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Education

2018 – 2022 PhD in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Thesis Phonological acquisition in a multidialectal and multicultural

context: The case of bilingual preschoolers in Singapore

Supervisor Prof Brechtje Post Advisor Prof Francis Nolan

2014 – 2015 MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Distinction

Supervisor Prof Francis Nolan

2010 – 2014 Bachelor of Arts (Education)

Major/concentrations: English linguistics, Chemistry, Education National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

First Class Honours

Supervisor Asst/Prof Tan Siew Imm

Employment history

2022 (Oct) - Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Present National Institute of Education

English Language and Literature

Assistant Professor

2018 (Jan) – Curriculum Planning and Development Department

2018 (Sept) (Ministry of Education Headquarters)

Curriculum Planning Officer

English Language and Literature Branch

2015 (Jul) – Anglican High School

2017 (Dec) (Ministry of Education)

English Language Teacher

2014 (May) - Temasek Secondary School

2014 (Sept) (Ministry of Education)

English Language Teacher

Professional memberships

2025 – Present 2022 – Present 2022 – Present	Member of the International Association for World Englishes Member of the Association for Laboratory Phonology Member of the International Phonetic Association
2022 – Present 2020 – Present 2019 – Present	Member of the Philological Society Member of the International Society for the Linguistics of English Associate Member of the Cambridge Language Sciences Interdisciplinary
2017 - Present 2017 - 2024	Research Centre Member of the Singapore Association for Applied Linguistics Honorary Treasurer of the Singapore Association for Applied Linguistics

Research interests

- Early/child phonological acquisition in first and second languages; child bilingualism
- Acquisition of sociolinguistic competence by children
- (Socio)-phonetics; language contact, dialects and ethnolinguistic repertoires
- Language processing of contact varieties

Journal articles

- **Sim, J. H.** (2024). Variation in VOT in English child-directed speech of English-Mandarin and English-Malay early bilinguals in Singapore. *Asian Englishes*. https://doi.org/10.1080/13488678.2024.2391234.
- Sim, J. H. & Post, B. (2023). Influence of caregiver input and language experience on the production of coda laterals by English-Malay bilingual preschoolers in multi-accent Singapore. FirstView, 1-26. *Journal of Child Language*. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305000923000375.
- Schwarz, J., Li, K., **Sim, J. H.**, Zhang, Y., Buchanan-Worster, E., Post, B., Gibson, J., & McDougall, K. (2022) Semantic cues modulate children's and adults' processing of audio-visual face mask speech. *Frontiers in Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.879156.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2022). Negotiating social meanings in a plural society: social perceptions of variants of /l/ in Singapore English. FirstView. *Language in Society*. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404522000173.
- Sim, J. H. & Post, B. (2021). Variation in quality of maternal input and development of coda stops in English-speaking children in Singapore. *Journal of Child Language*, *49*(6), 1147-1172. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305000921000593.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2021). Sociophonetic variation in English /l/ in the child-directed speech of English-Malay bilinguals. *Journal of Phonetics*, *88*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2021.101084.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2019). "But you don't sound Malay!" Language dominance and variation in the accents of English-Malay bilinguals in Singapore. *English World-Wide*, *40*(1), 79–108. https://doi.org/10.1075/eww.00023.sim.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2014). A Feature-based Study of English Trainee Teachers' Treatment of Singapore English. *Reinvention: An International Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 7(1).

Book chapters

Sim, J. H., & Post, B. (2024). Early phonological acquisition in multi-accent contexts. In E. Babatsouli (Ed.), *Multilingual acquisition and learning: Towards an ecosystemic view to diversity*. John Benjamins Publishing Company. https://doi.org/10.1075/sibil.67.07sim.

Unpublished dissertations

- Sim, J. H. (2022). Phonological acquisition in a multidialectal and multicultural context: The case of bilingual preschoolers in Singapore [Unpublished PhD Thesis]. University of Cambridge. https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.86480.
- Sim, J. H. (2015). Language dominance and accent variation: a phonetic study of two groups of educated Malay speakers of Singapore English [Unpublished MPhil Thesis]. University of Cambridge.

Refereed conference proceedings

* Presenting author(s)

- Chong, A. J., **Sim, J. H.***, Post, B. (2023, 18-20 Nov). Ethnicity and intonational variation in Singapore English child-directed speech [Oral presentation]. *The Second International Conference on Tone and Intonation*. https://www.colips.org/conferences/tai2023/TAI2023-proceedings.pdf
- Li, K. K.*, Schwarz, J., **Sim, J. H.**, Zhang, Y., Buchanan-Worster, E., Post, B., McDougall, K. (2022, 18–22 Sept). Recording and timing vocal responses in online experimentation [Oral presentation]. *Proc. Interspeech 2022*, 4053-4057, doi: 10.21437/Interspeech.2022-10697.
- **Sim, J. H.*** (2023, 7–11 Aug). Influence of bilingualism or caregiver input? Variation in VOT in simultaneous bilingual preschoolers in Singapore [Oral presentation]. *20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (ICPhS 2023).

