

# SUBHEKSHYA SHRESTHA

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## EDUCATION

**University of California, Santa Cruz, CA USA**

**Sept 2024 – present**

Ph.D. in Linguistics.

Advisor: Prof. Dustin Chacón

**University of Chicago, IL USA**

**Sept 2022 – June 2023**

Master of Arts Program in the Humanities.

Thesis: *How Revolution and Gender Dynamics Affected 3rd-Person Honorification in Nepali.*

Advisor: Prof. Ming Xiang

**New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

**May 2020**

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minors in Arabic and Linguistics.

Thesis: *The Effect of Case-Marking on Agreement Attraction in Nepali.*

Advisor: Prof. Diogo Almeida

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant, Language Processing Lab, UChicago**

**July 2023 – Present**

Adapted and replicated a Bidirectional Self-Paced Reading Paradigm(BSPR) study from Ibex-farm to the PennController Ibex platform (PCIbex).

Recruited and ran participants for online behavioural experiments through Prolific.

Debugged and implemented R scripts for data analysis of the BSPR data.

Consolidated various stimuli sets for further experimentation on the paradigm.

**Research Assistant, LEM Lab, UChicago**

**July 2023 – Present**

Led a tutorial on how to use git and organizing lab files on GitHub.

Created and validated visual stimuli for online experiments using photo-editing software GIMP.

Set up PCIbex experiments for collecting video and audio recording data, and manually coded results.

Utilized prompt engineering on Dall-E to generate stimuli for psycholinguistic experiments.

Conducted extensive literature review to collect stimuli and manually coded them.

**Research Assistant, LaMB Lab, NYU Abu Dhabi**

**Sept 2020 – Sept 2022**

Coordinated communication and resource sharing between multiple labs in the NYU Abu Dhabi Psychology department.

Recruited and ran participants for MEG and behavioural experiments in line with COVID-19 restrictions, including scheduling multiple experiment slots while coordinating equipment booking between different labs.

Managed and tracked participant compensation and other lab expenses in MS Excel.

Re-established EEG Lab following COVID-19 guidelines by revising protocols, doing inventory, and redesigning workflow.

**Research Assistant, Psychology Department, NYU Abu Dhabi** **May 2020 – Aug 2020**

Set-up online recruitment for behavioural tasks online to account for COVID-19 guidelines.

Wrote-up consent forms and demographic surveys, translating them into the target language of participants for better understanding.

Researched different payment platforms and streamlined online compensation for participants in multiple countries.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Subhekshya Shrestha**, Dustin A. Chacón. In Prep. Help thy neighbor: Neighborhood Effects Facilitate Concord Detection in at-a-glance reading – an EEG study in Spanish.

**Subhekshya Shrestha**. 2024. How Revolution and Gender Dynamics Affected Nepali 3rd-Person Honorification from the 1990s to the 2010s: a Corpus Analysis.

*Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America Conference 2024.*

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Subhekshya Shrestha**, Dustin A. Chacón. 2025. ‘moto or mot-o?’ – How lexical access and morphosyntactic relations are processed during at-a-glance reading in Spanish.

*Bay Area Language-Processing Interest Group 2025*. Santa Cruz, CA.

**Subhekshya Shrestha**, Dustin A. Chacón. 2025. ‘moto or mot-o?’ – Morphosyntactic relations are computed after lexical access in ‘at-a-glance’ reading – an EEG study in Spanish.

*Society for the Neurobiology of Language 2025*. Washington D.C.

**Subhekshya Shrestha**, Dustin A. Chacón. 2025. ‘Now You See It...?’ – Agreement sensitivity in ‘at-a-glance’ reading in Spanish.

*Human Sentence Processing 2025*. College Park, MD.

**Subhekshya Shrestha**, Ming Xiang. 2024. A Validation of the Bidirectional SPR Paradigm.

*Human Sentence Processing 2024*. Ann Arbor, MI.

**Subhekshya Shrestha**. 2024. How Revolution and Gender Dynamics Affected Nepali 3rd-Person Honorification from the 1990s to the 2010s: a Corpus Analysis.

*Linguistic Society of America Conference 2024*. New York, NY.

Dustin A. Chacón, **Subhekshya Shrestha**, Brian Dillon, Rajesh Bhatt, Diogo Almeida, Alec Marantz. 2022. Brain activity in Hindi and Nepali reflects language-adapted processing strategies.

*Cross-linguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning 2022*. University of Zürich.

*Society for the Neurobiology of Language 2022*. Philadelphia, PA.

*Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2022*. University of York.

Dustin A. Chacón, **Subhekshya Shrestha**, Brian Dillon, Rajesh Bhatt, Diogo Almeida, Alec Marantz. 2021. Paying attention to agreement: RTPJ aids the encoding of agreement in Hindi.

*Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2021*. University of Paris.

*South Asian Forum on the Acquisition and Processing of Language 2*. University of Potsdam.

*Society for the Neurobiology of Language 2021*. Online.

**TEACHING AND MENTORING**

**Informal Mentor, FaLCoN Lab, UC Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics** Sept 2025 – *present*

Trained undergraduate RAs on recruiting, running, and troubleshooting an EEG experiment as well as conducting Data Analysis.

**Teaching Assistant, UC Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics** Sept 2025 – *present*  
Fall 2025 – Neurolinguistics (LING 174).

Winter 2026 – Introduction to linguistics (LING 50).

**Arabic Student Assistant, NYU Abu Dhabi** Sept 2019 – Jan 2020

Tutored students one-on-one in learning both Modern Standard Arabic and Levantine dialect.

Prepared worksheets to aid students in understanding syllabus materials such as grammatical concepts, vocabulary, or pronunciations.

**SKILLS**

*Research Methods:* MEG, EEG, Self-Paced Reading, Acceptability Judgement, Cloze, Masked Priming, Bidirectional Self-Paced Reading, Rapid Serial/Parallel Visual Presentation.

*Languages:* Native Fluency in Nepali and English, Conversational Hindi, Intermediate Arabic (Modern Standard Arabic and Levantine Dialect), Heritage Speaker of Newari. Intermediate Spanish. Devanagari and Arabic typing.

*Programming Languages and Softwares:* MS Office, Ibex, MEG160, Stata, Praat, Python (Psychopy, Pytorch, and MNE), R, LaTeX, Prolific, GIMP, IbexFarm, PCibex.