs: Jaye Padgett, Ryan Bennett, Grant McGuire
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

2024 – 2025 Fall 2024 – LING 124: Language Typology. Head instructor: Maziar Toosarvandani

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
The Ella Baker School (M225), New York, New York

Pedagogy certifications

2024 **Preparing for Inclusive Teaching Graduate Certificate**
The Teaching & Learning Center at UC Santa Cruz (TLC)
Recognizes completion of a day-long professional development workshop teaching methods for equity minded learning outcomes and promoting student motivation and sense of belonging in the classroom.

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

2021 **Teaching as an Ethical Practice Course Completion**
The Teaching & Learning Center at UC Santa Cruz (TLC)
An asynchronous online course introducing professional ethics specific to the role of the TA, with particular focus on the issues of educational equity and accessibility.

Mentorship experience

Summer 2024 **Undergraduate Research Assistant Mentorship**
University of California, Santa Cruz
Undergraduate RAs: Lisa Pham, Matthew Vasser, and Alison Sun
Funded by the National Science Foundation
Experimental research on Subject Island effects

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

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.
Code-mixing and multilingual identity in Korean lyricism (Summer 2022);
Corpora statistics on pre-nominal elements in Korean (Summer 2021)

Service

2023 – 2024 **Linguistics Graduate Representative**
University of California, Santa Cruz
Attend faculty meetings, provide input on graduate student issues, coordinate student activities related to recruitment, and serve as graduate representative for department search committees.

2021 – present **Equity in Linguistics (EquiL) Member & Organizer**
University of California, Santa Cruz
Active member of EquiL, a student-led working group that focuses on projects to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the department and field. Lead co-organizer for academic years 2022–23, 2023–24, and 2024-25.

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

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

2019 Robert A. Fowkes Prize for Excellence and Achievement in Linguistics
New York University, College of Arts and Sciences & Department of Linguistics
In recognition of exemplary linguistic work completed by a graduating senior.

2019 Summa cum laude (with highest distinction)
New York University
Graduation honors: GPA within the top 5% of the graduating class.

2019 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society – Beta Chapter of New York

Grants, fellowships, scholarships

Graduate career

2024 TLC Small Grants Funding Award ($3000)
University of California, Santa Cruz, The Teaching & Learning Center
In collaboration with fellow co-organizers of Equity in Linguistics (EquiL)

2024 Grad Peer Mentor Program Funding Award ($2500)
University of California, Santa Cruz, The Graduate Student Commons
In collaboration with fellow co-organizers of Equity in Linguistics (EquiL)

2023, 2024 Ladusaw Research and Travel Supplement Award ($250 per award)
University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics

2020 – 2022 Graduate Student Success Fellowship ($2500)
University of California, Santa Cruz, The Humanities Institute

2020 – 2021 Regents' Fellowship ($30,000)
University of California, Santa Cruz
Full tuition coverage and funding package for first-year Ph.D. students.

Undergraduate career

2015 – 2019 CAS Scholarship ($28,970 per year)
New York University, College of Arts and Sciences
Four-year funding package for exemplary scholars pursuing a degree in the humanities.

2018 Nathan Sawaya Brick Artist Scholarship ($3000)
New York University
Merit-based undergraduate award

2018 Blume Family Scholarship ($1000)
New York University
Merit-based undergraduate award

2017, 2018 Gut Family Scholarship ($5000 per award)
New York University
Merit-based undergraduate award

2016 Michael L. Probst Scholarship ($2500)
New York University
Merit-based undergraduate award

Skills

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

Programming
R, PCIbex, LaTeX, Python, CSS and HTML

Software
Praat, Notepad++, RStudio, Wordpress
Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)

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