

# Venkata S Govindarajan

HE/HIM/HIS  
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin (*graduating Spring 2024*) studying intergroup biases in online communication. I have 5+ years of experience with data science, machine learning, and modern NLP including large language models. I'm interested in roles at the intersection of engineering, data science, and machine learning, with a *start date in June 2024*.

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## EDUCATION

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|---|----------------|
| The University of Texas at Austin                 | 2019–2024      |
| <i>Ph.D. Computational Linguistics</i>            | GPA: 3.92 / 4  |
| University of Rochester                           | 2017–2019      |
| <i>M.S. Computational Linguistics</i>             | GPA: 3.75 / 4  |
| Indian Institute of Technology Madras             | 2012–2017      |
| <i>B.Tech &amp; M.Tech Biological Engineering</i> | GPA: 8.68 / 10 |

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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| The New York Times   | Summer 2023 |
| <i>Data Scientist Intern</i>   |             |
| Built a framework for offline evaluation of novel user and article features to inform model building in algorithmic recommendations. Predicted that potential features like EASE would boost engagement up-to 2% while diversifying recommendations. |             |
| Amazon   | Summer 2021 |
| <i>Alexa Applied Scientist Intern</i>  |             |
| Implemented an unsupervised method for detecting data drift in NLU models, and validated the approach on simulated and customer data. Received return internship offer for summer 2022.  |             |

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## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Govindarajan, V. S., D. Beaver, K. Mahowald & J. J. Li. 2023. [Counterfactual Probing for the Influence of Affect and Specificity on Intergroup Bias](#). In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*, 12853–12862. Toronto, Canada: Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Govindarajan, V. S.,** K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. Beaver & J. J. Li. 2023a. [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*, 2488–2498. Dubrovnik, Croatia: Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Govindarajan, V. S.,** B. Chen, R. Warholc, K. Erk & J. J. Li. 2020a. [Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice](#). In *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 5295–5306. Online: Association for Computational Linguistics.

**Govindarajan, V.,** B. V. Durme & A. S. White. 2019. [Decomposing Generalization: Models of Generic , Habitual, and Episodic Statements](#). *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)* 7. 501–517.

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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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## 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 4000+ installs.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

*Organizing Committee*

[South by Semantics Workshop](#) 2022 – 2023 with [Samuel Cantor](#).  
Texas Linguistics Society(TLS) Conference [2022](#) & [2021](#).

*Reviewer*

EMNLP 2023, ACL 2023, \*SEM 2023, SIGDIAL 2023, SIGDIAL 2022

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## AWARDS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 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 |