

NAJOUNG KIM

najoung@bu.edu / [najoungkim.github.io](https://github.com/najoungkim)

Office 808, 665 Commonwealth Ave.

Boston, MA, USA 02215

Updated January 2023

ACADEMIC POSITIONS	Boston University Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics Affiliated Faculty, Department of Computer Science	2023–
	New York University CDS Faculty Fellow / Assistant Professor, Center for Data Science	2021–2022
EDUCATION	Johns Hopkins University Ph.D. Cognitive Science Advisors: Paul Smolensky and Kyle Rawlins	2016–2021
	Johns Hopkins University M.A. Cognitive Science	2016–2017
	University of Oxford M.St. General Linguistics & Comparative Philology	2015 Distinction
	Seoul National University B.A. English Linguistics & Literature B.A. Linguistics (double major) Minor: Computer Science & Engineering	2014 Summa Cum Laude
EXPERIENCE	Visiting Faculty Researcher, Google AI <i>Host: Deepak Ramachandran</i> Reasoning and abstraction in neural language models	2022–
	Student researcher, Google AI	Aug–Nov 2020
	Research intern, Google AI <i>Hosts: Deepak Ramachandran, Ellie Pavlick</i> Improving Question-Answering systems with presupposition verification	May–Aug 2020
	Research intern, IBM Research AI <i>Hosts: Song Feng, Chulaka Gunasekara</i> Evaluating sentence representations for discourse	May–Aug 2019
	Graduate student researcher, Jelinek Memorial Summer Workshop (JSALT) <i>PIs: Sam Bowman, Ellie Pavlick</i> General-purpose Sentence Representation Learning team	Jun–Aug 2018
	Visiting researcher, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) <i>PI: Jong C. Park</i> Computational modeling of semantic fluency	2015–2016

	Intern developer, NAVER Corporation Knowledge Extraction Team	2013–2014
AWARDS	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant Title: <i>Compositional Linguistic Generalization in Human and Machine Learning</i> BCS-2041221 (\$12,771) with Paul Smolensky, Geraldine Legendre & Tal Linzen.	2021–2022
	NeurIPS 2019 Travel Award	2019
	Best Paper Award, *SEM 2019	2019
	Owen Scholarship Awarded to select incoming doctoral students in natural sciences (\$18,000)	2016–2019
	Mica and Ahmet Ertegun Graduate Scholarship Programme in the Humanities Full scholarship for Master’s degree at University of Oxford (~\$42,000)	2014–2015
	SNU Undergraduate Research Program Grant for select undergraduate research proposals (~\$3000)	2013
	SNU Foundation Funds Scholarship SNU Superior Academic Performance Scholarship	2013 2010–2011
WORK IN PROGRESS	Najoung Kim , Tal Linzen, and Paul Smolensky (2022). Uncontrolled Lexical Exposure Leads to Overestimation of Compositional Generalization in Pretrained Models . Preprint on arXiv.	
	Najoung Kim* , Phu Mon Htut*, Samuel R. Bowman, and Jackson Petty (2022). (QA)²: Question Answering with Questionable Assumptions . Preprint on arXiv. (*Equal contribution)	
	Wentao Wang, Wai Keen Vong, Najoung Kim , and Brenden Lake (2022). Finding Structure in One Child’s Linguistic Experience . Preprint on PsyArXiv.	
	Najoung Kim , Jatin Khilnani, Alex Warstadt, and Abed Qaddoumi (2022). Reconstruction Probing . Preprint on arXiv.	
	Seyed Mehran Kazemi, Najoung Kim , Deepti Bhatia, Xin Xu, and Deepak Ramachandran (2022). LAMBADA: Backward Chaining for Automated Reasoning in Natural Language . Preprint on arXiv.	
	Najoung Kim* and Sebastian Schuster*. Entity Tracking in Language Models (under review). (*Equal contribution)	
PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES	Najoung Kim , Ellie Pavlick, Burcu Karagol Ayan, and Deepak Ramachandran (2021). Which Linguist Invented the Lightbulb? Presupposition Verification for Question-Answering . <i>Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)</i> .	
	Najoung Kim and Tal Linzen (2020). COGS: A Compositional Generalization Challenge Based on Semantic Interpretation . <i>Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)</i> . [talk]	

Najoung Kim, Song Feng, Chulaka Gunasekara, and Luis A. Lastras (2020). [Implicit Discourse Relation Classification: We Need to Talk About Evaluation](#). *Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.

Najoung Kim and Tal Linzen (2019). [Compositionality as directional consistency in sequential neural networks](#). *Context and Compositionality in Biological and Artificial Neural Systems Workshop, NeurIPS*.

