

DOROTHY AHN

안소민

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EMPLOYMENT

2020– **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ, USA
Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics

2019–2020 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, USA
College Fellow, Department of Linguistics

EDUCATION

2012–2019 **Harvard University** — Ph.D. in Linguistics
Dissertation: THAT thesis: A competition mechanism for anaphoric expressions
Committee: Gennaro Chierchia (chair), Uli Sauerland, Kathryn Davidson, Jesse Snedeker

2008–2012 **University of Pennsylvania** — B.A. *summa cum laude* in Linguistics
Advisor: David Embick

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- Ahn, Dorothy, Annemarie Kocab & Kathryn Davidson. to appear. Pragmatics of spatial descriptions: Sign language loci. *Language*, accepted for publication in March, 2026.
- Ahn, Dorothy & Ziling Zhu. 2025. A bridge to definiteness: Identifying unique and relational definites through bridging. *Natural Language Semantics*. 33: 433–484.
- Ahn, Dorothy. 2022. Indirectly direct: An account of demonstratives and pointing. *Linguistics & Philosophy*. 45: 1345–1393.
- Ahn, Dorothy & Heejeong Ko. 2022. On non-conservativity of Korean floating quantifiers. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*. 7(1).
- Ahn, Dorothy & Jesse Snedeker. 2021. Early acquisition of plural morphology in a classifier language: Data from Korean 2–4 year olds. In *Language Learning & Development*. 18(1):1–15.
- Ahn, Dorothy 2019. ASL IX to locus as a modifier. In *Snippets*, Issue 37: Special issue in honor of Uli Sauerland, ed. Andreea C. Nicolae, Patrick D. Elliott & Yasutada Sudo, 2–3.
- Ahn, Dorothy & Jenneke van der Wal. 2019. What does that Lugwere demonstratives refer to? A semantic analysis of proximity and exteriority. In *Studies in African Linguistics*. 48(1):1–24. University of Florida: LibraryPress.
- Ahn, Dorothy & Uli Sauerland. 2017. Measure constructions with relative measures: Towards a syntax of non-conservative construals. In *The Linguistics Review*. 34(2): 215–248.

DISSERTATION

Ahn, Dorothy. 2019 THAT thesis: A competition mechanism for anaphoric expressions. Ph.D. Dissertation, Harvard University.

PEER-REVIEWED PROCEEDINGS

Ahn, Dorothy. to appear. Fake nouns: Reconsidering the role of presupposition in reference. In *Proceedings of Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics (LENLS21)*.

Ye, Ariela & Dorothy Ahn. 2026. Rethinking Embeddability and Context Sensitivity in Honorification: Evidence from Korean si. In *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 35.

Ahn, Dorothy. 2025. A four-way distinction in definite expressions. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 28.

Ahn, Dorothy. 2024. Definite expressions with and without deixis. In *Proceedings of 41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL41)*.

Zhu, Ziling & Dorothy Ahn. 2022. Mandarin bridging: Experimental data and theoretical implications. In *Proceedings of the 13th Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia (GLOW in Asia XIII) 2022 Online Special*.

Zhu, Ziling & Dorothy Ahn. 2022. Effects of instruction on semantic and pragmatic judgment tasks. In *Proceedings of Experiments in Linguistic Meaning* 2.

Ahn, Dorothy, Ankana Saha & Uli Sauerland. 2020. Positively Polar Plurals. In *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 30.

Ahn, Dorothy. 2020. ASL IX to locus as a modifier. In *Proceedings of North East Linguistic Society (NELS)* 50. Amherst, Mass.: GLSA, University of Massachusetts

Ahn, Dorothy & Sudha Arunachalam. 2020. Anaphoric *that*: Difference between adults and children. In *Proceedings of the 44th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 44)*, ed. by Megan M. Brown and Alexandra Kohut, 1:28–39.

Ahn, Dorothy, Annemarie Kocab & Kathryn Davidson. 2019. Closer look at ASL IX: Locus as contrast-triggering modifier. In *Universal Grammar and Its Cross-linguistic Instantiations: Proceedings of the 12th Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia (GLOW in Asia)*, ed. Sae-Youn Cho, 1–20. Seoul: Dongguk University.

Ahn, Dorothy & Kathryn Davidson. 2018. Where pointing matters: English and Korean demonstratives. In *Proceedings of the Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, ed. by Sherry Hucklebridge and Max Nelson, 1:15–24. GLSA, University of Massachusetts.

