Ishaan Ambrish

PhD Candidate

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# Education

**University of Washington,** Seattle, WA 2022 – present

Ph.D., Psychology (Data Science)

Advisor: Dr. Ariel Starr



**University of California, Santa Barbara,** Santa Barbara, CA 2017 – 2021

B.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences, honors

B.A., Anthropology (Biological Emphasis), honors

# 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** September 2022 – present

University of Washington

PhD Student/Candidate

PI: Dr. Ariel Starr

**Computational Mate Choice Lab** January 2020 – June 2021

University of California, Santa Barbara

Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Daniel Conroy-Beam

**Social Cognitive Development Lab** January 2018 – June 2021

University of California, Santa Barbara

Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Zoe Liberman

# 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