Nicholas Bamshad Aoki

Curriculum Vitae as of December 28, 2025

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Phonetics/phonology, speech perception, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, human-computer interaction

EDUCATION

Degrees

2021- **University of California Davis,** Davis, California, United States
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics
Cumulative GPA: 4.00/4.00
Dissertation: From Idiosyncrasy to Generalization: On the Emergence of Sociolinguistic Perception
Committee: Georgia Zellou, Fernanda Ferreira, Santiago Barreda

2021 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois, United States
Master of Arts in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History
Cumulative GPA: 4.00/4.00
Thesis: Do Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris Imitate the Accent of their Audience at Campaign Rallies?
Advisor: Alan C. L. Yu

2021 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois, United States
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, Minor in Statistics
Cumulative GPA: 3.95/4.00
College Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Student Marshal, *summa cum laude*

Non-Degrees

2025 **University of Oregon,** Eugene, Oregon, United States
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute

2018 **University of Chicago Center in Paris,** Paris, France
Advanced French Study Abroad Program

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki** & Georgia Zellou. Apparent talker variability and speaking style similarity can enhance comprehension of novel L2-accented talkers. *Language and Speech*. https://doi.org/10.1177/00238309251390505

2025   Maryam Bamshad, Karina Xie, Rema Rasheed, Kathryn Holt, Grace Assabil-Bentum, & **Nicholas B. Aoki**. Exposure to subtle dominance cues in asymmetric power relationships activates the stress response and affects decision-making. *Frontiers in Psychology, 16*, 1517308. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2025.1517308

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki** & Georgia Zellou. When multiple talker exposure is necessary for cross-talker generalization: Insights into the emergence of sociolinguistic perception. *Glossa Psycholinguistics, 4*(1). https://doi.org/10.5070/g6011.21217

2024   Jules Vonessen, **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Michelle Cohn & Georgia Zellou. Comparing perception of L1 and L2 English by human listeners and machines: Effect of interlocutor adaptations. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 155*(5), 3060-3070. https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0025930

2024   **Nicholas B. Aoki** & Georgia Zellou. Being *clear* about clear speech: Intelligibility of hard-of-hearing-directed, non-native-directed, and casual speech for L1- and L2-English listeners. *Journal of Phonetics, 104*, 101328. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2024.101328

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** & Georgia Zellou. Visual information affects adaptation to novel talkers: Ethnicity-specific and ethnicity-independent learning of L2-accented speech. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 154*(4), 2290-2304. https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0021289

2022   **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Michelle Cohn, & Georgia Zellou. The clear speech intelligibility benefit for text-to-speech voices: Effects of speaking style and visual guise. *JASA Express Letters, 2*(4), 045204. https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0010274

Refereed Conference Proceedings

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** & Georgia Zellou. When clear speech does not enhance memory: Effects of speaking style, voice naturalness, and listener age. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics, 51*(1), 060002. https://doi.org/10.1121/2.0001766

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** & Georgia Zellou. Speakers talk more clearly when they see an East Asian face: Effects of visual guise on speech production. In Radek Skarnitzl & Jan Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2294-2298). Guarant International. https://tinyurl.com/y6kdnvc9

Manuscripts In Preparation

2025   Georgia Zellou, Nicole Holliday, and **Nicholas B. Aoki**. Introduction to the special issue on the phonetics of human-AI interaction. *Phonetica*.

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Hey Alexa, are you glitching on me?: Investigating phonological generalization across human and device guises.

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Santiago Barreda and Georgia Zellou. Equivalent effects of speaking rate on intelligibility for L1- and L2-English listeners.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki.** When multiple talker exposure is necessary for cross-talker generalization: Insights into the emergence of sociolinguistic perception. *The Berkeley Phonetics, Phonology and Psycholinguistics Forum (Phorum)*. University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA.

