

Nicholas Bamshad Aoki

Curriculum Vitae as of July 25, 2025

E-mail: nbaoki@ucdavis.edu

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

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nicholas-Aoki-2>

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
Dissertation: The Emergence of Sociolinguistic Perception
- 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 Maryam Bamshad, Karina Xie, Rema Rasheed, Kathryn Holt, Grace Assabil-Bentum, and **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** and Georgia Zellou. When multiple talker exposure is necessary for cross-talk 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 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 **Nicholas B. Aoki** 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 **Nicholas B. Aoki** 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 **Nicholas B. Aoki**, 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 **Nicholas B. Aoki** 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 **Nicholas B. Aoki** 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 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 2294-2298). Guarant International. <https://tinyurl.com/y6kdnvc9>

Manuscripts Under Review

- 2025 **Nicholas B. Aoki** and Georgia Zellou. Apparent talker variability and speaking style similarity can enhance comprehension of novel L2-accented talkers. Under second review at *Language and Speech*.

Manuscripts In Preparation

- 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**. 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.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

[* = Undergraduate trainee supervised by NBA]

- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.
- 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, United States.

- 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, United States.

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 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 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)

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]
2024	Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
2022	Journal of the Acoustical Society of America [co-review with Georgia Zellou]

Conference Abstract Reviewing

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- Volunteer, California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP)
 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
gzellou@ucdavis.edu

Dr. Santiago Barreda
Associate Professor of Linguistics
University of California, Davis
sbarreda@ucdavis.edu

Dr. Fernanda Ferreira
Professor of Psychology
University of California, Davis
fferreira@ucdavis.edu

Dr. Alan C. L. Yu
Professor of Linguistics
University of Chicago
aclyu@uchicago.edu