Bethany Clements

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EDUCATION

New York University (NYU)   New York, NY
PhD Student (Communication Sciences and Disorders)   Anticipated Jun 2030

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)   Santa Barbara, CA
B.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences; B.A., Linguistics (Emphasis in Speech-Language
Sciences and Disorders); B.A., English
(College of Letters & Science Honors Program) 3.91 GPA   Jun 2024

Capstone Undergraduate Thesis: Recognition Memory as a Function of Word Slot and Contrastive Accenting in the Visual World Paradigm
- Examined the effects of prosodic prominence (via contrastive-pitch accenting) on language processing and memory
- Conference experience -
  - 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (Talk)   Mar 2025
  - 7th Annual California Meeting for Psycholinguistics (Talk)   Nov 2024
  - Linguistics Undergraduate Research Showcase at UCSB (Talk)   Jun 2024
  - Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (Talk)   May 2024
  - Undergraduate Research Colloquium at UCSB (Talk, poster)   May 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pitch Accenting, Bilingualism, and Recognition Memory   (Oct 2024 – Present)
UCSB Linguistics Dept.
- Expanded on literature regarding memory for contrastive-pitch accents through an eye-tracking study in Cantonese-English bilinguals
- Compiled a literature review on contrastive prosody acquisition and L1 transfer in L2 English-learners
- Co-developed an ongoing study which will pinpoint the acoustic qualities used to learn English in L1 tonal language speakers via a model-fitting approach

Pitch Accenting and Recognition Memory   (Aug 2023 – Present)
UCSB Linguistics Dept.
- Collaborated with professionals (Dr. Laurel Brehm; Dr. Scott Fraundorf) to expand foundational pitch accenting literature
- Wrote, applied for, and obtained a grant for ~$500 from UCSB's Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities program (URCA)
- Collected, cleaned, and analyzed eye-tracking data to establish causal links between contrastive prosody, fixation-mediated attention, and recognition memory
- Developed a set of 240 stimuli to be used within the visual world paradigm
- Authored a thesis to be developed for extensions and eventual publication

Production and Perception of Language   (Aug 2023 – Jun 2025)
UCSB; PRPL Lab (Linguistics Dept.)
- Coded and analyzed speech errors in sentence-completion output for 100+ participants
- Recruited and worked with children and adults for three different experiments on the development of emotion words (30h volunteer work)
- Instructed undergraduate RAs in the use of portable and stationary eye-tracking equipment
- Participated in a research initiative to use LLMs to enhance diversity in language science research

Acquisition of Tonal Languages   (Apr 2023 – Jun 2024)
UCSB; Mayer Lab (Psychological and Brain Sciences Dept.)

- Spliced and organized audio files from 60+ participants using Shotcut (30h)
- Collaborated with native Mandarin speakers and opera singers to establish grading scales for musical pitch productions and second-language Mandarin utterances
- Scored second-language Mandarin learners on pitch-accent replication and production of basic Pinyin and pitch contours (40h)
- Conducted statistical analyses on the correlation between musical pitch ability and success in replicating and producing pitch-contours in Mandarin

Language of Trigger Warnings (Jul 2023 – Dec 2023)
UCSB; Trauma Informed Pedagogy Initiative in the English Dept. (Literature and Mind)
- Assembled a 94-page review summarizing the educational, political, and psychophysiological consequences of trigger warning implementation
- Prepared and gave a well-attended campus presentation and Q+A session on trigger warnings and trauma
- Led a discussion panel on the language and rhetoric of trigger warnings in education

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Alpha Sigma Kappa: Women in Technical Studies Aug 2022 – Jun 2024
General Member
- Raised upwards of $1000 in fundraisers for programs including Coastal Fund, Donors Choose, and Girls Inc.
- Regularly volunteered with beach cleanups, necessities drives, and academic enrichment panels (60h+)

Vice President of Operations (May 2023 – May 2024)
- Managed Big-Little mentorship program for women and nonbinary students in STEM
- Coordinated events and reserved locations for a large (50+)-student organization
- Communicated with the executive, chapter, and national boards to refine and revise organization bylaws

Professional Fraternity Council (PFC) Representative (May 2023 – May 2024)
- Collaborated with other PFC representatives to host networking events for PFC organization members (50h+)

College of Letters and Science Honors Program Jul 2021 – Jun 2024
Academic Track
- Enrolled in additional courses meant to expand and enrich student experiences (6+ seminars)
- Completed 40h of community service, primarily in tutoring and ESL instruction
- Designed and completed an undergraduate honors thesis

UCSB Community Affairs Board
Tutor (Remote) Jan 2021 – Jun 2021
- Worked as a virtual tutor 1-2x/week for underprivileged families through UCSB CAB's "Family Literacy Program"
- Focused on reading and language instruction for students completing their homework and parents who wanted ESL experience

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Software Skills: R, Python (limited), Praat, ExperimentBuilder, Rezonator, Qualtrics, Excel
Languages: Spanish (limited), Korean (limited)
Honors & Awards: 2024 Outstanding Senior Award (Linguistics Dept., UCSB); 2024 Hyung Il Pai Award for Korean Language (East Asian Language and Cultural Studies Dept., UCSB); Dean's Honors List (UCSB CLS); Letters and Science Honors Program (UCSB CLS); Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant (2023-2024)
Research Interests: Neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, cognitive neuroscience, primary progressive aphasia, neurodegenerative disease, neural basis of language and memory, multilingualism, attention/awareness and language processing