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki.** From qualifying paper to journal article: Tips and tricks for successful publication. *Guest lecture at Proseminar [LIN 201]*. University of California Davis, Davis, California, USA.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

[* = Undergraduate trainee supervised by NBA]

2026   *Bayleigh Baldwin, **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Lacey Wade, and Georgia Zellou. Talkin' country in w[a:]ne country: Sociolinguistic variation in Napa, California. *50th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

2026   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Apparent talker variability and speaking style similarity can enhance comprehension of novel L2-accented talkers: Evidence for numerosity and similarity accounts of cross-talker generalization. *100th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Apparent talker variability and speaking style similarity can enhance comprehension of novel L2-accented talkers: Evidence for numerosity and similarity accounts of cross-talker generalization. *189th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

2025   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. When multiple talker exposure is necessary for cross-talker generalization: Social co-variation facilitates the emergence of sociolinguistic perception. *99th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

2024   *Bayleigh Baldwin, **Nicholas B. Aoki**, and Georgia Zellou. "Country Talk" in California's Napa Valley. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52*. Miami Beach, Florida, USA.

2024   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. When multiple talker exposure is necessary for cross-talker generalization: Social co-variation facilitates the emergence of sociolinguistic perception. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52*. Miami Beach, Florida, USA.

2024   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Effects of speaking style and apparent talker variability on perceptual adaptation to L2-accented speech. *10th Annual UC Davis Symposium on Language Research*. Davis, California, USA.

2024   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Ethnicity-specific and -independent learning: Effects of guise on adaptation to novel foreign-accented talkers. *98th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. New York City, New York, USA.

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. When speaking clearly does not enhance comprehension: Comparing intelligibility of hard-of-hearing- and non-native-directed speech for native and non-native listeners. *185th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Sydney, Australia.

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Ethnicity-specific and -independent learning: Effects of guise on adaptation to novel foreign-accented talkers. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51*. New York City, New York, USA.

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Speakers talk more clearly when they see an Asian face: Effects of visual guise on speech production. *20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Prague, Czech Republic.

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Comparing intelligibility and recognition memory of human and text-to-speech voices. *184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Chicago, Illinois, USA.

2023   **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Masoud Jasbi, and Georgia Zellou. Under-informative utterances can be more accepted from digital devices than humans. *97th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. Denver, Colorado, USA.

2022   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Hey Alexa, are you a Valley Girl? Effects of social information on the perception of text-to-speech voices. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 50*. San Jose, California, USA.

2022   **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Michelle Cohn, and Georgia Zellou. The clear speech intelligibility benefit for TTS Voices: Effects of speech style and guise. *The 18th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, Virtual.

2021   **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Alan C. L. Yu. Do Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris imitate the accent of their audiences? Analysis and interpretation of stylistic variability. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 49,* Virtual.

2021   **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Henry Mackall, and Alan C. L. Yu. Does variation in speech production impact acoustic cue weighting in speech perception? *2021 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium*, Virtual.

2020   **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Jacob B. Phillips, Daniel Chen, and Alan C. L. Yu.
              Convergence of the lot-thought merger in the U.S. Supreme Court. *94th Annual
              Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

2023   Kat Setzer. Student Paper Competition: Chicago [19:49-30:53]. Across Acoustics
              [Official Podcast of the Acoustical Society of America].
              https://acrossacoustics.buzzsprout.com/1537384/14065240-student-paper-
              competition-chicago

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025   Graduate Student Travel Award, UC Davis Department of Linguistics, $500

2025   Student Transportation Award, Acoustical Society of America, $150

2025   Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Summer Institute Fellowship, UC Davis
              Department of Linguistics, $5668

2025   Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award Nominee, UC Davis

2024   Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award Nominee, UC Davis

2024   Phi Kappa Phi, UC Davis

2023   Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics Student Paper Competition Winner,
              Acoustical Society of America, $300

2023   "Down Under Funder" Travel Grant, Acoustical Society of America, $1,000

2023   Steven Lapointe Award, UC Davis Department of Linguistics, $850

2023   Student Award, International Phonetic Association, GBP 600

2022   Travel Award, UC Davis Graduate Student Association, $250

2022-2023   Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, UC Davis, $48,900

