

ISHAAN AMBRISH
PHD CANDIDATE

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EDUCATION

University of Washington , Seattle, WA Ph.D., Psychology (Data Science) Advisor: Dr. Ariel Starr	2022 – present
University of California, Santa Barbara , Santa Barbara, CA B.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences, honors B.A., Anthropology (Biological Emphasis), honors	2017 – 2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Developmental psychology; language development; language and communication; cognitive development; bilingualism; language mixing, spatial cognition

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate and Professional Student Senate Travel Grant	April 2025
Barbara Sarason Endowed Fellowship	April 2025
Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Graduate Student Travel Award	December 2024
Middle Class Scholarship (University of California, Santa Barbara)	October 2020
UCSB Cares Emergency Grant	May 2020
Dean's Honors (University of California, Santa Barbara)	2017-2021 (various)

PUBLICATIONS

Ambrish, I., Sodhi, S. & Liberman, Z. (2025). Does children's developing understanding of linguistic register impact their social preferences? *Social Development*, 34(2), e12797. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.12797>.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Ambrish, I. & Starr, A. (accepted for 2025, May). Spatial Language Use in Naturalistic Dyadic Interactions. Poster presentation at the biennial Society for Research in Child Development conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Ambrish, I. & Starr, A. (accepted for 2025, May). Bilingual Verb Language Mixing Strategies in Early Childhood. Poster presentation at the biennial Society for Research in Child Development conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Ambrish, I. (2025, February). Spatial communication between parents and children. Oral presentation at the University of Washington Scholars' Studio, Seattle, WA.

Ambrish, I. & Starr, A. (2024, July). Spatial language in book reading and play. Poster presentation at the biennial International Congress of Infant Studies conference, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Ambrish, I. & Starr, A. (2024, March). Examining differences in parent-child spatial language use through book reading and play. Poster presentation at the biennial Cognitive Development Society conference, Pasadena, CA.

Ambrish, I. (2023, May). The Role of Parental Input in Spatial Cognition and Language. Oral presentation at the annual Psychology Department Research Festival, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Ambrish, I., Gelbart, B. & Conroy-Beam, D. (2021, June). What the Green-Eyed Monster Sees: Jealousy Tracks Predictions of Others' Trait Preferences. Poster presentation at the annual Human Behavioral and Evolution Society conference, virtual.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Language, Cognition, and Development Lab
University of Washington
PhD Student/Candidate
PI: Dr. Ariel Starr

September 2022 – present

Computational Mate Choice Lab
University of California, Santa Barbara
Research Assistant
PI: Dr. Daniel Conroy-Beam

January 2020 – June 2021

Social Cognitive Development Lab
University of California, Santa Barbara
Research Assistant
PI: Dr. Zoe Liberman

January 2018 – June 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant***University of Washington***

PSYCH 209: Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Fall 2023, Spring 2025

PSYCH 210: The Diversity of Human Sexuality

Fall 2022, Winter 2023

PSYCH 305: Psychological and Behavior Disorders

Fall 2024

PSYCH 333: Sensory and Perceptual Processes

Spring 2024

MENTORSHIP AND SERVICE

Diversity Steering Committee Climate Survey

September 2024 – present

University of Washington, Psychology Department

Committee Member

Psychology Undergraduate Mentoring Program

October 2023 – present

University of Washington, Psychology Department

Mentor

Psychology Graduate Mentorship Program

September 2023 – June 2024

University of Washington, Psychology Department

Mentor

Diversity Steering Committee Virtual Recruitment Event

September 2023, October 2024

University of Washington, Psychology Department

Event Coordinator/Speaker

Graduate Student Data Science Working Group

May 2023 – current

University of Washington, Psychology Department

Founding Member

R Workshop

March, April, July 2023

Language, Cognition, and Development Lab

Workshop Host

Queer Mentorship and Peer Program

December 2022 – June 2023

University of Washington, Q Center

Mentor

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Congress for Infant Studies (ICIS)

December 2023 – present

Cognitive Development Society (CDS)

December 2023 – present

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

January 2023 – present

Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)

June 2021 – May 2023

Psi Chi International Honor Society

October 2020 – present

SKILLS

Tools: Qualtrics, RedCap, Office Suite, Git

Languages: Hindi (proficient), Tamil (proficient), German (intermediate), Spanish (beginner)

Programming: R (proficient), Python (beginner)

Interests and Hobbies: Singing, Hindi movies, tabletop roleplaying games