

Nicholas Bamshad Aoki

Curriculum Vitae as of December 24, 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[ə:]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]
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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)
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Ad-hoc Journal Reviewing

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 with Georgia Zellou]

Conference Abstract Reviewing

2025	California Meeting on Psycholinguistics
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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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University of California, Davis
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Dr. Laurel Lawyer

Associate Professor of Linguistics
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Dr. Fernanda Ferreira

Professor of Psychology
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Dr. Alan C. L. Yu

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