AUROMITA MITRA

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Linguistics   *2022 - present*
New York University, New York

M.A. Linguistics   *2019 - 2021*
The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

B.A. English (honors)   *2016 - 2019*
The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Dean's Conference Fund   *Aug 2023*

Awarding body	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, NYU
Details	funding for conference travel
Grant amount	$ 500

- LSA summer institute general fellowship   *May 2023*

Awarding body	Linguistic Society of America
Details	competitive fellowship funding to attend the 2023 LSA summer institute
Grant amount	$ 2500

- Shastri Research Student Fellowship 2021   *Nov 2020*

Awarding body	Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute
Details	competitive funding for independent research project. Project title: "What we hear depends on where we hear it: Perceptual Adaptation in Bengali-English Bilingual Speech"; supervisor: Dr. Molly Babel, Dept. of Linguistics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
Grant amount	INR 57,000

- UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in Linguistics   *Dec 2019*

Awarding body	University Grants Commission, govt. of India
Details	5-year fellowship funding for Ph.D. at an Indian university

- Qualified UGC National Eligibility Test (NET) in Linguistics   *Dec 2019*
 Percentile: 100.00

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research assistant: SAP benchmark project
Computation and Psycholinguistics Lab, NYU   *Sept 2022 - present*
P.I.: Prof. Tal Linzen

· recruit and run participants for eye-tracking study

Independent research: Vowel harmony in Khalka Mongolian
Speech Dynamics Lab, Jadavpur University, Kolkata *Jul 2021 - Apr 2023*
Supervisor: Prof. Indranil Dutta

· This project compares patterns of coarticulation in harmonic vs. non-harmonic vowel sequences to understand how a low-level phonetic process interacts with phonological constraints
· developed acoustic model for forced alignment of Khalka Mongolian
· processed large-scale speech data
· acoustic analyses in Praat
· data visualization and statistical analyses in R

Independent research: Perceptual adaptation
Speech in Context Lab, University of British Columbia, Vancouver *Jan 2021 - present*
Supervisor: Dr. Molly Babel

· This project examines how cross-language interaction affects an adaptive speech behavior in multilingual listeners, and possible sources of individual differences
· conceptualized study and developed project proposal to secure funding
· processed and manipulated speech data to create perception stimuli
· designed and ran online speech perception experiment
· presented work to non-specialist audiences as part of fellowship program

M.A. dissertation
EFLU, Hyderabad *Jan - Jun 2021*
Supervisor: Dr. Utpal Lahiri

· Title: A presuppositional account of the *ach-* copula in Bangla
· Premise: The multi-copula system of Bengali shows a complex pattern of distribution and inference that has resisted satisfactory semantic accounts
· Research question: How can the gradient, context-sensitive acceptability of the copula be formalized?
· Proposal: Formalizing contextual information as a presuppositional component of the word meaning better predicts patterns of actual use than existing categorical accounts

Independent research: Phonetic transfer
Speech and Language Processing Lab, EFLU, Hyderabad *Oct 2019 - Aug 2020*
Supervisor: Prof. Indranil Dutta

· This project examined the phonetic outcome of mixed language processing in the speech of multilingual individuals
· conceptualized and designed speech production experiment
· recruited and recorded participants
· processed speech data in Praat
· data visualization and statistical analyses in R

Research intern: Project MELT
NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad *May - Jun 2018*
P.I.: Dr. Uma Maheshwari

· analyzed findings from existing research on linguistic human rights and multilingualism in India
· collaborated with local educators and language researchers to develop effective tools for assessing phonemic awareness in multilingual children

· translated and adapted a language assessment tool (MAIN; Gagarina et al., 2012) to suit the needs of an indigenous community

PUBLICATIONS

Mitra, A., Krishnaswany, M., & Dutta, I. (2023). Coarticulation and contrast in a vowel harmony system: coarticulatory propensity in Khalkha Mongolian V-C-V sequences. *Proceedings of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS), Prague, 2023.* [paper]

Mitra, A., & Dutta, I. (2023). Mixed language processing increases cross-language phonetic transfer in Bengali–English bilinguals. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 1-14. doi:10.1017/S1366728923000159. [open-access link]

Gagarina, N., Klop, D., Kunnari, S., Tantele, K., Välimaa, T., Bohnacker, U. & Walters, J. (2019). MAIN: Multilingual Assessment Instrument for Narratives – Revised. Materials for use. ZAS Papers in Linguistics, 63. Hindi version for use with Gondi-Hindi and Halbi-Hindi bilinguals. Translated and adapted by Chimirala, U. M., Rao, S., Isaac, N. G., Chakraborty, P., **Mitra, A.**, Biswas, B., Jacob, L., Prithiviraj, P., Sai Priya, & Saradhi, N.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

Mitra, A., Krishnaswany, M., & Dutta, I. (2023). Coarticulation and contrast in a vowel harmony system: coarticulatory propensity in Khalkha Mongolian V-C-V sequences. Poster presented at the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS), Prague, August 7-11 2023.

Mitra, A. (2023). Uncertainty, time, and modal-aspect interaction in Bangla conditionals. Poster presented at the LSA Summer Institute, UMass Amherst, June-July 2023. [poster]

Mitra, A., Dutta, I. (2022) Asymmetries in V-to-V coarticulation among harmonic and non-harmonic sequences in Khalkha Mongolian. Poster presented at Laboratory Phonology 18, virtual, June 23-25 2022. [slides][presentation]

Mitra, A., Bhaumik, M., Mondal, A., Dutta, I. (2019). Phonetic accommodation in English loanwords in Bengali. Paper presented at the National Conference on Phonetics: Theoretical Underpinnings and Research Explorations, EFL University, Hyderabad, December 19-20 2019.

TALKS

"Flexibility and context in phonetic variation: evidence from bilingual speech". NYU PEPlab, New York. September 2022.

"NET...set...go: a workshop on preparing for NET-JRF Linguistics". invited talk at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. September 2021.

SKILLS

Technical	R, Praat, Python, LaTeX, Git, forced alignment, Kaldi
Language	Bengali (fluent), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Spanish (basic)

NLP TOOLS

- Phonetic word finder for Bengali [github]

- Acoustic model for Khalka Mongolian forced alignment [github]

OUTREACH

Akshar (student initiative of EFLU)

Student coordinator, teacher *Aug 2016 - Jun 2021*

· Organized weekly classes for socio-economically disadvantaged students near university campus, with a focus on building language proficiency for classroom: phonic skills, academic literacy, narrative skills
· Provided support for school admissions
· Individually tutored students taking secondary and senior secondary exams

Updated: August, 2023