

SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES – PLANNING A TRANSITION**DUSTIN CROWTHER***University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa*

On behalf of the editorial team for *Second Language Studies*, we are pleased to share our 2022 issue, the largest yet under my time as editor! As University of Hawai‘i transitions back towards normality with the lifting of pandemic restrictions, we are beginning to see once again the range of research possibilities available to us in the field of second language studies. Accompanying this move towards greater normality in our teaching and research practices comes an exciting transition for how *Second Language Studies* will be run moving forward.

A STUDENT DRIVEN PUBLICATION

In 2020, I took over as editor of *Second Language Studies* from the recently retired Dr. JD Brown, with the goal to eventually give journal ownership over to the graduate student body of the Department of Second Language Studies. Since 2020, I have worked closely with three SLS PhD students, Ha Nguyen, Micah Mizukami, and Kristen Urada, with three more SLS PhD students joining us for the current issue: Ricky Larkin, Michol Miller, and Hitoshi Nishizawa. With an editorial board of six graduate students, all of whom have contributed to a growing vision for the journal, I feel that now is an appropriate time for the students of SLS to take control of the journal. While remaining as a journal advisor, I believe that the opportunity to run *Second Language Studies* will provide both current and future SLS student editors the opportunity to more fully experience and comprehend the publication process in a stress-free environment. This is in addition to maintaining a local outlet for student and faculty work on a range of topics relevant to second language studies. In the coming year, your new student editorial board will provide additional information on their mission statement and plans for future publication procedures!

THE CURRENT ISSUE

For our fall 2022 issue, we present four papers, representing scholarly work at the MA, PhD, and faculty levels of the Department of Second Language Studies. Building off of previous issues, we now have work not only representative of keystone projects in SLS studies (i.e., MA scholarly papers, PhD dissertations), but also class level projects, highlighting the quality of SLS work being produced in classes such as SLS 490: *Second Language Testing* and SLS 671: *Research in Language Testing*. In addition to these four papers, we once again provide an overview of recent SLS MA/AGC scholarly papers and PhD dissertations.

Our first paper is a collaborative piece from SLS PhD students Yu-Tzu Chang, Ann Tai Choe, Dan Holden, and SLS faculty member Dan Isbell. Their paper, which developed out of an SLS 671 project, investigated the appropriateness of previous revisions made to the Hawai‘i English Language Program’s (HELP) writing placement test, specifically in reference to the rubric used for assessing students’ writing performance on the test.

The second paper, written by SLS faculty member Dustin Crowther and PhD student Kristen Urada, is an example of research adapting to restrictions due to COVID-19. In their paper, they compared listeners’ perceptions of speech elicited in a face-to-face versus online setting, with the online speech samples originally collected as part of a pedagogically-oriented study postponed due to COVID-19 (see paper for more details).

The third paper is a test review written by Hikaru Ishiyama, a 2021-2022 SLS MA graduate. This paper, developed in SLS 490, reviewed the validity of the writing section in a well-used English proficiency exam in Japan, the *Eiken Test in Practical English Proficiency*.

Our final paper comes from Soo Jin Lim, another 2021-2022 SLS MA graduate, who considered the role of English kindergarten programs in South Korean. More specifically, she investigated the factors that influenced parents’ decisions on which type of English kindergarten parents chose to enroll their children in. This paper served as her MA scholarly paper.

On behalf of our growing editorial board, we once again thank you for reading, and hope that you enjoy the 2022 issue of *Second Language Studies*. For those looking to publish in *Second Language Studies*, we are always open to submissions, including in-progress research, scholarship directly relevant to Hawai‘i and the Asia-Pacific region, needs analyses focused on

UH Mānoa-based language programs, theoretical papers, and other submissions relevant to second language studies!

Mahalo!

Dustin Crowther

Rickey Larkin

Michol Miller

Micah Mizukami

Thu Ha Nguyen

Hitoshi Nishizawa

Kristen Urada