Refereed conference papers without proceedings

* Presenting author(s)

- Li, N.*, & **Sim**, **J. H.** (2025, August 4-7). *Variable subject expression in heritage Vietnamese* [Oral presentation]. New Ways of Analysing Variation Asia Pacific 8, Singapore.
- Sim, J. H.*, & Jia Y. (2025, August, 4-7). *Variation in English stop voicing contrast in Singaporean Chinese and Malay bilingual preschoolers* [Oral presentation]. New Ways of Analysing Variation Asia Pacific 8, Singapore.
- Kwek, G.*, & **Sim, H. J.** (2025, July, 17-18). *Addressing challenges of the Asian English pronunciation classroom: A consideration of sociophonetic variation* [Oral presentation]. 2025 KATE International Conference, Seoul, Korea.

- Sim, H. J.*, & Jia Y. (2025, July, 25-27). *Trading relations of acoustic cues in English stop voicing contrast among Chinese and Malay bilingual preschoolers in Singapore* [Oral presentation]. International Association for World Englishes Conference 26 (IAWE26), Giessen, Germany.
- Sim, J. H.*, Schwarz, J., Li, K. K., Chong, A*. (2025, June, 25-27). *Perceptual sensitivity to stress-based f0 in Singapore English* [Oral presentation]. 6th Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (PAPE2025), Palma, Spain.
- **Sim, J. H.***, Schwarz, J., Li, K. K., Chong, A. J. (2025, May 16-18). *Ethnic variation in perceptual sensitivity to stress-based f0 in Singapore English*. [Poster session]. The 3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation, Herrsching, Germany.
- **Sim, J. H.*** (2024, August). *Child phonological acquisition in Singapore Variation in the input and input effects.* [Oral presentation]. AILA2024, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2024, 16 July). *Modelling individual differences: English /l/ of English-Malay bilinguals in multi-accent Singapore.* [Poster session]. 16th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Chong, A. J.*, **Sim, J. H.**, Post, B. (2024, 25-27 Mar). *Ethnicity-related intonational variation in Singapore English child-directed speech* [Oral presentation]. Presented at the British Association of Academic Phoneticians Colloquium 2024, Cardiff, United Kingdom.
- **Sim, J. H.*** (2023, 26–28 June). *Variation in English stop voicing contrast in Singaporean Chinese and Malay mothers* [Oral presentation]. UK Language Variation and Change 14. University of Edinburgh.
- Li, K. K.*, Schwarz, J., **Sim, J. H.**, Zhang, Y., Buchanan-Worster, E., Post, B., McDougall, K. (2022, 23–25 June). *Recording and timing vocal responses: an online cued-shadowing task* [Oral presentation]. LabPhon18: Phonology in a Rapidly Changing World.
- Sim, J. H.* (2022, 23–25 June). Bilingual phonological development in a multi-dialectal context: the acquisition of /// by English-Malay bilingual preschoolers in Singapore [Poster session]. LabPhon18: Phonology in a Rapidly Changing World.
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2022, 14–16 June). *Variation in the development of English syllable-final /l/ in English-Malay and English-Chinese bilingual children* [Oral presentation]. Building Linguistic Systems, York, United Kingdom.
- Schwarz, J.*, Li, K.*, **Sim, J. H.**, Zhang, Y., Buchanan-Worster, E., Post, B., . . . McDougall, K. (2022, 4–8 Apr). *Can we use visual, acoustic and semantic cues to compensate for face mask speech?* [Oral presentation]. British Association of Academic Phoneticians Colloquium 2022, York, United Kingdom.
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2022, 4–8 Apr). Acquiring /// in a multidialectal context by English-Malay billingual children in Singapore [Poster session]. British Association of Academic Phoneticians Colloquium 2022, York, United Kingdom.
- Schwarz, J.*, Li, K., **Sim, J. H.**, Zhang, Y., Buchanan-Worster, E., Post, B., . . . McDougall, K. (2022, Jan 20-21). *The impact of visual, acoustic, and semantic cues on processing of face mask speech by children and adults* [Poster session].13th Speech in Noise Workshop.

