

# Young-A Son

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## EDUCATION

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- 2013 - 2018     **Doctor of Philosophy: Applied Linguistics**  
Georgetown University
- Dissertation: *Measuring heritage language learners' proficiency for research purposes: An argument-based validity study of the Korean C-test*
  - Chair: Dr. Lourdes Ortega
  - Member: Dr. John M. Norris                      Member: Dr. Margaret Malone
- 2013 - 2015     **Master of Science: Applied Linguistics**  
Georgetown University  
Conferred in SPRING 2015
- 2010 - 2013     **Master of Arts: English Linguistics**  
Seoul National University
- Thesis: The Interlocutor Proficiency Effect on Test-Takers in a Paired Oral Assessment
  - Chair: Dr. Yong-Won Lee
- 2006 - 2010     **Bachelor of Arts: English Language and Literature**  
Seoul National University
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- 2003 - 2005     **Translation and Interpretation (Two-years' coursework completed)**  
Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo (UEES) Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Acquired skills in sight translation, translation of technical documents and consecutive interpretation.

## WORKING EXPERIENCE

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### Research Experience

- 2019     **Analytics and Assessment Specialist at the University of California, Davis**  
Center for Educational Effectiveness - Undergraduate Education
- Engage with internal and campus-wide partners to conduct action-oriented inquiry about undergraduate education
  - Apply analytic techniques, program evaluation, and learning outcomes assessment to lead, conduct, and/or facilitate evaluation projects
  - In collaboration with other specialists, develop inquiry goals, identify and collect data, interpret the evidence, and disseminate findings
- 2019     **Foreign Service Institute Quality Management Coordinator / Evaluation Specialist**  
Language Testing Unit in the School of Language Studies - US Department of State
- Support language testing programs, designing and conducting validity and reliability studies for language testing programs
  - Use data analysis software applications and data analysis concepts, principles, and practices to conduct data collection, review, and reporting of information gathered during an organizational study
- 2017     **Research and Development Intern for the Educational Testing Service (ETS)**  
Research Area: English Language Learning and Assessment (ELLA)
- Researched, planned, developed, and managed a project on *Innovative approaches to scoring interactive speaking ability*
  - Conducted a mixed-methods analysis to examine raters' scores and perceptions of the different scoring approaches

- 2017 **Initiative for Multilingual Studies (IMS) Research Assistant**
- Assisted in organizing meetings and talks on Multilingualism; developed, designed, and maintained the IMS website
- 2015 **Research Fellow for the Assessment and Evaluation Language Resource Center (AELRC) and the Center of Applied Linguistics (CAL)**
- Developed and disseminated an annotated bibliography for the Assessment of Heritage Language Learners
  - Assisted in the development of other projects: Assessment of Intercultural Competence, Measuring Language Difficulty
  - Collaborated in the organization of a workshop on The Basics of Assessment presented at CLEAR in Michigan State University
  - Reviewed and suggested improvements for the Assessment Basics online course offered by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)
  - Conducted research on Student Learning Outcomes in Community Colleges
  - Facilitated a pre-conference workshop on Language Program Evaluation
  - Helped organize the Georgetown University Roundtable 2016 conference
  - Peer-reviewed academic articles and conference abstracts
  - Helped organize ECOLT 2015 and CUALHE 2015 conferences
- 2014 **Editorial Assistant for ARAL (2015)/ Research Assistant**  
For Dr. Alison Mackey at Georgetown University
- Copy-edited articles for the 2015 volume
  - Assisted in the management of article submissions

### **Teaching Experience**

- 2017 **Teaching Assistant: Research Design and Methods**  
For Dr. Alison Mackey and Dr. Luke Plonsky at Georgetown University
- 2016 **Teaching Assistant: Seminar on Meta-analysis and Research Synthesis**  
For Dr. Luke Plonsky at Georgetown University
- 2015 **Korean Level II Intensive Course Drill Instructor**  
Department of East Asian Studies at Georgetown University
- 2015 **Teaching Assistant for Language Testing**  
For Dr. John McE. Davis at Georgetown University
- 2015 **Korean Level II Drill Instructor**  
Department of East Asian Studies at Georgetown University
- 2014 **Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Language**  
For Dean Susan Lorenson at Georgetown University
- 2012 **College English Speaking Lab Instructor**  
College English Program at Seoul National University  
English speaking courses for College English I and Foundation English
- 2011 **Teaching Assistant**  
For Dr. Ki-Sun Hong at Seoul National University  
Courses: College English 1, English Semantics, Structure of English, and Introduction to Linguistics

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Son, Y-A.** (in press). Testing heritage learners. In P. Winke & T. Brunfaut (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of SLA and language testing*. New York: Routledge.
- Son, Y-A.**, Kim, A., Cho, E., and Davis, J. McE. (2018). A Korean C-test for university language learners. In Norris, J. (Ed.) *Developing C-Tests for estimating proficiency in foreign language research*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.
- Davis, J. McE., Norris, J. M, Malone, M., McKay, T. H., and **Son, Y-A.** (Eds.) (2018). *Useful assessment and*

*evaluation in language education*. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