2021-2022   Provost's Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, UC Davis,
              $59,802

2021   Latin Honors (summa cum laude), Univ. of Chicago

2021   Leonard Bloomfield Prize in Linguistics, Univ. of Chicago

2020   Phi Beta Kappa (Early Induction), Univ. of Chicago

2020   Student Marshal, Univ. of Chicago

2020   College Summer Research Fellow, Univ. of Chicago, $5,000

2019-2020   College Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Scholar,
              Univ. of Chicago $5,000

2019   Jeff Metcalf Internship, Univ. of Chicago

2019	Dean's Fund for Undergraduate Research Award, Univ. of Chicago, $1,271
2019	Liew Family College Research Fellow, Univ. of Chicago, $1,000
2017-2021	Dean's List, Univ. of Chicago
2017-2021	National Merit Scholarship, $8,000

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

LIN 171 – Introduction to Psycholinguistics (Winter '24, Spring '25)

LIN 103A – Linguistic Analysis I: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology (Fall '24, Winter '26)

LIN 001/001Y – Introduction to Linguistics (Fall '23, Spring '24, Summer Session I '24, Summer Session II '24, Winter '25, Spring '25, Fall '25)

ADVISING

Research Mentorship: Undergraduate Honors Theses

2024-2025	Bayleigh Baldwin, "The social meaning of 'Country Talk' in California's Napa Valley", UC Davis [co-mentor with Georgia Zellou]

Research Mentorship: Undergraduate Research Assistants

2025	Hyunjin (Dylan) Lim, UC Davis
2023	Lilly Vanhoy, UC Davis

SERVICE

Editor

2025-	Phonetica, Special Issue on Phonetics of Human-AI interaction, Co-guest editor (along with Georgia Zellou and Nicole Holliday)

Ad-hoc Journal Reviewing

2026	Linguistics Vanguard
2025	Speech Communication [n = 2], Journal of Phonetics
2024	Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
2022	Journal of the Acoustical Society of America [co-review w/ Georgia Zellou]

Conference Abstract Reviewing

2025	California Meeting on Psycholinguistics
2022-	UC Davis Cluster on Language Research Symposium

Organized Sessions and Symposia

2023	UC Davis Cluster on Language Research Symposium (co-organized with Roxanne Elliott and Ana Ortega Pérez)

Other Service

2025	Member, California Meeting on Psycholinguistics Planning Committee
2024-	Website Manager, UC Davis Phonetics Lab
2023-2024	Website Manager, UC Davis Linguistics Department [Creator of Position]
2023-2024	Representative, UC Davis Graduate Student Association
2022-2023	Volunteer Tutor, Sacramento Public Library Adult Literacy Program
2022-	Member, UC Davis Cluster on Language Research Committee
2021-2022	Member, UC Davis Graduate and Professional School Events Review Board
2020-2021	Member, Univ. of Chicago Senior Class Gift Committee
2017-2021	Founder, Univ. of Chicago Phoenix Tutoring (President, Coordinator, Tutor)

LANGUAGES

English (L1 or "native"), French (advanced), Spanish (advanced), Japanese (intermediate), Farsi (beginning)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Proficient in: R, R Markdown, Python, Praat, Qualtrics, LaTeX, HTML, CSS, MS Word, MS Excel, Zoom

Knowledge of: MySQL, JavaScript, ELAN, E-Prime, eye-tracking, electroencephalography (EEG)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2024-	Phi Kappa Phi
2023-	Acoustical Society of America
2023-	International Phonetic Association
2022-	Association for Laboratory Phonology

2020-   Linguistic Society of America

2020-   Phi Beta Kappa

REFERENCES

Dr. Georgia Zellou
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Dr. Fernanda Ferreira
Professor of Psychology
University of California, Davis
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Dr. Laurel Lawyer
Associate Professor of Linguistics
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Dr. Alan C. L. Yu
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University of California, Berkeley
aclyu@berkeley.edu