

# Naomi Lee

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## Research interests

Syntax; morphology; nominals & DP structure; representations, algorithms, and learning

## Education

- 2017 – present     **New York University**  
Ph.D. in Linguistics
- 2011 – 2015     **Princeton University**  
A.B. in Linguistics, *magna cum laude*

## Dissertation **Nominal features: investigating the representation and simulating the learning of number, gender, and noun class**

*(syntax, morphology, behavioral experiments, computational simulations)*

*Committee:* Maria Gouskova & Alec Marantz (co-chairs), Ailís Cournane, Ruth Kramer

## Journal Papers

- submitted     Lee, Naomi & Laurel MacKenzie. **Social conditioning of English particle verb variation fails to replicate.** Under review. (submitted January 2022)
- submitted     Lee, Naomi. **Learning (im)possible number syncretisms: investigating innate featural representations.** Under review. (revision submitted August 2021)

## Manuscripts

- 2019     Lee, Naomi. **Architecture and acquisition: a generalizing, WYSIWYG learner of DP morphosyntax.** NYU Qualifying Paper 1. Learner code available [here](#).
- 2019     Lee, Naomi. **Khoekhoe (pro)nominals and phi-expression.**

## Invited Talks

- 2020 Learning (im)possible number syncretisms: investigating innate featural representations. *Centre for Language Evolution, University of Edinburgh. July 17, 2020.*

## Conference Presentations (peer-reviewed)

- 2022 The English particle verb alternation shows sensitivity to syntactic classes over semantic compositionality  
Lee, Naomi and Laurel MacKenzie. *Talk to be given at Linguistic Society of America (LSA) 96th Annual Meeting, DC. January 8, 2022.*
- 2021 Does the English particle verb alternation show gradient sensitivity to compositionality?  
Lee, Naomi and Laurel MacKenzie. *Talk given at New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAY) 49, UT Austin (online). October 23, 2021.*
- 2021 Learning (im)possible number & gender syncretisms: Investigating innate featural representations  
*Talk given at Experimental approaches to language Universals in structure and meaning (ExUni virtual workshop at ESSLLI2021). August 2, 2021.*
- 2020 Learning (im)possible number syncretisms: Investigating innate featural representations  
*Talk given at North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 51, UQAM (online). November 8, 2020.*
- 2019 The journey, not the endstate: finding innovation in the dynamics of L1A.  
Lee, Naomi and Ailís Cournane. *Talk given at Diachronic Generative Syntax (DiGS) 21, ASU, Tempe, AZ. June 5, 2019.*
- 2019 Khoekhoe participant phi-features: evidence from allomorphy & possession  
*Talk given at Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC) 43, Philadelphia, PA. March 23, 2019.*
- 2019 Khoekhoe pronominal morphosyntax: gender on Root-attached little *n*  
*Talk given at Linguistic Society of America (LSA) 93rd Annual Meeting, New York. January 5, 2019.*
- 2017 Old English Poetic Alliteration as Correspondence  
*Talk given at the 19th SYNC (Stony Brook, Yale, NYU, CUNY) Conference, Yale. December 9, 2017.*

## Presentations (non-peer-reviewed)

- 2018 Khoekhoe nominal gender & number: Fusion vs. contextual zeroes  
*Poster given at the 2nd Crete Summer School in Linguistics, University of Crete. July 2018.*
- 2015 Brass tacks historical linguistics theory: units of synchronic & diachronic linguistic analysis  
*Undergraduate thesis talk at Princeton University Linguists Club. May 2015.*
- 2014 Tracing linguistic trees: Historical linguistics & the genetic metaphor taken too far  
*Undergraduate junior paper presented at a Princeton University Linguists Club meeting. May 2014.*

## Teaching (course design)

Summer 2021 – present      **Course redesign** for **LING-UA-57: English Dialects** with Laurel MacKenzie (NYU)  
Undergraduate introduction to regional and social variation in Englishes; also introduces techniques of quantitative data analysis.      *joint work with Selikem Gotah (NYU)*