- Son, Y-A.** (2017). Towards useful assessment and evaluation of heritage language learning. *Foreign Language Annals* 50(2), 367-386.
- Son, Y-A.** (2016). Interaction in a paired oral assessment: Revisiting the effect of proficiency. *Papers in Language Testing and Assessment* 5(2), 42-67.
- Son, Y-A.** (2015). *Annotated bibliography: Overview of evaluation and assessment in heritage language learning*. Washington, DC: Assessment and Evaluation Language Resource Center.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Son, Y-A.** (March, 2020). *Measuring heritage language learners' proficiency for research purposes: An argument-based validity study of the Korean C-test*. Paper to be presented at the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Denver, Colorado.
- Davis, L. and **Son, Y-A.** (March, 2018). *Innovative approaches to scoring interactive speaking ability*. Paper presented at the Language Assessment Research Conference (LARC), Ames, Iowa.
- Son, Y-A.** (March, 2018). Validating the use of a shortcut measure to assess Korean language learners' general language proficiency. In E. Voss (Chair), *Argument-Based Validation Research in Language Assessment*. Colloquium presented at the Language Assessment Research Conference (LARC), Ames, Iowa.
- Son, Y-A.** (July, 2017). *Measuring heritage language learners' proficiency: Validating the Korean C-test for research purposes*. Work-in-progress presented at the Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC), Bogotá, Colombia.
- Son, Y-A.**, and Kim, A. (October, 2016). *Shortcut measures of language proficiency: The new Korean C-Test*. Paper presented at the East Coast Organization of Language Testers (ECOLT), Washington D.C., U.S.A.
- Son, Y-A.** (March, 2016). *Towards useful assessment and evaluation of heritage language learning*. Paper presented at the Georgetown University Roundtable (GURT), Washington D.C., USA.
- Davis, J. McE. and **Son, Y-A.** (November, 2015). *Trends in Program Assessment in US Community College Language Programs*. Paper presented at the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages Conference (ACTFL), San Diego, California.
- Davis, J. McE. and **Son, Y-A.** (October, 2015). *Patterns of SLO Assessment Capacity in Community College Language Programs: Current Needs and Future Strategies*. Panel presented at the Consortium on Useful Assessment in Language Humanities and Education (CUALHE), Washington D.C., USA.
- Forrest, L., **Son, Y-A.**, Sykes, J., Malone, M., (October, 2015). Designing a digital simulation to measure intercultural competence: Putting theory into practice. Paper presented at the East Coast Language Testers Conference (ECOLT), Washington, D.C., USA.
- Son, Y-A.** (September, 2015). *Rater judgments of oral performance: Are independent and integrated speaking tasks perceived differently?* Paper presented at the Sixth International Conference on Task-based Language Teaching (TBLT), Leuven, Belgium.
- Son, Y-A.** (March, 2015). *Interaction in a paired oral assessment: Does proficiency matter?* Paper presented at the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Toronto, Canada.
- Lee, J and **Son, Y-A.** (October, 2014). *Interlocutor and familiarity effects on lexical LREs during task-based interaction*. Paper presented at Second Language Research Forum (SLRF), Columbia, U.S.

## WORKSHOPS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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- Davis, J. McE., **Son, Y-A.**, Venezia, F., Kim, A. I., & McKay, T. H. (May, 2017). Useful Assessment and Evaluation in Language Education. Invited workshop for the AELRC Professional Development.
- Son, Y-A.**, McKay, T. H., & Kim, A. I (February, 2017). The C-test project. Presentation at the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.
- McKay, T., **Son, Y-A.**, and Kim, A. (January, 2017). The C-test Project. Invited presentation at the ILR session, Foreign Service Institute.
- Son, Y-A.** and Venezia, F. (March, 2016). Identifying evidence—or—"indicators"—of program quality, effectiveness, needs, and student learning. Invited workshop, Georgetown University Round Table, Washington D.C.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Spanish	Dominant Language (Place of residency: Guayaquil, Ecuador from 1988 - 2005)
English	Advanced
Korean	Advanced
French	Basic

## STATISTICAL SKILLS

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- Rasch Models and Item Response Theory
- Multivariate statistical analyses, including, analysis of variance, cluster analysis, multiple regression, factor analysis, discriminant analysis
- Proficiency with statistical software, including SPSS, WINSTEPS, FACETS

## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

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2018	<b>NFMLTA-NCOLCTL Dissertation Award grant</b> <i>Part of the NFMLTA and NCOLCTL outreach activities for the field of world languages (awarded \$2500)</i>
2017	<b>ETS Small Grants for Doctoral Research</b> <i>TOEFL Grants and Awards Program (awarded \$2000)</i>
2017	<b>Dissertation Research Travel Grant 2016-17</b> <i>Georgetown University Graduate School (awarded \$1500)</i>
2017	<b>ACTFL Testing Research Grant</b> <i>Discount of 8% per ACTFL test administered (\$960)</i>
2016	<b>Assessment and Evaluation Language Resource Center (AELRC) Sponsorship</b> <i>Thesis study sponsorship (sponsoring \$11,040)</i>
2015	<b>2015 TOEFL Award for Student Research on TBLT</b> <i>Awarded \$500</i>

## REFERENCE LIST

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- Nikoo Pourshakouri  
Language Testing Unit at the Foreign Service Institute  
Head of Rater Training  
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(703) 302-7384
- Dr. Lourdes Ortega  
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- Dr. John M. Norris  
Educational Testing Service (ETS)  
Senior Research Director at the Center for English Language Learning and Assessment  
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- Dr. Margaret Malone  
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