Soo Hyoung Joo

Doctoral Researcher, Columbia University
Scenario-Based Language Assessment (SBLA) Lab

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Learning-Oriented and Scenario-Based Language Assessment; Human-AI Collaboration; Natural Language Processing; Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL); Assessment of 21st-Century Skills (Collaboration, Problem-Solving, AI Literacy)

EDUCATION

Ed.D. Candidate (ABD) in **Applied Linguistics**　　　　　　　　　　Jan 2020 – present
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Dissertation: *Investigating Situated Specific Purpose Writing Ability in a Scenario-based Language Assessment: With Focus on the Role of Domain Knowledge* (Advised by Dr. James E. Purpura, expected May 2026)

M.A. in **Applied Linguistics**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Sep 2014 – May 2016
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Thesis: *Self- and Peer-Assessment of Speaking*
  Result: High Pass, Applied Linguistics and Language Education (APPLE) Award (Best Thesis Award) Winner

B.A. in **English Education**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Mar 2007 – Feb 2011
Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Joo, S. H. (under review). Measuring Meaning in Writing: Can Cohesion Improve Automated Essay Scoring? *Assessing Writing*

Joo, S. H., Seong, Y., Suh, J., & Jung, J. (in press). Investigating the affordances of scenario-based language assessment for measuring situated Korean language proficiency in a Korean as a foreign language setting. *Language Assessment Quarterly*. https://doi.org/10.1080/15434303.2025.2575503

Voss, E., **Joo, S. H.**, & Eskin, D. (in press). Developing an interpretation argument for AI-enhanced scenario-based language assessments through a Learning-Oriented Language Assessment framework. *Language Assessment Quarterly*.

Purpura, J. E., **Joo, S. H.**, Beltrán, J., & Eskin, D. (in press). Using a learning-oriented assessment framework to validate claims related to a B1 English scenario-based assessment of situated second and foreign language proficiency. *Language Assessment Quarterly*. https://doi.org/10.1080/15434303.2025.2575510

Purpura, J. E., Eskin, D., & **Joo, S. H** (in press). Examining examinee perceptions of and reactions to the use of scenario-based language assessment as a measure of situated English second and foreign language proficiency. *Language Assessment Quarterly.*

Joo, S. H., & Ko, E. G. (2025). "[AI peers] are people learning from the same standpoint": Perception of AI characters in a collaborative science investigation. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED)*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-98414-3_30

Eskin, D., **Joo, S. H.**, & Frantz, K. K. (2025). An interview with APPLE Lecture speaker Dr. Okim Kang. *Studies in Applied Linguistics & TESOL, 25*(1), 62–64. https://doi.org/10.52214/salt.v25i1.14085

Joo, S. H. (2024). Generative AI as writing or speaking partners in L2 learning: Implications for learning-oriented assessments. *Studies in Applied Linguistics & TESOL, 24*(1), 54-59. https://doi.org/10.52214/salt.v24i1.12865

Joo. S. H., Seong, Y., Suh, J., Jung, J. Y., & Purpura, J. E. (2023). Assessing Korean writing ability through a scenario-based assessment approach. *Assessing Writing, 58*, 100766. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asw.2023.100766

Joo, S. H. (2023). Validity inquiries in second language Assessment [forum introduction]. *Studies in Applied Linguistics and TESOL, 23*(1). https://doi.org/10.52214/salt.v23i1.11803

Ko. E., **Joo. S. H.**, Lim. K., Resta. P. E. & Jang. E. (2022). How Korean K-12 teachers adapted to online teaching and promoted digital equity during COVID-19: A Mixed-method study on practices and perceptions. *Journal of Education and Training Studies, 10*(1), 59-79. https://doi.org/10.11114/jets.v10i1.5422

Joo, S. H. (2022). Current trends in second language assessment [forum introduction]. *Studies in Applied Linguistics and TESOL, 22*(1). https://doi.org/10.7916/8nsy-jw72

Kim, P., Beltrán, J., & **Joo, S. H.** (2022). An interview with APPLE lecture speaker Dr. Paul D. Deane. *Studies in Applied Linguistics and TESOL, 22*(1). https://doi.org/10.7916/fsys-s049