- Enrich course to include more (a) content on non-U.S. and/or non-prestige Englishes, and (b) active learning techniques, by creating new units in the syllabus, assessments / assignments, and active learning modules
- Adapt ‘jigsaw group’ method for student-led cooperative learning on variable phenomena across Englishes (replacing some lectures)
- Create hands-on experimental methods mini-tutorials where students uncover key ideas about sociolinguistic perception by reenacting, analyzing data from, and interpreting key experiments

## Teaching Experience (as teaching assistant)

Fall 2020      **Teaching Assistant** for **LING-UA-13: Grammatical Analysis** with Gary Thoms (NYU)  
Undergraduate introduction to syntax, with *Introducing Syntax* (Koenenman & Zeijlstra 2016) as course textbook.

*Taught and graded for weekly recitation of 16 students. Designed think-pair-share exercises for students to actively and collaboratively practice constituency tests and tree drawing, using breakout rooms given online modality. Created mini-lessons putting selected syntactic phenomena in cross-linguistic perspective (as course lectures and textbook were focused on English). Helped advise 2 students on optional research papers (on NPIs, unaccusatives).*

Spring 2020      **Teaching Assistant** for **LING-UA-1: Language** with Chris Barker (NYU)  
Undergraduate introduction to linguistics, with *An Introduction to Language* (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams) as course textbook.

*Taught and graded for weekly recitation of 21 students. Helped design in-class exercises. Helped redesign exam for shift to online modality and contributed exam questions. Gave guest lecture explaining number features and showcasing experimental methods to intro-level students.      Average student rating: 4.42/5.*

Fall 2018      **Teaching Assistant** for **LING-UA-1: Language** with Maria Gouskova (NYU)  
Undergraduate introduction to linguistics, with *Language Files* (OSU) as course textbook.  
*Taught and graded for weekly recitation of 34 students. Helped design in-class exercises and contributed exam questions.      Average student rating: 4.44/5.*

## Other Teaching Experience

- Spring 2020      **Graduate Mentor for LING-UA-998 Independent Study**  
Research experience for undergraduate in Artificial Language Learning experiments.
- Hired, trained, managed, and mentored undergraduate research assistant for linguistics experimental research with children (artificial language learning)
  - Developed and conducted trainings in experimental methods: from recruiting controls (AMT) and running child participants (PsychoPy), to statistical analysis (R)
  - Managed research assistant's learning and workload by leading weekly research task touchpoint / primary literature discussion.
- 2012 – 2015      **Fellow, Princeton University Writing Center**
- Advised Princeton undergraduate and graduate students on academic writing assignments, scholarly research, and presentations
  - Provided over 250 hours of one-on-one coaching and teaching sessions
  - Selected for conceptual thinking skills, ability to construct well-written, concise arguments, and confidence in mentoring peers.

## Other Research Experience

- Fall 2019 –  
Summer 2020      **Research Assistant** on NSF-1749549: Conscious separateness, unanticipated convergence: World Englishes, with PI John Victor Singler, New York University.  
Prepared sociolinguistic interviews in Liberian Settler English for semi-automated vowel extraction and analysis. Used Praat, ELAN (EUDICO Linguistic ANnotator), and DARLA (Dartmouth Linguistic Automation)
- Summer 2018      **Research Assistant** to Ailís Cournane, New York University  
Synthesized theoretical syntactic analyses of DP (nominal phrase) structure or work on link between first language acquisition and diachronic change
- Summer 2018      **Research Assistant** to Maria Gouskova, New York University  
Helped draft literature review, methods, and discussion sections of experimental study on restrictions on English *-er* and *-est* comparative and superlative formation
- Summer 2018      **Research Assistant** to Laurel MacKenzie, New York University  
Building corpus of particle verb alternations with sociolinguistic information from NPR transcripts (Python / BeautifulSoup)