Najoung Kim, Roma Patel, Adam Poliak, Alex Wang, Patrick Xia, Tom McCoy, Ian Tenney, Alexis Ross, Tal Linzen, and Benjamin Van Durme, Samuel R. Bowman, and Ellie Pavlick (2019). [Probing what different NLP tasks teach machines about function word comprehension](#). *Proceedings of the Eighth Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics (*SEM)*. **Best Paper Award**

Alex Wang, Jan Hula, Patrick Xia, Raghavendra Pappagari, R. Thomas McCoy, Roma Patel, **Najoung Kim**, Ian Tenney, Yinghui Huang, Katherin Yu, Shuning Jin, Berlin Chen, Benjamin Van Durme, Edouard Grave, Ellie Pavlick, and Samuel R. Bowman (2019). [How to Get Past Sesame Street: Sentence-Level Pretraining Beyond Language Modeling](#). *Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. [paper]

Najoung Kim, Jung-Ho Kim, Maria K. Wolters, Sarah E. MacPherson, and Jong C. Park (2019). Automatic Scoring of Semantic Fluency. *Frontiers in Psychology*. [paper]

Najoung Kim, Kyle Rawlins, Benjamin Van Durme, and Paul Smolensky (2019). [Predicting the Argumenthood of English Prepositional Phrases](#). *Proceedings of the 33rd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*.

Ian Tenney, Patrick Xia, Berlin Chen, Alex Wang, Adam Poliak, R. Thomas McCoy, **Najoung Kim**, Benjamin Van Durme, Samuel R. Bowman, Dipanjan Das, and Ellie Pavlick (2019). [What do you learn from context? Probing for sentence structure in contextualized word representations](#). *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*.

Maria K. Wolters, **Najoung Kim**, Jung-Ho Kim, Sarah E. MacPherson, and Jong C. Park (2016). [Prosodic and Linguistic Analysis of Semantic Fluency Data: A Window into Speech Production and Cognition](#). *Interspeech*.

Jung-Ho Kim, **Najoung Kim**, Hanchaol Park, and Jong C. Park (2016). Enhanced Sign Language Transcription System via Hand Tracking and Pose Estimation. *Journal of Computing Science and Engineering* vol 10.3.

Najoung Kim and Jong C. Park (2016). [A Morphological Approach to the Longitudinal Detection of Dementia](#). *Proceedings of HCI Korea 2016, The HCI Society of Korea*.

OTHER ARTICLES

Teven Le Scao, Angela Fan, ... **Najoung Kim** (Evaluation and Interpretability) ... (2022), [BLOOM: A 176B-Parameter Open-Access Multilingual Language Model](#). Preprint on arXiv.

Najoung Kim (2022). [Compositionality Generalization in Artificial Neural Networks](#). PhD Dissertation, Johns Hopkins University. Committee: Paul Smolensky, Kyle Rawlins, Benjamin Van Durme, Tal Linzen, and Bob Frank.

**WORK
PEER-REVIEWED
BY ABSTRACT**

Najoung Kim and Paul Smolensky (2021). [Testing for Grammatical Category Abstraction in Neural Language Models](#). *The Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL)* (selected as talk).

Sadhwi Srinivas, **Najoung Kim**, and Kyle Rawlins (2020). [Maximize Presupposition! and the Korean demonstrative *ku*](#). Presented at *The 94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)*. [[poster](#)]

Najoung Kim, Benjamin Van Durme, Ellie Pavlick, and Paul Smolensky (2018). Linguistically informed tasks for evaluating structure encoded by sentence representations. *WeCNLP Summit*, Facebook HQ, Menlo Park, CA (selected as spotlight talk).

Najoung Kim, Kyle Rawlins, and Paul Smolensky (2018). A gradient blend analysis of English PP verbal dependents. *Conference on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Linguistic Theory (CiALT) 2*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Najoung Kim, Kyle Rawlins, and Paul Smolensky (2018). A gradient blend analysis of English PP verbal dependents. *Acceptability judgments in current linguistic theory*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

**SELECTED TALKS
/ TUTORIALS**

Interview at [NLP Highlights Podcast](#) hosted by Allen Institute for AI, Jan 2023.

Najoung Kim. Compositional Linguistic Generalization in Artificial Neural Networks: Taking Stock.

- Invited talk at Seminars on Formal Languages and Neural Networks (FlaNN), Nov 2022.
- Invited talk at CUNY Graduate Center Computational Linguistics Talk Series, Nov 2022.

Najoung Kim. Compositional Linguistic Generalization in Artificial Neural Networks.

- Invited talk at CompLing Lab, University of Chicago, May 2022.
- ‘Tech Talk’ at Google, May 2022.
- Invited talk at Boston University Linguistics Colloquium Series, Mar 2022.
- Invited talk at [MIT Complang](#), Mar 2022.
- Invited talk at [Seminar on the interactions between formal and computational linguistics \(ILFC\)](#), Feb 2022.
- Invited talk at Linguistics Colloquium, Seoul National University, Dec 2021.
- Invited talk at [KAIST Electrical Engineering Colloquium Lecture Series](#), Nov 2021.
- Invited talk at [NYU ConCats](#), Nov 2021.
- Invited talk at the University of Michigan Cognitive Science Community Colloquium, Oct 2021.
- Invited talk at the [New York Philosophy of Language Workshop](#), Oct 2021.
- Invited talk at NYU Center for Data Science, Sep 2021.