Ko. E., Lim. K., **Joo. S. H.,** & Resta. P. E. (2021). Enhancing student-centered blended teaching competency: A South Korean teacher PD case study. *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education, 29*(2), 195-224. https://www.learntechlib.org/p/219071/

Joo. S. H. (2016). Self- and peer-assessment of speaking. *Studies in Applied Linguistics and TESOL, 16*(2). https://doi.org/10.7916/D82F90FC

PRESENTATIONS

Joo, S. H., Eskin, D., & Purpura, J. E. (2026, April). Investigating the development and use of interactive avatars in scenario-based language assessment [Paper presentation]. In G. LaFlair (Chair), Designing and administering interactive tasks in English language assessments: Innovations, challenges, and evidence (Colloquium). AAAL 2026, Virtual.

Joo, S. H. (2025, November). *When assessment talks back: Supporting learning through interactive avatars in scenario-based language assessment* [Invited talk]. Department of Language Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga.

Joo, S. H. (2025, September). "Hey there! I'm here to help you": Investigating the use of an interactive AI character to support affective engagement in a scenario-based language assessment

[Paper presentation]. Artificial Intelligence Research in Applied Linguistics Annual Conference (AIRiAL 2025), New York, NY.

Joo, S. H., & Ko, E. G. (2025, July). Collaborating with interactive AI characters for scientific investigation [Interactive demonstration]. 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED 2025), Palermo, Italy.

Joo, S. H. (2025, April). Investigating situated specific purpose language ability of science in a scenario-based language assessment [Paper presentation]. Language Assessment Research Conference (LARC) 2025, Fullerton, CA.

Joo, S. H. (2024 June). ELLs? Emergent bilinguals? Multilingual learners? What's in a name? [Invited talk]. Cultural Diversity and Teaching ELLs, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO.

Joo, S. H. (2024 May). Specific-purpose language learning through AI-generated characters in a learning-oriented assessment [Paper presentation]. Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Joo, S. H. (2024 March). Navigating dual challenges: Assessing integrated language and disciplinary skills of international students [Invited talk]. Pedagogical Forum, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.

Joo, S. H. (2023 November). An interdisciplinary working session on scenario-based assessment of specific purpose writing ability of science [Workshop]. Studies in Applied Linguistics & TESOL (SALT) journal, New York, NY.

Joo, S. H. (2023 September). Investigating the use of AI avatars in a scenario-based language assessment [Paper presentation]. Artificial Intelligence Research in Applied Linguistics Annual Conference (AIRiAL 2023), New York, NY.

Beltrán, J., **Joo, S. H.**, Eskin, D., Ralston, M., Vafaee, P., & Purpura, J. E. (2023 June). Examining the use of a test of linguistic resources to stream candidates into proficiency-level appropriate scenario-based assessments of situated second & foreign language proficiency [Paper presentation]. Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC), New York, NY.

Suh, J., Jung J. Y., **Joo, S. H.**, Seong, Y. (2022 June) Scenario-based language assessment: Its applications and implications for the KFL curriculum. [Workshop]. American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK) Annual Conference, Ithaca, NY.

Eskin, D., Beltrán, J., **Joo, S. H.**, Purpura, J. E., & Banerjee, H. L. (2022 March). Examining ESL learners' situated language proficiency and topical learning through a scenario-based assessment. [Invited paper presentation at AAAL-ILTA Joint Colloquium "Exploring the cross-linguistic insights of using scenario-based assessment across typologically different languages"]. American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Pittsburgh, PA.

Joo, S. H., Jung J. Y., Seong, Y., & Suh, J., (2022 March). Examining Korean learners' situated language proficiency and topical learning through a scenario-based assessment. [Invited paper presentation at AAAL-ILTA Joint Colloquium "Exploring the cross-linguistic insights of using scenario-based assessment across typologically different languages"]. American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Pittsburgh, PA.

Eskin, D., Beltrán, J., **Joo, S. H.**, Purpura, J. E., & Banerjee, H. L. (2022 March). Examining ESL learners' situated language proficiency and topical learning through a scenario-based assessment. [Paper presentation at Symposium "Exploring the cross-linguistic insights of using scenario-based assessment across typologically different languages"]. Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC), Virtual.

