

# Sean Simpson

Computational Sociolinguist

## Contact

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## Languages

English (Native)  
Portuguese (Heritage)  
French (reading only)  
Spanish (reading only)

## Programming

Python  
R  
HTML5  
CSS3  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## Linguistics Software

Praat  
ELAN  
FLEx  
LexiquePro  
Shoebox  
Toolbox  
Transcriber  
WeSay

## EDUCATION

2018 (expected)	<b>Doctorate</b> of Philosophy Computational Linguistics	Georgetown University
2016	<b>Master</b> of Science Sociolinguistics	Georgetown University
2013	<b>Master</b> of Arts Language Documentation & Conservation	University of Hawaii at Manoa
2011	<b>Bachelor</b> of Arts Linguistics, Anthropology	University of Florida

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2018	Simpson, S. Sean, Nikki Adams, M. Claudia Brugman, and J. Thomas Connors. Detecting Novel and Emerging Drug Terms Using Natural Language Processing: A Social Media Corpus Study. <i>Journal of Medical Internet Research: Public Health and Surveillance</i> , 4(1). e2
2016	Kirtley, Joelle, Katie Drager, James Grama, and Sean Simpson. An acoustic analysis of the vowels of Hawai'i English. <i>Journal of the International Phonetic Association</i> , 46(1). 79–97
2013	Drager, Katie, Joelle Kirtley, James Grama, and Sean Simpson. Language variation and change in Hawai'i English: KIT , DRESS , and TRAP. <i>University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics</i> , 19(2). 40–50
2013	Simpson, Sean. The Endangered Languages Project: A digital tool for research and engagement. <i>Katoba to Shakai (Language and Society)</i> , 15. 135–154

### Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

2017	Simpson, Sean. Reconstructing Thread Structure For Reddit Comments. Poster presented at <i>Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (MASC-SLL)</i> . Washington, DC
2016	Simpson, Sean. Keeping up with Cait: A longitudinal analysis of F0 and [s] in the speech of Caitlyn Jenner. Poster presented at <i>New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 45</i> . Vancouver, BC
2014	Drager, Katie, Sean Simpson, James Grama, and Joelle Kirtley. Variation and change in the back vowels of Hawai'i English. Paper presented at <i>New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 43</i> . Chicago, IL
2014	Simpson, Sean. Phonetic cues to Localness in Hawai'i English: Feature clusters influencing perception. Paper presented at <i>New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 43</i> . Chicago, IL

- 2014 Simpson, Sean. The Endangered Languages Project: Overview and assessment. Paper presented at *The LSA Annual Meeting*. Minneapolis, MN
- 2013 Campbell, Lyle, Nala Lee, Eve Okura, Sean Simpson, and Kaori Ueki. New knowledge: Findings from the Catalogue of Endangered Languages. Paper presented at *The 3rd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC)*. Honolulu, HI
- 2013 Simpson, Sean. Practical applications of the Endangered Languages Project. Paper presented at *The 3rd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC)*. Honolulu, HI
- 2013 Simpson, Sean. Preliminary results: Phonetic variation and perceived Localness in Hawai'i. Paper presented at *The 17th Annual Graduate Student Conference of Languages, Linguistics and Literature*. Honolulu, HI
- 2012 Grama, James, Joelle Kirtley, Katie Drager, Sean Simpson, and Rebecca Clifford. Language variation and change in Hawai'i English: KIT, DRESS and TRAP in motion. Paper presented at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWA) 41*. Bloomington, IN

## Book Chapters

- 2018 Belew, Anna and Sean Simpson. Language extinction then and now. In Campbell, Lyle and Anna Belew (eds.). *Cataloguing the Endangered Languages of the World*. Abingdon: Taylor and Francis
- 2018 Belew, Anna and Sean Simpson. The status of the world's endangered languages. In Campbell, Lyle and Kenneth Rehg (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Endangered Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- 2018 Heaton, Raina and Sean Simpson. How ELCat serves communities whose languages are at risk. In Campbell, Lyle, John Van Way, and Anna Belew (eds.). *Cataloguing the Endangered Languages of the World*. Abingdon: Taylor and Francis

## Tech Reports

- 2015 Conners, Thomas J. Claudia M. Brugman, Paul Rodrigues, and Sean Simpson. Summary of register properties from a corpus of Jakarta Indonesian Twitter. *Center for Advanced Study of Language*. University of Maryland

## Work Experience

- 2018 - now **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** Washington, DC  
***ML & NLP Projects Officer***  
 I currently provide consultation and development expertise to members of the Innovation Lab Unit on a number of issues related to Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning.
- 2016 - 2017 **Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL)** University of Maryland  
***NLP Research Specialist***  
 Designed and implemented a Natural Language Processing system to detect newly emerging drug terminology in streaming Twitter corpora.

2015	<b>Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL)</b> <i>Research Assistant</i> Managed the collection of a tri-lingual SMS corpus for cross-language variation analysis.	University of Maryland
2012 - 2013	<b>Catalogue of Endangered Languages (ELCat)</b> <i>Project Coordinator</i> Lead a team of research assistants in collecting and assembling the language data for the 3,000+ languages that appear on the Endangered Languages Project website ( <a href="http://www.endangeredlanguages.com">www.endangeredlanguages.com</a> )	University of Hawaii
2011 - 2012	<b>Language Documentation Training Center (LDTC)</b> <i>Director</i> Managed the day-to-day necessities of the training center and taught weekly workshops on issues of language documentation to members of minority and threatened language communities.	University of Hawaii

## Teaching Experience

2018, spring	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> LING/COSC-572: Empirical Methods in NLP	Georgetown University
2017, fall	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> LING-367: Computational Corpus Linguistics	Georgetown University
2017, spring	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> LING-469: Analyzing Language Data with R	Georgetown University
2016, fall	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> LING-481: Sociolinguistic Variation	Georgetown University
2016, spring	<b>Student Coordinator</b> LING-001: Introduction to Language	Georgetown University
2015, fall	<b>Student Coordinator</b> LING-001: Introduction to Language	Georgetown University
2015, fall	<b>Instructor</b> LING-001: Introduction to Language	Georgetown University
2015, spring	<b>Instructor</b> LING-001: Introduction to Language	Georgetown University
2014, fall	<b>Instructor</b> LING-001: Introduction to Language	Georgetown University