

Jahnavi Narkar

Department of Linguistics
3125 Campbell Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Email: jnarkar@ucla.edu
Homepage: <http://jahnavinarkar.com/>

Research Interests

Laryngeal phonetics and phonology, loanword adaptation, phonetic and phonological typology, phonetics-phonology interface, laboratory phonology, phonetic theory, sound change.

Education

- 2020 - Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles.
Committee: Pat Keating (co-chair), Megha Sundara (co-chair), David Goldstein, Bruce Hayes, Kie Zuraw.
- June 2024 C.Phil. in Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles.
- May 2020 M.A. in Linguistics, Wayne State University, Detroit.
- Dec 2016 B.S.; M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Cummins College; Purdue University.

Non-degree training

- July 2024 The Crete Summer School of Linguistics, University of Crete, Greece.
- June - July 2023 LSA Summer Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Publications & manuscripts

Journal Articles

- 2025 Narkar, Jahnavi. Reconceptualizing VOT: Further Contributions to Marking 50 Years of Research on Voice Onset Time. *Journal of Phonetics*.
- 2022 **Narkar, Jahnavi** & Peter Staroverov. An acoustic study of voiceless stops in Indian English. *Journal of South Asian Linguistics*.

Conference Proceedings

- 2023 Narkar, Jahnavi. Acoustic Properties Of The Four-Way Laryngeal Contrast In Bengali Infant Directed Speech. *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Prague 2023*.
- 2021 Narkar, Jahnavi. The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indian English: The Role of Phonetics in Adaptation. *Proceedings of the 37th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

Manuscripts

- in prep Bootstrapping prosodic primitives from Infant Directed Speech (with Ann Aly, Stephanie Jakobson and Megha Sundara).

Conference Presentations

Refereed

- 2025 Narkar, Jahnavi* & Max Meszaros*[†]. A perceptual explanation for the adaptation of aspirated stops in Indic languages. Poster presented at the 188th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, New Orleans, LA, 19-23 May, 2025.
- 2024 Eischens, Ben* & **Jahnavi Narkar**. The production of phonation type in San Martín Peras Mixtec. The 4th Sound Systems of Latin America (SSLA 4), University of Washington, November 8-9, 2024.
- 2023 Narkar, Jahnavi. Acoustic Properties Of The Four-Way Laryngeal Contrast In Bengali Infant Directed Speech. Poster presented at the 20th ICPHS, Prague, 7-11 August, 2023.
- 2023 Narkar, Jahnavi. Laryngeal realist representations in Bengali. Poster presented at the 30th Manchester Phonology Meeting, Manchester, England, 25-27 May, 2023.
- 2022 Narkar, Jahnavi*, Ekaterina Khlystova*, Ann M. Aly, Ji Young Kim & Megha Sundara. Evaluating the Learnability of Vowel Categories from Infant Directed Speech. Poster presented at the 182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver, CO, 23-27 May 2022.
- 2022 Narkar, Jahnavi* & Megha Sundara. The Four-way Voicing Distinction in Bengali Infant Directed Speech. Poster presented at the 182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver, CO, 23-27 May, 2022.
- 2020 Narkar, Jahnavi. The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indo-Aryan Loans and Indian English. Talk at *(Formal) Approaches to South Asian Languages 10*, held virtually by the Ohio State University, March 21-22, 2020.
- 2020 Narkar, Jahnavi. The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indian English: The Role of Phonetics in Adaptation. Poster presented at *West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics 37*, The University of British Columbia, March 6-8, 2020.
- 2020 Narkar, Jahnavi. No Puffs Given: The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indo-Aryan Loanwords and Indian English. Poster presented at *17th Old World Conference in Phonology*, University of Warsaw, February 5-7, 2020.
- 2020 Narkar, Jahnavi. Adaptation of English Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages: VOT about Aspiration? Talk at *The Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe 28*, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, January 29-31, 2020.
- 2019 Narkar, Jahnavi. Adaptation of English Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages: The Problem of De-aspiration. Poster presented at *The 24th Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics & Phonology Conference*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, October 4-5, 2019.
- 2019 Narkar, Jahnavi. Adaptation of English Alveolar Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages. Talk at *The 16th Annual Workshop in General Linguistics*, University of Wisconsin - Madison, March 30-31, 2019.
- 2018 Narkar, Jahnavi. Half Rhymes in Popular Music: Similarity of Features and the P-map. Talk at *The 5th Annual Linguistics Conference at UGA*, University of Georgia, Athens, October 12-13, 2018.
- 2018 Narkar, Jahnavi. Half Rhymes in Popular Music: Similarity of Features and the P-map. Talk at *The 23rd Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics & Phonology Conference*, Northwestern University, Evanston, October 5-6, 2018.