Joo, S. H., Jung J. Y., Seong, Y., & Suh, J., (2022 March). Examining Korean learners' situated language proficiency and topical learning through a scenario-based assessment. [Paper presentation at Symposium "Exploring the cross-linguistic insights of using scenario-based assessment across typologically different languages"]. Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC), Virtual.

Joo, S. H., & Seong, Y. (2021, November). Developing a Scenario-based Korean proficiency assessment using a learning-oriented approach. [Paper presentation]. 7th Annual International Conference of the Asian Association for Language Assessment (AALA), Virtual.

Ko, E., Lim, K. **Joo, S. H.**, & Resta. P. E. (2021, June). A case study of re-envisioning PD: Enhancing blended teaching competency during COVID-19. [Paper presentation]. International Society for Technology in Education 2021 Conference, Virtual.

Ko, E., **Joo, S. H.**, Lim, K., & Resta. P. E. (2021, April). Understanding online teaching readiness and practice among Korean K-12 teachers in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association 2021 Conference, Virtual.

Ko, E., **Joo, S. H.** (2019, April). Using virtual reality to tackle sustainable development goals in language classrooms. [Refereed Roundtable Session "Investigating how digital technologies shape understandings of citizenship and civic attitudes]. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), San Francisco, CA

Joo, S. H., Ko, E. (2018, September). Embedding design thinking in language classes. [Workshop]. Teachers of English Education and Media (TEEM), Seoul, South Korea

Joo, S. H., Ko, E. (2017, March). A scenario-based language assessment for a design thinking classroom. [Paper presentation]. 21st Century Learning Conference (21CLHK9), Hong Kong

Joo, S. H., Ko, E. (2016, October) Scenario-based language assessment as an alternative assessment for project-based learning classes [Paper presentation]. Korea TESOL (KOTESOL), Seoul, South Korea

Joo, S. H., Ko, E. (2016, March). WikiTalki, an Android app for peer feedback on voice recording. [Slow Pitch Presentation]. South by South West Education (SXSWedu), Austin, TX

Joo, S. H. (2016, March). Technology to enhance the perception of feedback on speaking, [Poster presentation]. Applied Linguistics Winter Conference (NYS TESOL ALWC), New York, NY

Tsutagawa, F. S, **Joo, S. H.**, Durkis, A. (2016, March). Contextualizing L2 pragmatics as part of assessing communicative language ability, [Paper presentation]. TC-ETS Forum**,** Teachers College, New York, NY

Joo, S. H. (2016, February). Oral dialogue journals: Using SoundCloud for language exchange. [Paper presentation]. Celebration of Teaching, Teachers College, New York, NY

Joo, S. H. (2014, November) A semester free of grades: For a meaningful language learning experience [Panel Discussion]. International Education Week, Teachers College, New York, NY

AWARDS & GRANTS

Emerging Leaders' Award ($12,000)   2025
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

AIRiAL Best Student Presentation Award   2023
Artificial Intelligence Research in Applied Linguistics (AIRiAL) Annual Conference

Provost's Grant for Professional Development ($882)   2022, 2025
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Arts & Humanities Stipends ($514)   2021, 2025
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Texas Social Innovation Challenge ($1000)   2020
The University of Texas at Austin, Global Sustainability Leadership Institute

Applied Linguistics and Language Education (APPLE) Award Winner   2016
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Korean Minister of Science, ICT, and Future Planning Award ($10,000)   2014
Samsung Tomorrow Solution Contest – WikiTalki,1st Prize

Departmental Grants & Supplemental Funds ($66,079)   2015-2025
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Departmental International Scholarships ($64,194)   2014-2023
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Teachers College Scholarships ($20,388)   2014, 2019
Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

Superintendent Recognition Award   2013
Seoul Gangnam District Office of Education Support

Field Study Presentation Contest Winner   2012
Project-Based Cooperative Learning
Seoul Secondary English Teachers' Association

