

# Nicholas Bamshad Aoki

Curriculum Vitae  
as of March 28, 2025

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

## EDUCATION

- 2021- **University of California Davis**, Davis, California, United States  
*Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics*  
Cumulative GPA: 4.00/4.00
- 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?
- 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*

## PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

- 2025 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and 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 Vonessen, J., **Nicholas B. Aoki**, Michelle Cohn and 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.**, Michelle Cohn and 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and 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 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2294-2298). Guarant International. <https://tinyurl.com/y6kdncv9>

### ***Manuscripts Under Review***

- 2025 Bamshad, M., Xie, K., Rasheed, R., Holt, K., Assabil-Bentum, G. and **Nicholas B. Aoki**. Exposure to subtle dominance cues in assymetric power relationships activates the stress response and affects decision-making. Under first peer review at *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- 2025 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and Georgia Zellou. Apparent talker variability and speaking style similarity facilitate comprehension of novel L2-accented talkers: Evidence for numerosity accounts of cross-talker generalization. Submitted to *Language and Speech*.

### ***Manuscripts In Preparation***

- 2025 **Aoki, Nicholas B.**, Santiago Barreda and Georgia Zellou. Effects of speaking rate on intelligibility and perceived vocal effort.

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES**

- 2025 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** From qualifying paper to journal article: Tips and tricks for successful publication. Guest lecture at Proseminar [LIN 201]. University of California Davis, Davis, California, United States. February 24.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

[\* = Undergraduate trainee supervised by NBA]

- 2025 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and Georgia Zellou. When multiple talker exposure is necessary for cross-talker generalization: Social co-variation facilitates the emergence of sociolinguistic perception. *99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.
- 2024 \*Baldwin, B., **Nicholas B. Aoki**, and Georgia Zellou. “Country Talk” in California’s Napa Valley. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52*. Miami Beach, Florida, United States.
- 2024 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** 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, United States.
- 2024 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and Georgia Zellou. Effects of speaking style and apparent talker variability on perceptual adaptation to L2-accented speech. *10<sup>th</sup> Annual UC Davis Symposium on Language Research*. Davis, California, United States.
- 2024 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and Georgia Zellou. Ethnicity-specific and -independent learning: Effects of guise on adaptation to novel foreign-accented talkers. *98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. New York City, New York, United States.
- 2023 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** 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. *185<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Sydney, Australia.
- 2023 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** 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, United States.
- 2023 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and Georgia Zellou. Speakers talk more clearly when they see an Asian face: Effects of visual guise on speech production. *20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2023 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** and Georgia Zellou. Comparing intelligibility and recognition memory of human and text-to-speech voices. *184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Chicago, Illinois, United States.
- 2023 **Aoki, Nicholas B.**, Masoud Jasbi, and Georgia Zellou. Under-informative utterances can be more accepted from digital devices than humans. *97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. Denver, Colorado, United States.
- 2022 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** 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, United States.

- 2022 **Aoki, Nicholas B.**, Michelle Cohn, and Georgia Zellou. The Clear Speech Intelligibility Benefit for TTS Voices: Effects of Speech Style and Guise. *The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, Virtual.
- 2021 **Aoki, Nicholas B.** 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.**, 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 **Aoki, Nicholas B.**, Jacob B. Phillips, Daniel Chen, and Alan C. L. Yu. Convergence of the lot-thought merger in the U.S. Supreme Court. *94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States.

### MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2023 Setzer, Kat. 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 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UC Davis [Nominee]
- 2024 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UC Davis [Nominee]
- 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 2024, Spring 2025)
- LIN 103A – Linguistic Analysis I: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology (Fall 2024)
- LIN 001/001Y – Introduction to Linguistics (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Summer Session I 2024, Summer Session II 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025)

## **RESEARCH MENTORSHIP**

- 2024- Bayleigh Baldwin, "Sociolinguistic variation in Napa Valley" (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), UC Davis [Co-Mentor with Georgia Zellou]

## **SERVICE**

### ***Ad-hoc Journal Reviewing***

- 2024 Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (Solo Reviewer)
- 2022 Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (Co-Reviewer with Georgia Zellou)

### ***Conference Abstract Reviewing***

- 2022-2024 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***

- 2023-2024 Website Manager, UC Davis Linguistics Department [Creator of Position]
- 2023-2024 UC Davis Graduate Student Association Representative
- 2022-2023 Sacramento Public Library Adult Literacy Program Tutor
- 2021- UC Davis Cluster on Language Research Committee

2021-2022 UC Davis Graduate and Professional School Events Grant Review Board  
2020-2021 Univ. of Chicago Senior Class Gift Committee  
2017-2021 Univ. of Chicago Phoenix Tutoring (President, Session Coordinator, Tutor)

## LANGUAGES

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

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Proficient in: R, Python, Praat, Qualtrics, LaTeX, HTML, CSS, FAVE, ProsodyPro, WebMAUS, 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**  
Professor of Linguistics  
University of California, Davis  
[gzellou@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gzellou@ucdavis.edu)

**Dr. Santiago Barreda**  
Associate Professor of Linguistics  
University of California, Davis  
[sbarreda@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sbarreda@ucdavis.edu)

**Dr. Fernanda Ferreira**  
Professor of Psychology  
University of California, Davis  
[fferreira@ucdavis.edu](mailto:fferreira@ucdavis.edu)

**Dr. Alan C. L. Yu**  
Professor of Linguistics  
University of Chicago  
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