

# Venkata S Govindarajan

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

he/him/his  
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## RESEARCH STATEMENT

I am a Ph.D. candidate in **Computational Linguistics** at UT Austin *expecting to graduate in May 2024*. I am interested in **Pragmatics**, **Computational Social Science**, and **Natural Language Processing**, with a focus on social dynamics (like intergroup bias) in communication.

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## EMPLOYMENT

The New York Times Summer 2023  
*Data Science Intern*

Amazon Summer 2021  
*Alexa Applied Scientist Intern*

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## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin 2019–2024  
*Ph.D. Computational Linguistics*  
Committee: Jessy Li, David Beaver, Kyle Mahowald & Malihe Alikhani

University of Rochester 2017–2019  
*M.S. Computational Linguistics*  
Advisor: Aaron Steven White

Indian Institute of Technology Madras 2012–2017  
*B.Tech & M.Tech Biological Engineering*

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## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Anirudh Srinivasan, **Venkata S Govindarajan**, and Kyle Mahowald (Dec. 2023). “[Counterfactually Probing Language Identity in Multilingual Models](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Multi-lingual Representation Learning (MRL)*. Ed. by Duygu Ataman. Singapore: Association for Computational Linguistics, pp. 24–36.
2. **Venkata S Govindarajan**, Juan Diego Rodriguez, Kaj Bostrom, and Kyle Mahowald (Dec. 2023). “[Lil-Bevo: Explorations of Strategies for Training Language Models in More Humanlike Ways](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the BabyLM Challenge at the 27th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning*. Ed. by Alex Warstadt, Aaron Mueller, Leshem Choshen, Ethan Wilcox, Chengxu

- Zhuang, Juan Ciro, Rafael Mosquera, Bhargavi Paranjabe, Adina Williams, Tal Linzen, and Ryan Cotterell. Singapore: Association for Computational Linguistics, pp. 280–288.
3. **Venkata S Govindarajan**, David Beaver, Kyle Mahowald, and Junyi Jessy Li (July 2023). “[Counterfactual Probing for the Influence of Affect and Specificity on Intergroup Bias](#)”. In: *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*. Toronto, Canada: ACL, pp. 12853–12862.
  4. **Venkata S Govindarajan**, Katherine Atwell, Barea Sinno, Malihe Alikhani, David Beaver, and Junyi Jessy Li (May 2023). “[How people talk about each other: Modeling Generalized Intergroup Bias and Emotion](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. Dubrovnik, Croatia: ACL, pp. 2488–2498.
  5. Venelin Kovatchev, Trina Chatterjee, **Venkata S Govindarajan**, Jifan Chen, Eunsol Choi, Gabriella Chronis, Anubrata Das, Katrin Erk, Matthew Lease, Junyi Jessy Li, Yating Wu, and Kyle Mahowald (July 2022). “[longhorns at DADC 2022: How many linguists does it take to fool a Question Answering model? A systematic approach to adversarial attacks.](#)” In: *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Dynamic Adversarial Data Collection*. Seattle, WA: ACL, pp. 41–52.
  6. **Venkata S Govindarajan**, Benjamin Chen, Rebecca Warholic, Katrin Erk, and Junyi Jessy Li (Nov. 2020). “[Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. Online: ACL, pp. 5295–5306.
  7. Aaron Steven White, Elias Stengel-Eskin, Siddharth Vashishtha, **Venkata S Govindarajan**, Dee Ann Reisinger, Tim Vieira, Keisuke Sakaguchi, Sheng Zhang, Francis Ferraro, Rachel Rudinger, Kyle Rawlins, and Benjamin Van Durme (May 2020). “[The Universal Compositional Semantics Dataset and Decomp Toolkit](#)”. In: *Proceedings of The 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)*. Marseille, France: European Language Resources Association, pp. 5698–5707.
  8. **Venkata S Govindarajan**, Benjamin Van Durme, and Aaron Steven White (2019). “[Decomposing Generalization: Models of Generic , Habitual, and Episodic Statements](#)”. In: *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)* 7, pp. 501–517.

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## TALKS

1. “Computational Linguistic Models of Social Meaning” (Feb. 2024). Invited talk. Ithaca College.
2. “Computational Modeling of Social Meaning” (Jan. 2024). Invited talk. Georgetown University.
3. “[Modeling Generalized Intergroup Bias](#)” (May 2023). Conference talk at EACL 2023.
4. “[Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice](#)” (Nov. 2020). Conference talk at EMNLP 2020.
5. “Decomposing Generalization” (July 2020). Conference talk at ACL 2020.

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## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

### Teaching

**Principal Instructor** at UT Austin

Summer 2022

*Language and Computers*

LIN313

### Teaching Assistant

- Machine Learning Toolbox for Text Analysis (LIN373N) Spring 2021
- Analyzing Linguistic Data and Programming for Linguists (LIN350) Spring 2020
- Introduction to Computational Linguistics (LIN353C) Fall 2019
- Introduction to Computational Linguistics Fall 2018
- Data Structures and Algorithms for Biology Fall 2016

### Mentorship

Matianyu Zang (undergraduate at Brown University)

Summer 2023–Present

*Intergroup Bias dynamics & discourse structure*

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## SKILLS

**Programming Languages:** Python, Swift, Javascript, R, SQL, Julia, LISP

**Tools & Frameworks:** pyTorch, Transformers, Tensorflow, Keras, scikit-learn, statsmodels, SciPy, Pandas, SwiftUI, CoreML, BigQuery, lme4

**Languages:** English (native), Tamil (native), Hindi (intermediate)

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Organizing Committee

South by Semantics Workshop

2022–24

I am co-organizing [a series of talks](#) on semantics, computation and philosophy of language. Our goal is to provide a forum for emerging scholars with UT Austin's rich community of language researchers, and to foster collaboration and dialogue through social events organized with the talks.

Texas Linguistics Society (TLS) Conference

[2021–22](#)

TLS is an annual student-run academic conference by the Department of Linguistics at UT Austin which includes presentations in all areas of linguistics. I served on the organizing committee and was involved in reviewing and assigning submissions for review, website design, scheduling, logistics for a fully virtual conference, and chairing keynote sessions and talks.

### Reviewer

ACL ARR 2023, EMNLP 2023, ACL 2023, \*SEM 2023–24, SIGDIAL 2022–23

*Volunteer*

[Underpaid@UT](#) (2023-24)

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#### APPS

**DeTeXt:** I built an open source app for iOS, iPadOS and macOS that predicts the best LaTeX commands corresponding to hand-drawn symbols using deep neural networks. Built using SwiftUI, Combine, PencilKit and CoreML, the app has over 10,000 downloads.

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#### AWARDS

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| NASSLI Student Grant (800 USD)                                      | Summer 2022 |
| COLA Supplemental Graduate School Fellowship (5000 USD)             | Spring 2020 |
| Silver medal at International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) | Fall 2016   |
| Indian Biological Engineering Competition (iBEC) grant (15,000 USD) | Fall 2016   |
| National BIRAC-IdeaThon on Antimicrobial Resistance Finalist        | Fall 2016   |
| Second runner up in 3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge               | Spring 2015 |