Najoung Kim. Compositional Linguistic Generalization in Contemporary Neural Models of Language. Invited talk at Cornell Computational Psycholinguistics Group, Apr 2021.

Najoung Kim. What Aspects of Meaning are Missing from Current Natural Language Understanding Systems? Invited talk at Boston University, Mar 2021.

Najoung Kim and Tal Linzen. COGS: A Compositional Generalization Challenge Based on Semantic Interpretation.

- Invited talk at NERT lab, Georgetown University, Nov 2020.
- Invited poster presentation at the [Microsoft Research AI Breakthroughs Workshop](#), Sep 2020.

Najoung Kim, Roma Patel, Adam Poliak, Alex Wang, Patrick Xia, Tom McCoy, Ian Tenney, Alexis Ross, Tal Linzen, Benjamin Van Durme, Samuel R. Bowman, and Ellie Pavlick. Probing what different NLP tasks teach machines about function word comprehension and where to go next. Invited talk at JHU CLSP Seminar, Oct 2019.

Najoung Kim, Kyle Rawlins, and Paul Smolensky, The complement-adjunct distinction as gradient blends: the case of English prepositional phrases. Invited talk at the Gradient Symbolic Computation Workshop, Baltimore, Sep 2019.

Najoung Kim, Diego Marcheggiani, Michael Roth, and Benjamin Van Durme, Semantic Role Labeling Tutorial, EMNLP, Copenhagen, Sep 2017.

Najoung Kim, Jung-Ho Kim, Maria K. Wolters, Sarah E. MacPherson, and Jong C. Park. Approximating the Semantic Structures behind Category Fluency Sequences (Poster). MACSIM 6 at CUNY, New York, Oct 2016.

Najoung Kim. Detection and Categorisation of Neograms in Korean Text (+a). Invited talk at Ertegun House, Oxford, 2015.

ADVISING / MENTORING

PhD Advisees:

- Aditya Yedetore (BU Linguistics), 2022–present

Others:

- Bingzhi Li (co-advised with Tal Linzen), Visiting PhD student from Université de Paris, Fall 2022.
- Pablo Santos (co-mentored with Phu Mon Htut), [CDS-Courant Undergraduate Research Program \(CURP\)](#), Spring 2022.

TEACHING

Boston University:

- Spring 2023, Topics in Linguistics: Metrics and Evaluation in Natural Language Processing

New York University:

- Fall 2022, Capstone Project in Data Science
- Fall 2021, Capstone Project in Data Science

Johns Hopkins University:

- Fall 2019, Introduction to Computational Cognitive Science (TA/Co-Instructor)
- Spring 2019, Foundations of Neural Networks (TA/Lab Instructor)
- Spring 2018, Foundations of Cognitive Science (TA)

- Fall 2017, Semantics I (TA/Lab Instructor)
- Spring 2017, Language and Advertising (TA)

Seoul National University:

- Winter 2014, Samsung Convergence Software Course (Instructor)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Senior Area Chair:

- ACL 2023 (Linguistic Theories, Cognitive Modeling, and Psycholinguistics)

Area Chair:

- *SEM 2022 (Psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics and semantic processing)

Organization:

- [BlackboxNLP 2023](#) (Co-located with EMNLP 2023)
- [Inverse Scaling Prize](#), 2022

Ad-hoc Journal Reviewing:

- Cognitive Science
- Nature Machine Intelligence

Conference Reviewing:

- EACL Student Research Workshop 2021, 2023
- EMNLP 2022, 2020*, 2018
- COLING 2022
- *SEM 2022, 2019
- Bridges and Gaps between Formal and Computational Linguistics (Workshop at ESSLI 2022)
- CogSci 2022
- ACL Student Research Workshop, 2019–2022
- ACL-IJCNLP 2021
- ACL 2020
- EMNLP-IJCNLP 2019

* Acknowledged as outstanding reviewer

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Association for Computational Linguistics
Cognitive Science Society
Linguistic Society of America

COMPUTER SKILLS

Python, R, HTML (proficient)
Java, C, Scheme/Racket, OCaml (basic)
Tools: PyTorch, PCIBex, Mechanical Turk, Prolific

HUMAN LANGUAGES

Korean (native); English (near-native); Spanish (intermediate); Japanese (reading knowledge)

COMMUNITY SERVICE	Panelist , KASELL Fall Conference	2021
	Diversity & Representation Committee	2021
	Colloquium Student Committee	2018–2021
	<i>Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University</i>	
	Panelist , BrainIAC Professional Development Event	9/21/2020
	Mentor, Samsung Convergence Software Course	2014
	<i>Department of Computer Science, Seoul National University</i>	
	Peer tutor, English (volunteer work)	2011
	<i>Seoul National University</i>	
	English tutor (volunteer work)	2010
	<i>YOUNGNAK High School</i>	