Ahn, Dorothy. 2018. Korean classifier-less number constructions. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB 25)*, ed. Uli Sauerland & Stephanie Solt, 22:23–38. Berlin: Leibniz-Centre GeneralLinguistics.

Ahn, Dorothy. 2017. Definite and demonstrative descriptions: A micro-typology. In *Proceedings of Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia 11*, ed. by Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine, 1:33–48. MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.

Ahn, Dorothy & Isabelle Charnavel. 2017. Perspective on Korean Anaphors: Comparing Inanimate *cachey* vs. Animate *caki-casin*. In *34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. by Aaron Kaplan, Abby Kaplan, Miranda K. McCarvel, and Edward J. Rubin, 16–23. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

- Ahn, Dorothy. 2016. NPI intervention of *too*. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 20*, ed. by Nadine Bade, Polina Berezovskaya, and Anthea Schöller, 80–90.
- Ahn, Dorothy & Uli Sauerland. 2015. The grammar of relative measurements. In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 25)*, ed. by Sarah D’Antonio, Mary Moroney, & Carol-Rose Little, 125–142. LSA and CLC Publications.
- Ahn, Dorothy & Uli Sauerland. 2015. Non-conservative quantification with proportional quantifiers: Crosslinguistic data. In *Proceedings of NELS 45*, ed. by Thuy Bui & Deniz Ozyildiz. Amherst, Mass.: GLSA, University of Massachusetts.
- Ahn, Dorothy. 2015. The semantics of additive *either*. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 19*, ed. by Eva Csipak and Zeijlstra Hedde, 20–35. Göttingen, Germany.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Fake nouns: Reconsidering the role of presupposition in reference
Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics 21. Nagoya University. November 28–30. Plenary Talk.
- 2023 Deriving (anti-)uniqueness in definite expressions
Sinn und Bedeutung 28. Ruhr University Bochum. September 5–8. Plenary Talk.
- 2023 Deriving definiteness in determiner-less languages
SICOGG 25. Dongguk University. August 14–16. Plenary Talk.
- 2023 Definite expressions with and without deixis
WCCFL 41. UC Santa Cruz. May 5–7. Plenary Talk.
- 2022 What do demonstratives tell us about strong definites?
Definiteness Across Domains. University of Potsdam. December 15–16. Invited Talk.
- 2021 Indirectly Direct: An account of demonstratives
The 14th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA). University of Novi Sad. September 22–26. Plenary Talk.
- 2021 Semantic and pragmatic universals in definiteness
Experimental approaches to language universals in structure and meaning (ExUni virtual Workshop at ESSLLI2021). August 2–3. Keynote.

COLLOQUIUM TALKS

- 2025 Encoding deixis in spoken and signed languages
Linguistics Colloquium. University of Connecticut. Series March 7.
- 2024 Defining definiteness: English to Korean
Linguistics Colloquium. University of Buffalo. September 6.

- 2024 Extended D-Type Program: Semantics and pragmatics of definite expressions
Linguistics Colloquium. Beijing Language and Culture University. June 28.
- 2024 Pragmatics of spatial descriptions: Sign language loci
Linguistics Colloquium. University of Delaware. April 30.
- 2024 Minimizing the: Deriving building blocks of definiteness
Penn Speaker Series. University of Pennsylvania. April 19.
- 2023 Pragmatics of spatial descriptions: Sign language loci
Linguistics Colloquium. Seoul National University. December 15.
- 2023 The role of demonstratives across languages
Linguistics Colloquium. Princeton University. March 8.
- 2022 Unique Modality Hypothesis: A constraint on semantic composition
Linguistics Colloquium. Seoul National University. August 24.
- 2022 Accounting for gradience in definiteness
Friday Speaker Series. Georgetown University. April 1.
- 2022 Pointing in spoken and signed languages
Semantics Colloquium at Institut für Linguistik. Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany. February 3.
- 2022 Demonstratives and the role of pointing
Linguistics Colloquium at the Department of German Language and Literature. University of Cologne, Germany. January 12.
- 2021 On non-conservativity of Korean floating quantifiers [with Heejeong Ko]
SNU Workshop on Empirical and Laboratory Linguistics 2021. Seoul National University, Korea. December 21.
- 2021 It's not just that: An account of pronouns and demonstratives
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop. April 26.
- 2021 D-2 Theory: A competition theory of definite expressions
NYU Semantics Group. April 9.
- 2021 Anaphoric definite expressions in spoken and signed languages
UIUC Linguistics Seminar Series. March 29.
- 2021 Marked definite expressions in spoken and signed languages
University of Toronto Linguistics Colloquium Toronto, Canada. February 12.
- 2020 A unified analysis of anaphoric expressions in spoken and signed languages
Seoul National University Linguistics Colloquium Seoul, Korea. October 15.