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Scenario-Based Language Assessment (SBLA) Lab Doctoral Researcher   Jan 2020 – present
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Developed and validated new SBLAs for English and Korean
- Conducted test/item analysis, rater analysis, scaling, standard-setting, score reporting, and research of the newly developed SBLA
- Trained onboarding members of the SBLA team for typologically different languages

Language Curriculum Designer (Contractor)   Apr 2021 – present
Duolingo, Pittsburgh, PA

- Designed CEFR-aligned curriculum, wrote content and assessments for English and Korean courses
- Designed training materials and assessments for onboarding contractors and facilitated the training sessions
- Reviewed newly designed AI-generated interactive items for the Duolingo English Test

Content & Fairness Reviewer (Contractor)   Jan 2023 – Dec 2023
PSI Services, Carmel, IN
- Reviewed the assessment specification and specimen tests of Skills for English: SELT, a multi-component English qualification test for visa application, covering all levels of the CEFR level
- Conducted a content & fairness review of PSI English Test: Academic, a 4-component English language test for B1 to C2 learners applying to study in an English-speaking context

Applied Linguistics/TESOL Program Associate   Sep 2019 – Jan 2020
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Communicated with prospective students and provided admission information
- Assisted faculty with administrative work
- Arranged information sessions for prospective students
- Managed program email and social media accounts

Language Assessment Editor (Contractor)   Dec 2018 – Oct 2019
Oxford University Press, New York, NY
- Edited items for the **Q: Skills for Success (3E)** listening and speaking assessments for levels 2 and 5
- Provided feedback for the drafts

Language Assessment Writer/Editor (Contractor)   Oct 2016 – Dec 2016, Sep 2018 – Oct 2019
Pearson Education, Hoboken, NJ
- Created and edited items for self-assessment quizzes for the **StartUp (1E)** workbook of levels 2 through 8, and developed answer keys
- Created and edited items for **Focus on Grammar (5E)** diagnostic tests and unit review tests for levels 1, 4, and 5, and developed answer keys

Language Assessment Writer (Contractor)   May 2016 – Oct 2016
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK
- Created the **United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education Language assessment** speaking and listening items for EFL learners from Grade 1 to Grade 12
- Edited items suitable for the social and cultural context of the UAE

TOEFL iBT Speaking Outside Item Writer (Contractor)   Sep 2015 – May 2016
Education Testing Service, Princeton, NJ
- Identified academic topics suitable for assessing the ability to study in a college or university
- Created conversations and lectures for integrated speaking items
- Developed scenarios that allow test takers to demonstrate their speaking skills

TOEFL iBT Speaking Intern   Jul 2015 – Aug 2015
Education Testing Service, Princeton, NJ
- Identified academic topics suitable for assessing the ability to study in a college or university
- Wrote prompts for independent speaking items
- Created conversations and lectures for integrated speaking items
- Developed scenarios and prompts that allow candidates to demonstrate their speaking skills

Founder and Project Manager   Oct 2012 – Apr 2015
WikiTalki (peer feedback platform for collaborative English speaking practice)
- Developed an app-based peer feedback platform for collaborative English speaking practice in public schools
- Oversaw product management from pedagogical concept verification, UX design, and technical
- launched on the Google Play app, and reviewed the Android application for students and an online website for teachers
- Facilitated the teacher community to incorporate WikiTalki in classrooms to improve student English-speaking learning experiences

NYU PEARLS Project Research Assistant   Jan 2009 – May 2009
Department of Applied Psychology, **NYU Steinhardt,** New York, NY
- Volunteered 8 hours/week in Head Start sites in New York
- Transcribed interviews that were conducted to research the parenting styles of African American communities

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Part-Time Instructor   Jul 2023 – present
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Taught the Research Literacy in Applied Linguistics & TESOL course for graduate students
- Taught the Second Language Assessment course for the TESOL certificate program in a blended-learning format

Community Language Program Instructor   Feb 2015 – May 2015, May 2022 – present
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Taught an ESL course for beginning learners of English, a TOEFL test preparation course, and a grammar & writing course for upper intermediate and advanced learners of English
- Used the communicative language teaching approach for group activities, creative projects, and other interactive assignments
- Designed a class website and integrated online discussions through the class website in order to promote digital literacy