Non-refereed

- 2023 Narkar, Jahnavi & Megha Sundara. Bootstrapping prosodic prominence from Infant Directed Speech. *UCLA Phonetics Seminar*, UCLA, October 23, 2023.
- 2021 Narkar, Jahnavi. Automating VOT measurement. *UCLA Phonetics Seminar*, UCLA, November 29, 2021.
- 2021 Narkar, Jahnavi. Phonetic interpretation of phonological gradience: A case study from Adonara. *Fieldwork, Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory in Indonesia*, held virtually by the University of Delaware, October 22-24, 2021.

*Presenting author

[†]Undergraduate collaborator

Invited Talks

- 2019 Narkar, Jahnnavi. Adaptation of English Alveolar Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages. *Annual Linguistics Student Research Colloquium*, Wayne State University, April 12, 2019.
- 2018 Narkar, Jahnnavi. Half Rhymes in Popular Music: Similarity of Features and the P-map. *LING Lunch*, Purdue Linguistics Association, Purdue University, West Lafayette, November 14, 2018.

Awards & Scholarships

- 2023-24 Academic year Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (\$20,000).
- Summer 2023 Graduate Summer Mentorship Program, UCLA (\$6000).
- Summer 2023 Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship – *declined*.
- 2022-23 Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA (\$20,000).
- Winter 2022 Ladefoged Scholarship Award, UCLA (\$500).
- 2020-21 Graduate Dean's Scholar Award, UCLA (\$14,500).
- Winter 2020 Humanities Center Travel Award, Wayne State University (\$300).
- 2018-19 Graduate Professional Scholarship, Wayne State University (\$18,000).

Research Experience

- Summer 2024 Research Assistant to Professor Ben Eischens, UCLA.
- Summer 2020 Research Assistant to Professor Pat Keating, UCLA Phonetics Lab, UCLA.
- Summer 2020 Research Assistant, Phonetics & Fieldwork Lab, Wayne State University.
- Summer 2019 Graduate Student Trainee, Linguistic Fieldwork and Documentation Training in Indonesia (NSF 1747801).
- Winter 2018 Research Assistant, Phonetics & Fieldwork Lab, Wayne State University.
- 2015-16 Research Assistant, Center for Instructional Excellence, Purdue University.
- Fall 2015 Volunteer, Phonetics and Phonology Lab, Purdue University.

Teaching & Supervision

Instructor

- Summer 2024 Phonology II (LING 165A), UCLA.
- Winter 2020 Basic Concepts in Linguistics (LIN 2720), Wayne State University.

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2025 Introduction to Applied Phonetics (LING 102), UCLA
- Winter 2025 Introduction to Applied Phonetics (LING 102), UCLA
- Fall 2024 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (LING 20), UCLA
- Spring 2024 Applied Phonology (LING 119A), UCLA
- Spring 2022 Language Development (LING 130), UCLA
- Winter 2022 Linguistics and Speech Pathology (LING 115), UCLA
- Fall 2021 Introduction to the Study of Language (LING 1), UCLA

Guest lecturer

- Fall 2020 "Austronesian Languages and Linguistic Fieldwork" in Languages of the World (LIN 2730), Wayne State University.
- Winter 2019 "Indo-Aryan Languages" in Languages of Asia (LIN 5100), Wayne State University.

Research supervision & advising, UCLA

2021–24 14 undergraduate research assistants (individual durations between 1 and 2 quarters).

Skills*Languages*

English, Marathi	Native
Hindi-Urdu	Near-native
Konkani	Heritage
Standard Indonesian	Advanced
Spanish, Italian	Intermediate
Adonara	Fieldwork
Bangladeshi Bengali	Research

Technical Skills

Scripting & statistics	MATLAB, Minitab, Perl, Praat scripting, Python, R
Audio & data analysis	Audacity, Praat, Voicesauce
Experiments	Amazon MTurk, Labvanced, Prolific
Fieldwork	ELAN, FLE _x
Typesetting	L ^A T _E X

Membership & Service*To the university*

2022–	Member, Colloquium committee	UCLA
2022–2023	Vice President, Graduate Linguistics Council	UCLA
2021–22	Member, Social Media Committee, Department of Linguistics	UCLA
2019	Co-founder, Linguistics Club	Wayne State University

To the field

May 3–4, 2024	Session chair, International Symposium on Research and Teaching of Endangered and Marginalized Languages in East and Southeast Asia, UCLA
October 21–23, 2022	Volunteer, The 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP), UCLA
May 23, 2022	Session chair, 182 nd meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver CO
ad-hoc	Reviewer, Journal of South Asian Linguistics (JSAL)

Affiliations

2021–	Member, Linguistic Society of America
2021–	Member, Acoustical Society of America

Other Experience*Work*

July 2016 – June 2019 Advanced Engineer General Motors, Detroit.

Publication

2020 Li, Huaxin, **Narkar, Jahnavi** & Reynolds, Craig. Welding of Dissimilar Materials with Features in Faying Surface. United States Patent Application Publication US2020/0324358 A1.

Last updated: May 26, 2025