

Nicholas Bamshad Aoki

Curriculum Vitae as of November 29, 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. Forthcoming at *Language and Speech*.
- 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 **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 **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

- 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
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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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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