Teaching Assistant   May 2022 – Aug 2022
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Assessed and provided feedback to student work and assignments of the Second Language Assessment course for graduate students

English Teacher   Mar 2018 – Jul 2019
Seoil Middle School, Seoul, South Korea
- Taught communicative lessons for English as a foreign language learners
- Incorporated learning-oriented assessment into a semester curriculum
- Provided guidance as a homeroom teacher, led morning and afternoon assemblies, and provided counseling for students and parents
- Advised student groups for English debate and TED talk review

English Teacher   Mar 2011 – Aug 2014, Jun 2016 – Feb 2018
Dogok Middle School, Seoul, South Korea
- Taught communicative lessons for English as a foreign language learners
- Developed and implemented a level-differentiated curriculum for beginners to advanced learners of English
- Assessed students through performance assessment with a focus on project-based learning
- Provided guidance as a homeroom teacher, led morning and afternoon assemblies, and provided counseling for students and parents
- Advised student groups for the English Newspaper, UCC production, and English Debate

Korean Language Program Language Associate   Sep 2015 – May 2016
Columbia University, New York, NY
- Assisted Korean language lectures with class material preparation and assignment grading
- Administered placement tests, midterms, final exams, and quizzes
- Led one-on-one speaking practice sessions and tutored students according to their language needs

American Language Program Tutor   Sep 2015 – Dec 2015
Columbia University, New York, NY
- Provided one-on-one tutoring sessions with three ALP students for a total of eight weeks
- Prepared individualized lesson plans and adapted materials for individual needs
- Monitored and assessed student progress on an online weekly log

EFL Instructor   Jul 2008 – Aug 2008
ECC English Institute, Daegu, South Korea
- Taught English to Korean students from ages 8-12
- Prepared daily lesson plans with communicative activities
- Consulted parents about the learning progress

Teaching Assistant   May 2007 – Aug 2007, Dec 2007 – Feb 2008
Nokwon Kindergarten, Daegu, South Korea
- Assisted in the teaching of Kindergarten students from ages 3-5
- Provided administrative support for Kindergarten management

SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, Studies in Applied Linguistics & TESOL (SALT)   Sep 2020 – Present
International Students & Scholars Excellence Committee, Teachers College, Columbia University
                                                                                    Mar 2025 – Present
Steering Committee, International Language Testing Association (ILTA) GSA   Oct 2023 – Present
Representative, Student Parent Group**,** Teachers College, Columbia University   Apr 2025 – Present
Ad Hoc Reviewer, Language Assessment Quarterly   Apr 2025, Sep 2025
Ad Hoc Reviewer, Language Assessment Research Conference (LARC)   Jan 2025
Ad Hoc Reviewer, Assessing Writing   Sep 2023
TESOL/AL Roundtable Co-chair, Teachers College, Columbia University   May 2015 – May 2016
Global Guide, One to World, New York, NY   Oct 2014 – May 2016
Seoul Future School Consultant, Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education   Feb 2014 – Aug 2014
Organizing Committee, Big Camp for Education Hackathon, Seoul, Korea   Jun 2013 – Aug 2013

CERTIFICATION

Secondary School Teaching of English (Grade I)   Feb 2017
Ministry of Education, South Korea

Teaching English in English - Ace Certificate   Jul 2013
Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education

Cambridge In-Service Certificate in English Language Teaching   Dec 2012
Cambridge University

Secondary School Teaching of English (Grade II)   Feb 2011
Ministry of Education, South Korea

SKILLS

Computer:
- Data Analysis: R, SPSS, FACETS, WINSTEPS, GENOVA, mGENOVA, SmartPLS, MS Excel
- Programming & Text Analysis: Python (NLP, text classification, speech processing), R, AntConc, Coh-Metrix
- Instructional & Survey Platforms: Qualtrics, Canvas, Articulate Storyline
- Web & Multimedia Tools: HTML, WordPress, Camtasia, Adobe Photoshop, Synthesia, HeyGen

Languages:
- English & Korean – bilingual
- Spanish, Japanese – beginner

October, 29, 2025