- Schwarz, J.*, Li, K., **Sim, J. H.**, Zhang, Y., Buchanan-Worster, E., Post, B., . . . McDougall, K. (2021, Nov 23). *Speech Perception through Face Masks by Children and Adults* [Poster session]. Cambridge Language Sciences Annual Symposium 2021: Language and Inclusion. doi:10.33774/coe-2021-l88gk.
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2021, Sept 8-10). Clear /l/ and the Malays in Singapore: origin, social meanings, and ethnic identity [Oral presentation]. UK Language Variation and Change 13. University of Glasgow. https://https://uklvc13.com/
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2021, Jun 21-23). Variation in pitch scaling in English of young simultaneous bilinguals in Singapore [Poster presentation]. Phonetics and Phonology in Europe 2021, Barcelona. https://pape2021.upf.edu/
- Sim, J. H.* (2021, Jun 7–10). *Indexical properties of syllable-final /l/ in Singapore English* [Oral presentation]. Sociolinguistics Symposium 23, Hong Kong. https://www.ss23hk.com/
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2021, Jun 2–4). *Variation in ethnic-accentedness in child-directed speech of bilinguals* [Oral presentation]. Variation in Language Acquisition 4, Rorschach, Switzerland. https://www.shlr.ch/shlr/die-shlr/events/vila-4/
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2021, Mar 6). Variation in quality of input and development of coda stops in bilingual children [Poster session]. Jesus College MCR Graduate Conference 2021, Cambridge.
- Sim, J. H.* & Post, B. (2020, Apr). *Maternal input and variability in the development of coda stops in bilingual children*. British Association of Academic Phoneticians Colloquium, York, United Kingdom. https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/baap2020york/home [cancelled]
- Koh, S.*, Koh, L.*, **Sim, J. H.***, Ng, K.* & Mohan, J.* (2017, Jun 29). *Exploring the Joy of Learning from NASA to EL* [Paper presentation]. 3rd Anglican High School National Symposium 2017: Assessment Drives the Learning Paradigm.

Invited talks

- Sim, J. H. (2025, 22 May). Perceiving lexical stress in Singapore English: The role of f0 cues and bilingual background. Presented in-person at the Multilingualism, language contact, language variation colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2024, 6 September). *Acquiring and processing multi-accent Singapore*. Presented at the Interdisciplinary Workshop on Multilingualism and Multiculturalism (IWMM), NTU, Singapore.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2024, 20 June). *Variation in caregiver input and variable outcomes in early phonological acquisition of Singapore English.* Presented online at the Multilingualism, language contact, language variation colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2024, 23 April). *Factors predicting variable outcomes in phonological acquisition.*Presented online at the LML Research Seminar series, The Education University of Hong Kong.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2024, 12 April). *Phonological acquisition in multi-accent Singapore*. Presented at the Linguistics and Multilingual Studies TGIF seminar series, NTU Singapore.

- **Sim, J. H.** (2023, 29 Nov). *Influence of bilingualism or caregiver input? Variation in VOT in simultaneous bilingual preschoolers in Singapore.* Presented online at the LangVIEW seminar.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2023, 9 Nov). *Early phonological acquisition in multi-accent contexts.* Presented online to the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU) Phon Brown Bag series, Taiwan.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2023, 23 June). *Child phonological acquisition in multi-accent Singapore.* Presented to the Department of Linguistics, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2023, 14 March). *Child phonological acquisition in multi-Accent Singapore: Influence of caregiver input and language experience.* Presented online at The Future of Singapore English, National Library Board.
- Sim, J. H. (2023, 13 Feb). Child phonological acquisition of New Englishes: Variation in and effects of caregiver input. Presented online at the Language and Cognition Research Group (LACRE), Cardiff University, UK.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2021, April). *Indexical properties of /l/ in Singapore English*. Presented online at the Aarhus University Phonetics and Phonology seminar.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2021, May). *The social life of L in Singapore English*. Presented at the Jesus College Language and Linguistics Forum.

Talks

- **Sim, J. H.** (2023, Nov). *Early phonological acquisition in multi-accent Singapore*. NIE ELL seminar: Phonology, Brain and Society.
- **Sim, J. H.** & Post, B. (2021, Apr). *Maternal input and variability in the development of coda stops in bilingual children*. British Association of Academic Phoneticians Work in Progress (online)
- **Sim, J. H.** (2021, Mar). *Investigating coda stops in bilingual children*. Presented at MPhil seminar, University of Cambridge.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2020, Aug). *Investigating variation in tonal scaling and alignment in young bilingual children*. Presented at the Experimental Phonetics and Phonology seminar, University of Cambridge.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2019, Nov). Phonological acquisition of contact varieties of English in simultaneous bilinguals: variation in maternal input and effects on child phonological acquisition. Presented at the Jesus College Language and Linguistics Forum.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2019, Jan). *Phonological acquisition of variable input: children in bi-dialectal homes.*Presented at the Experimental Phonetics and Phonology seminar, University of Cambridge.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2018, Oct). Language dominance and accent variation: a phonetic study of two groups of educated Malay speakers of Singapore English. Presented at the Experimental Phonetics and Phonology seminar, University of Cambridge.
- **Sim, J. H.** (2015, May). Language dominance and accent variation: a phonetic study of two groups of educated Malay speakers of Singapore English. Presented at the Experimental Phonetics and Phonology seminar, University of Cambridge.

