

# 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 at UT Austin studying intergroup bias in online communication. I have 5+ years of experience in modern **Natural Language Processing** including large language models, and am interested in **Machine Learning** and **Data Science** roles, 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 using hierarchical linear modeling for offline evaluation of novel user and article features to inform model building in algorithmic recommendations. Predicted that potential features like EASE would <b>boost engagement up-to 2%</b> 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.,** J. D. Rodriguez, K. Bostrom, and K. Mahowald (Dec. 2023). “[Lil-Bevo: Explorations of Strategies for Training Language Models in More Humanlike Ways](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the BabyLM Challenge*. Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).
- Govindarajan, V. S.,** D. Beaver, K. Mahowald, and J. J. 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: Association for Computational Linguistics, pp. 12853–12862.

**Govindarajan, V. S.,** K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. Beaver, and J. J. 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: Association for Computational Linguistics, pp. 2488–2498.

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

**Govindarajan, V.,** B. V. Durme, and A. S. 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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## 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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## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

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

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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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## 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
Second runner up in 3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge	Spring 2015