- 2020 Pointing, demonstratives, and loci
Mind & Language in LA University of Southern California. August 13.
- 2020 The point of pointing
Super Linguistics Colloquium University of Oslo. June 19.
- 2019 A competition mechanism for anaphoric expressions
Department of Linguistics, Rutgers University. February 14.
- 2019 The Determinacy Scale: A competition-based mechanism for anaphoric expressions
Integrated Language Sciences and Technology (ILST), Univ. of Pennsylvania. March 20.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Double nominative constructions via trope possession
LSA 2026. New Orleans. January 8-11. Joint work with Ryan Walter Smith.
- 2025 The semantics of demonstrative spreading in Kipsigis
NELS 56. New York University. October 17-19. Joint work with Maria Kouneli.
- 2025 The most descriptive depiction
SuB 30. Goethe University Frankfurt. September 23-27. Joint work with Ying Zhang^{1st}.
- 2025 Recycling Spatial Representations for Temporal Interpretations: Korean Verb Compounding Constructions
SuB 30. Goethe University Frankfurt. September 23-27. Joint work with Vincent Czarnecki^{1st}.
- 2025 Rethinking Embeddability and Context Sensitivity in Honorification: Evidence from Korean *si*
SALT 35. Harvard University. May 20-22. Joint work with Ariela Ye^{1st}.
- 2023 Perspective-dependent constraints on bound readings of demonstrative pronouns and definite descriptions in German and English
4th meeting of Definiteness Across Domains. Ruhr-Universität Bochum. September 9-10. Joint work with Stefan Hinterwimmer.
- 2023 The antecedent preference for Mandarin reflexive *ziji* and *ta-ziji*
International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics. Dongguk University. August 17-19. Joint work with Chaoyi Chen^{1st}.
- 2023 Status of Mandarin demonstrative *na*: evidence from bridging
International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics. Dongguk University. August 17-19. Joint work with Ziling Zhu^{1st}.
- 2022 Mandarin bridging: experimental data and theoretical implications
GLOW in Asia 2022 Poster. The Chinese University of Hong Kong. August 4-7. Joint work with Ziling Zhu^{1st}.

- 2022 Effects of instruction on semantic and pragmatic judgment tasks
ELM2. University of Pennsylvania. May 18-20. Joint work with Ziling Zhu^{1st}.
- 2020 Positively Polar Plurals
SALT 30 Poster. Ithaca, NY. August 17-20. Joint work with Ankana Saha and Uli Sauerland.
- 2020 Anaphoric *that*: difference between adults and children
BUCLD 44. Cambridge, MA. October 25-27. Joint work with Sudha Arunachalam.
- 2019 ASL IX to locus as a modifier
NELS 50. Cambridge, MA. October 25-27.
- 2019 Anaphoric bare nouns: Korean and Japanese vs. other languages
Japanese Korean Linguistics 27. Poster. Seoul, South Korea. October 18-20.
- 2019 The role of contrast in anaphoric expressions in ASL
GLOW in Asia 2019. Seoul, South Korea. August 6-9. Joint work with Annemarie Kocab & Kathryn Davidson.
- 2019 Linear vs. Hierarchical Order in Redundant Modification – Experimental Data
Asymmetries in Language: Presuppositions and beyond. ZAS Berlin, Germany. July 1. Joint work with Anton Karl Ingason & Florian Schwarz.
- 2019 The blocking of anaphoric bare nouns
GLOW42. Oslo, Norway. May 7-10.
- 2019 Reconsidering agreement in sign languages
GLOW42 Poster. Oslo, Norway. May 7-10. Joint work with Annemarie Kocab^{1st}, Gunnar Lund, and Kathryn Davidson.
- 2019 Acquisition of anaphoric *that*
LSA 93 Poster. New York. January 3-6. Joint work with Sudha Arunachalam.
- 2017 Where pointing matters: English and Korean demonstratives
NELS 48 Poster. Iceland. October 27-29. Joint work with Kathryn Davidson.
- 2017 Korean classifier-less number constructions
SuB 22 Poster. Berlin, Germany. September 7-10.
- 2017 What does that Lugwere demonstrative refer to?
Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL). Leiden University. August 27-30. Joint work with Jenneke van der Wal.
- 2017 Semantics of definite descriptions: A micro-typology
GLOW in Asia 2017. Singapore. February 20-22.
- 2016 Demonstratives: Deictic or Anaphoric? Evidence from Korean and Japanese

Japanese Korean Linguistics 24 Poster. Tokyo, Japan. October 14-16.