Teaching experience

Undergraduate

2024 – 2025	Multicultural studies: Appreciating and valuing differences
2022 – 2025	The structure of Singapore English
2022 – 2025	Exploring the words and sounds of English

Postgraduate

2024 - 2025	Language acquisition studies
2023 – 2025	Sociophonetics: Studies of speech in society
2022 – 2025	Language studies for teachers: Language variation and change
2022 - 2025	Practical pronunciation for teachers
2022 - 2023	Understanding and implementing an English Language Curriculum

Supervision

2019 / 2020 Linguistics Tripos – Li6 Phonetics

Undergraduate supervisor

2023 – 2025 Final-Year Projects (NIE NTU)

- Exploring Singaporeans' gender preconceptions in speech and their assessment of occupational competence (2023-2024)
- Dominant home language and its influence on the acquisition of English vowel contrasts in English-Mandarin bilingual children in Singapore (2024-2025)
- "Fuck" and Gender: An Analysis of Swearing in Singaporean Young Adults (2024-2025)

Achievements, awards & grants

2024 Nov 24 – Oct 27	Ministry of Education, Singapore Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 (S\$89,945.33)
2023	National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University
Jun 23 – May 24	International Research Collaboration Seed Fund Grant (S\$9,985)
Nov 23 – Oct 25	NIE Start-up Grant (S\$49,923.67)
2022	University of Cambridge
	Jesus College Graduate Research grant (BLS2022) £464
	British Association of Academic Phoneticians 2022
	Eugénie Henderson prize for the best poster presentation by non-member for
	the poster entitled: Acquiring /l/ in a multidialectal context by English-Malay
	bilingual children in Singapore. (£50)
2021	University of Cambridge
	MMLL Fieldwork funding (£170)
	Jesus College Graduate Research grant (PaPE4, EMLAR2021, SS23) £98
2020	University of Cambridge
	Jesus College Graduate Research grant (BAAP 2020) £400
	Jesus College Graduate Research grant (ViLA 4 2020) £100
	MMLL Fieldwork funding (£170)
2019	University of Cambridge
	MML Fieldwork funding (£250), TAL Fieldwork funding (£650)

Jesus College Graduate Research grant (£170)

Ministry of Education

Innergy (HQ) award for the development of Lenses and Links: A game of literary

perspective

2018 Singapore Police Force

NSman of the Year Award Ministry of Education

Innergy (HQ) award for the development of Ding Ding! A virtual discussion

platform

2017 MOE Buildathon 2017

Third Place ("Ding Ding! A virtual discussion platform")

National Institution of Education

NIE Overseas Graduate Scholarship (Full)

Anglican High School
Most Innovative Teacher
Ministry of Education

Outstanding Contribution Award (Team)

2016 Anglican High School

Most Engaged Staff

Ministry of Education

Outstanding Contribution Award (Team)

2015 Clare College, Cambridge

Fieldwork funding (£150)

2014 Ministry of Education

MOE Direct Master's Sponsorship (Full)

Nanyang Technological University

College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences Master of Arts Research

Scholarship (Full, Forfeited)

2014 National Institute of Education / Nanyang Technological University

Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal (top of cohort)

Koh Boon Hwee Scholar's Award (for academic and non-academic excellence)

Valedictorian

2008 – 2009 National Service – Singapore Police Force

SPF Officer Cadet Course – Good Performance Award Commander's Commendation (Airport Police Division)

Best PNSF Award

Service

2024 - 2025	Singapore Linguistics Olympiad
	Organising committee member
2022 – 2024	Singapore Association for Applied Linguistics
	Honorary Treasurer
2021 – 2022	Co-convener of the Cambridge Sociolinguistics Circle
2021 - 2022	Data champion, University of Cambridge
2019 – 2020	Linguistics Tripos Part IIB
	Undergraduate dissertation evaminer

Undergraduate dissertation examiner

Jesus College / MMLL

Undergraduate Admissions Selection Interviewer

Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

Linguistics mock exam marker

Reviewer for: Second Language Research (SAGE; 2023-2024)

Language Learning and Development (Taylor & Francis; 2023)

Speech Prosody (International conference; 2024)

Multilingual acquisition and learning: An ecosystemic view to diversity (John

Benjamins book chapter; 2023)

Leadership positions

Assistant Superintendent of Police (NS)

Singapore Police Force

2024 – Present Commanding Officer, Training (PNSmen), Airport Police Division 2017 – 2018 Head Manpower and Logistics (PNSmen), Airport Police Division

Inspector of Police (NS) Singapore Police Force

2016 – 2017 Commanding Officer, Training (PNSmen), Airport Police Division

Technical Skills

Phonetics: Praat, audacity Statistics: R / RStudio