# Venkata S Govindarajan

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin researching intergroup bias in online communication. I have 5+ years of experience in 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

### The University of Texas at Austin                     2019–2024
*Ph.D. Computational Linguistics*                          GPA: 3.92/4

### University of Rochester                               2017–2019
*M.S. Computational Linguistics*                           GPA: 3.75/4

### Indian Institute of Technology Madras                 2012–2017
*B.Tech & M.Tech Biological Engineering*                   GPA: 8.68/10

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### The New York Times                                   Summer 2023
*Data Scientist Intern*

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
*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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## 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. Warholic, 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.

## 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)

## 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.

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Machine Learning • Statistical Speech and Language Processing • Natural Language Processing

## 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

## 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 |