- 2016 Three kinds of definites: Weak, Strong, and Deictic
SuB 21 Poster. Edinburgh, UK. September 4-6.
- 2016 Perspective on Korean anaphors: inanimate *cachey* vs. animate *cakicasin*
WCCFL34 Poster. Salt Lake City. April 29-May 1. Joint work with Isabelle Charnavel.
- 2016 Relevance of perspective in syntax: New evidence from Korean anaphors
GLOW39. Göttingen. April 8. Joint work with Isabelle Charnavel.
- 2015 NPI intervention of *too*
SuB 20 Poster. University of Tübingen. September 9-12.
- 2015 Disentangling locality from logophoricity: the case of Korean anaphors *caki-casin* and *cachey*
TEAL10. Tokyo Univ. of Foreign Studies. June 13-14. Joint work with Isabelle Charnavel.
- 2015 The grammar of relative measurements
SALT25 Poster. Stanford University. May 15-17. Joint work with Uli Sauerland.
- 2015 Relative Measures: Implications for the Semantics and Syntax of Pseudo-Partitives
GLOW38. University of Paris 8 and CNRS. April 15-18. Joint work with Uli Sauerland.
- 2015 A new account of *too* and *either*
PLC39. University of Pennsylvania. March 20-22.
- 2015 Grammatical Quantity Concepts and Early Number Acquisition
SRCD Biennial Meeting. Philadelphia. March 19-21.
- 2015 Reversal of Proportional Quantifiers
DGfS Annual Meeting. Leipzig University. March 4-6. Joint work with Uli Sauerland.
- 2014 Reverse Quantification with Proportional Quantifiers
NELS 45 Poster. MIT. October 31-November 2. Joint work with Uli Sauerland.
- 2014 The semantics of additive *either*
SuB 19. Georg August University, Göttingen. September 15-17.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 Additive focus particles *too* and *either*
Pre-DGfS Workshop. ZAS. March 3.
- 2015 Grammatical facilitation of number acquisition
Language & Cognition Workshop (LangCog). Harvard University. February 17.
- 2014 Semantics of focus particles *too* and *either*

Logical Form Reading Group (LFRG). MIT. September 4.

2014 Additive *either* as a disjunctive counterpart of *too*
ECO5. University of Maryland. April 19.

2013 Early acquisition of number words in Korean
Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics. Harvard University. November 23.

TEACHING

AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - GRADUATE LEVEL

- Semantics I Fall 2020, 2024, 2025
- Semantics II Spring 2024
- Experimental Methods Spring 2023
- Qualifying Paper Workshop Fall 2020, 2021, Spring 2025
- Semantics Seminar (Definiteness) Spring 2021, 2026

AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

- Linguistics of Sign Languages Spring 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Semantics Fall 2021, 2024, 2025, Spring 2022
- Capstone Advanced Seminar Spring 2025, 2026
- Introduction to Linguistic Theory Fall 2022

AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

2019-2020 COLLEGE FELLOW
Knowledge of Meaning (undergraduate level semantics; Spring 2020)
Senior Thesis Writers' Workshop (undergraduate level; Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

2015-2016 GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR
Language Acquisition (undergraduate tutorial; Fall 2016)
Writing Systems (undergraduate tutorial; Spring 2015)

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

2015-2016 Knowledge of Meaning (undergraduate semantics; Prof. Roberta Pires de Oliveira)
Semantic Theory I (graduate level semantics; Prof. Gennaro Chierchia)

2014-2015 Sentence Structure (undergraduate level syntax; Prof. Isabelle Charnavel)
Syntactic Theory I (graduate level syntax; Prof. James C.-T. Huang)

SUMMER INSTITUTIONS

2023 INSTRUCTOR, LSA SUMMER INSTITUTE, UMASS AMHERST
Definiteness systems within and across languages (4-week; with Florian Schwarz)

