

# Venkata S Govindarajan

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE,  
ITHACA COLLEGE

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## EMPLOYMENT

Ithaca College Fall 2024–Present  
*Assistant Professor of Computer Science*

The New York Times Summer 2023  
*Data Science Intern*

Built a framework using mixed effects linear modeling for offline evaluation of novel user and article features to inform model building in algorithmic recommendations. Delivered potential features that could **boost engagement up-to 2%** while diversifying recommendations.

Amazon Summer 2021  
*Alexa Applied Scientist Intern*

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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## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin 2019–2024  
*Ph.D. Computational Linguistics*

University of Rochester 2017–2019  
*M.S. Computational Linguistics*

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

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## APPS & PROJECTS

**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 convolutional neural networks. Built using SwiftUI, Combine, PencilKit and CoreML, the app has **over 10,000 downloads**.

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## SKILLS

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

**Tools & Frameworks:** git, pyTorch, Transformers, Tensorflow, Keras, scikit-learn, statsmodels, SciPy, Pandas, SwiftUI, CoreML, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), BigQuery, lme4, Weights & Biases

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

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## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

1. “[Lil-Bevo: Explorations of Strategies for Training Language Models in More Humanlike Ways](#)” (Dec. 2023). In: *Proceedings of the BabyLM Challenge at the 27th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning*. Singapore: Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).
2. “[Counterfactual Probing for the Influence of Affect and Specificity on Intergroup Bias](#)” (July 2023). In: *Findings of the ACL: ACL 2023*. Toronto, Canada.
3. “[How people talk about each other: Modeling Generalized Intergroup Bias and Emotion](#)” (May 2023). In: *Proceedings of the 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the ACL (EACL 2023)*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.
4. “[Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice](#)” (Nov. 2020). In: *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*.
5. “[Decomposing Generalization: Models of Generic , Habitual, and Episodic Statements](#)” (2019). In: *Transactions of the ACL (TACL)* 7.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### *Organizing Committee*

[South by Semantics Workshop](#) 2022 –23.

Texas Linguistics Society (TLS) Conference [2021–22](#).

### *Reviewer*

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

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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 |