## Service

2019 – 2021	<b>NYU Linguistics Colloquium Committee</b> Student member: Morphology / Syntax
2018 – 2021	<b>NYU Syntax Brown Bag: Talk Series</b> Organizer
2018 – 2019	<b>Linguistics Association at NYU (LANYU)</b> President   Student Liaison to NYU Faculty
2017 – 2019	<b>New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAY) 47</b> Student member, executive committee
2018 – present	<b>Stony Brook, Yale, NYU, CUNY (SYNC) Annual Conference</b> Member, NYU organizing committee
Public Outreach 2019	From the riders of Essos (Dothraki) to the ones who hope (Esperanto): Identities and ideas through constructed languages “Science fair” presentation at <i>A celebration of NYU Linguistics: A Space for Language: 10 Years at 10 Washington Place</i> . November 15, 2019.
2019	Brooklyn Children’s Museum “Language Science Fair” with NYU Child Language Lab, PI Ailís Cournane and NYU LEARNLab, PI Sudha Arunachalam. October 5, 2019.
Reviewing	Tu+4, SYNC 21 (NYU)

## Awards

Summer 2020	<b>GSAS Predoctoral Summer Fellowship</b> (New York University) <i>(awarded in 2020, planned travel deferred due to Covid-19)</i>	\$2000
Spring 2019	<b>Best Abstract Prize</b> (Penn Linguistics Conference 43)	\$250
Spring 2019	<b>Dean’s Travel Grant</b> (New York University)	\$500
2017 – 2023	<b>Henry M. MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship</b> (New York University)	

## Other education

Fall 2021	<b>NYU GSAS Teaching Certificate: GA-1200</b> Preparing Future Faculty
July 2020	<b>5th Naxos Summer School on Diachronic Linguistics</b>
July 2018	<b>2nd Crete Summer School in Linguistics</b>
July 2017	<b>2nd Naxos Summer School on Old &amp; Middle English</b>

## Languages

Native	English, Taiwanese Mandarin
Intermediate	Serbo-Croatian, Taiwanese Hokkien (Min Nan)
Beginning	Classical Sanskrit, Russian
Elicitation	Bunun, Khoekhoe (Nama-Damara)

## Skills

Programming	Python, Java
Experimental	PsychoPy; PsychoJS & Pavlovia; Amazon Mechanical Turk
Analytics	R, SQL (Google BigQuery), ELAN, Praat
Markup	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
Version control	Git

## Non-academic employment

September 2015 – **McKinsey & Company** – Stamford, CT  
June 2017 *Business Analyst - Generalist*

- Served senior executives through conceptual problem-solving, analytics and modeling capabilities, and client counseling / communication skills, working on teams of 2 – 5 consultants
- Industries served include higher education (public university), philanthropic foundation, private equity, basic materials, banking, and pharmaceuticals
- Functions addressed or provided include procurement, global health strategy, commercial due diligences in the organic food, luxury travel, and integrated EPC industries, international trade policies, regulatory stress testing, and merger management

Summer 2014 **Booz & Company, now Strategy&** – Washington, D.C.  
*Summer Consultant - Aerospace & Defense Practice*

- Served an aerospace composites manufacturer on an operations-driven turnaround
- Developed an automated KPI tool in VBA for client use and socialized its adoption among client shift leaders, floor managers, and senior management

Summer 2013 **U.S. Department of State, EUR/SCE** – Washington, D.C.  
*Summer Intern, Acting North Macedonia & Montenegro Desk Officer*

- Acted as central point of contact for U.S. Embassy Skopje and U.S. Embassy Podgorica to main State HQ in August 2013
- Drafted diplomatic cables, briefed ambassadors, and researched Balkans political issues with a Secret level security clearance

September 2011 – **Princeton International Relations Council & MUN Team** – Princeton, NJ  
June 2015 *President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff*

- Served as chief executive in charge of all financial and management decisions for three annual international Model United Nations conferences held on campus and ten travel conferences, with:
  - 200+ Princeton undergraduate staff
  - 1300+ student attendees
  - \$50,000+ in profit
  - \$150,000+ revenue
  - \$100,000+ in successfully negotiated conference services contracts