ADVISING

GRADUATE ADVISING

- **Chair, PhD thesis**, Rutgers Linguistics
 - Jiayuan Chen. [Definiteness and reference] 2024-
- **Committee, PhD thesis**, Rutgers Linguistics
 - Ziling Zhu. [Factives in false-belief contexts] 2024-2025
 - Chaoyi Chen. [The syntax and semantics of free relatives] 2022-2024
- **Chair, Qualifying paper**, Rutgers Linguistics
 - Vincent Czarnecki. [Spatial semantics of path specification] 2024-2025
 - Ariela Ye. (co-chair) [Korean honorifics] 2024-2025
 - Quartz Colvin. [Hmong demonstratives] 2024-2025
 - Ying Zhang. [Xi'anese demonstratives] 2024-2025
 - Jiayuan Chen. [Semantics of proper nouns] 2022-2023
 - Jiaxing Yu. [Mandarin demonstratives] 2021-2022
 - Indira Das. (co-chair) [Odia definiteness and plurality] 2020-2021
- **Committee, Qualifying paper**, Rutgers Linguistics
 - Beryl Bui. [logical particles in Vietnamese and Hmong] 2025-
 - Aidan Sharma. [Determiner spreading in Magahi] 2025-2026
 - Hyunjung Joo. [lexical pitch accent; Korean] 2022-2023
 - Jiayuan Chen. [Mandarin sluicing] 2022-2023
 - Gérard Avelino. [Tagalog particle *sana*, syntax-semantics interface] 2022-2023
 - Ziling Zhu. [Mandarin classifiers, experimental] 2020-2021

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

- **Honos thesis advising**, Rutgers Linguistics
 - Matthew Mascobetto. [Conversational implicatures in Spanish] 2022-2023
 - Chenyu Feng. [Iconic gestures] 2024-2025
- **Aresty research assistant advising**, Rutgers Linguistics
 - Samantha Zielinsky, Jasmine Ferrer, Nicole Hsieh 2021-2022
 - Sahana Iyer 2022-2023
 - Nayan Nagaraja, Kiran Sojan, Alison Fayn 2024-2025

- **Honors thesis advising**, Harvard Linguistics undergraduate honors theses advising. 2019–2020
- **Assistant Head Tutor**, Harvard Linguistics undergraduate research and thesis advising. 2015–2017

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- **Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence (Lecturers)** 2019
Ling99a Senior Thesis Workshop (undergraduate thesis; Fall 2019)
- **Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence (Teaching Fellows)**
Ling106 Knowledge of Meaning (undergraduate semantics; Spring 2016)
Ling116 Semantic Theory I (graduate semantics; Fall 2015)
Ling102 Sentence Structure (undergraduate syntax; Spring 2015)
- **Korea Institute Graduate Summer Research Travel Grant** (\$2,900) 2015
“Early Number Acquisition in Korean-learning Children”
- **Mind Brain Behavior Graduate Student Award** (\$4,800) 2014
- **Mind Brain Behavior Graduate Student Award** (\$6,100) 2013
- **Presidential Scholar Fellowship**, Harvard University 2012–2017
- **Phi Beta Kappa**, University of Pennsylvania 2012

SERVICE & EXPERIENCE

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:

- Co-chair, NELS 52, Rutgers University [F 2021]

EDITORIAL POSITIONS:

- Member, Editorial Board, *Semantics and Pragmatics* [2025–]
- Member, Editorial Board, *Syntax and Semantics* [2021–]

JOURNAL REVIEWS: *Discourse Processes*, *Glossa*, *Glossa Psycholinguistics*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Language Acquisition*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Linguistics & Philosophy*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Semantics and Pragmatics*

CONFERENCE REVIEWS: Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM), ESSLLI, Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages (FASAL), Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), Linguistic Society of America (LSA), North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)

OTHER REVIEWS: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- **Principal Investigator**, Rutgers Meaning Across Languages Lab 2020-pres.
- **Lab Manager**, Boston Univ. Child Language Lab (PI: Sudha Arunachalam) S 2017
- **Research Assistant**, Harvard Meaning & Modality Lab (PI: Kate Davidson) 2016-17
- **Research Assistant**, Harvard Linguistics (PI: Isabelle Charnavel) F 2014
- **English Annotator**, Language Data Consortium, Philadelphia 2011-12
- **Research Assistant**, Penn Linguistics (PI: Florian Schwarz) 2011-12

[Updated in December, 2025]