

# Nicholas Bamshad Aoki

Curriculum Vitae as of January 15, 2026

E-mail: [nbaoki@ucdavis.edu](mailto:nbaoki@ucdavis.edu)

Personal Website: <https://aokinb.github.io/>

---

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2294-2298). Guarant International. <https://tinyurl.com/y6kdnvc9>

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

- 2026 Georgia Zellou, Nicole Holliday, and **Nicholas B. Aoki**. Introduction to the special issue on the phonetics of human-AI interaction. *Phonetica*.
- 2026 **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Hey Alexa, are you glitching on me?: Investigating phonological generalization across human and device guises.
- 2026 **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. *50<sup>th</sup> 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. *100<sup>th</sup> 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. *189<sup>th</sup> 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. *99<sup>th</sup> 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. *10<sup>th</sup> 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. *98<sup>th</sup> 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. *185<sup>th</sup> 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. *20<sup>th</sup> 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. *184<sup>th</sup> 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. *97<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

Professor of Linguistics  
University of California, Davis  
[gzelou@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gzelou@ucdavis.edu)

**Dr. Laurel Lawyer**

Associate Professor of Linguistics  
University of California, Davis  
[lalawyer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lalawyer@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 California, Berkeley  
[aclyu@berkeley.edu](mailto:aclyu@berkeley.edu)