

Jahnavi Narkar

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Research Interests

Laboratory phonology, phonetics-phonology interface, phonetic theory, typology, laryngeal phonetics and phonology, sound change, loanword adaptation.

Education

- 2020-26 (expected) Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles.
Dissertation: *Optimal laryngeal settings: Stop inventories*
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, West Lafayette.

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

Journal Articles

- submitted* **Narkar, Jahnavi** & Max Meszaros[†]. A perceptual explanation for Hindi loanword adaptation. *Language: Research Reports*.
- under review* Eischens, Ben & **Jahnavi Narkar**. The production of phonation type in San Martín Peras Mixtec. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*.
- 2025 **Narkar, Jahnavi**. Reconceptualizing VOT: Further Contributions to Marking 50 Years of Research on Voice Onset Time. *Journal of Phonetics. Special Issue on VOT*.
- 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* **Narkar, Jahnavi**, Ann Aly, Stephanie Jacobson & Megha Sundara. Bootstrapping Prosodic Primitives from Infant Directed Speech.

[†]Undergraduate co-author

Conference Presentations

Refereed

- 2026 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Goddess Grammars: The organizing principles of sound systems. 5-Minute Linguist presentation at the *LSA Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, January 8-11, 2026.
- 2026 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Stop inventories are determined by markedness AND economy. Poster at the *LSA Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, January 8-11, 2026.
- 2026 Muhammad Rehan, **Jahnavi Narkar** & Dhanya Charan[†]. Lexical stress and syllable weight in Hindi-Urdu pop text-setting. Talk at the *LSA Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, January 8-11, 2026.
- 2025 Muhammad Rehan, **Jahnavi Narkar** & Dhanya Charan[†]. Investigating Lexical Stress in Hindi-Urdu Pop Music. Poster at the *Sixth Joint Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and Acoustical Society of Japan*, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1-5 December 2025.
- 2025 **Jahnavi Narkar**. A probabilistic typology of Proto-Indo-European stops. Poster at the *Seventh Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology*, Edinburgh, Scotland. 1-2 December, 2025.
- 2025 **Jahnavi Narkar**. A probabilistic model of stop inventory typology. Talk at *Issues in Phonological Typology*, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway, 27-28 November, 2025.
- 2025 Ben Eischens* & **Jahnavi Narkar**. La sonoridad de las vocales no modales en el mixteco de San Martín Peras. *Simposio Internacional de Fonología Indoamericana*, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico. October 23-24, 2025.
- 2025 **Jahnavi Narkar*** & Max Meszaros[†]. A perceptual explanation for the adaptation of aspirated stops in Indic languages. Poster at the *188th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*, New Orleans, May 19-23, 2025.
- 2024 Ben Eischens* & **Jahnavi Narkar**. The production of phonation type in San Martín Peras Mixtec. Talk at *The 4th Sound Systems of Latin America (SSLA 4)*, University of Washington, November 8-9, 2024.
- 2023 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Acoustic Properties of the Four-Way Laryngeal Contrast in Bengali Infant Directed Speech. Poster at the *20th International Congress on the Phonetic Sciences*, Prague, August 7-11, 2023.
- 2023 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Laryngeal realist representations in Bengali. Poster at the *30th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, Manchester, England, May 25-27, 2023.
- 2022 **Jahnavi Narkar***, Ekaterina Khlystova*, Ann M. Aly, Ji Young Kim & Megha Sundara. Evaluating the Learnability of Vowel Categories from Infant Directed Speech. Poster at the *182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*, Denver, CO, May 23-27 2022.
- 2022 **Jahnavi Narkar*** & Megha Sundara. The Four-way Voicing Distinction in Bengali Infant Directed Speech. Poster at the *182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*, Denver, CO, May 23-27, 2022.
- 2020 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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 **Jahnavi Narkar**. The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indian English: The Role of Phonetics in Adaptation. Poster at *West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics 37*, The University of British Columbia, March 6-8, 2020.
- 2020 **Jahnavi Narkar**. No Puffs Given: The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indo-Aryan Loanwords and Indian English. Poster at *17th Old World Conference in Phonology*, University of Warsaw, February 5-7, 2020.
- 2020 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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.

*Presenting author

†Undergraduate collaborator

- 2019 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Adaptation of English Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages: The Problem of De-aspiration. Poster at *The 24th Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics & Phonology Conference*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, October 4-5, 2019.
- 2019 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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 **Jahnavi Narkar** & Megha Sundara. Bootstrapping prosodic prominence from Infant Directed Speech. *UCLA Phonetics Seminar*, UCLA, October 23, 2023.
- 2023 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Underspecification and apparent opacity in San Cristóbal Lachirioag Zapotec. *2023 Field Methods Mini-conference*, UCLA, June 14, 2023.
- 2021 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Automating VOT measurement. *UCLA Phonetics Seminar*, UCLA, November 29, 2021.
- 2021 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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.

Invited Talks

- 2025 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Reverse-engineering the Proto-Indo-European stop inventory. Program in Indo-European Studies, UCLA, November 10, 2025.
- 2025 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Optimal Stop Inventories: A comprehensive reassessment. *Colloquium Talk*, University of New Mexico, February 6, 2025.
- 2019 **Jahnavi Narkar**. Adaptation of English Alveolar Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages. *Annual Linguistics Student Research Colloquium*, Wayne State University, April 12, 2019.
- 2018 **Jahnavi Narkar**. 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

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| 2025-26 | Dissertation Year Award, UCLA (\$30,000). |
| 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 – <i>declined</i> . |
| 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

- 2021–25 15 undergraduate research assistants (individual durations between 1 and 3 quarters).

Skills

Languages

English, Marathi	Native
Hindi-Urdu	Near-native
Konkani	Heritage
Standard Indonesian	Advanced
Italian, Spanish	Intermediate
Adonara, San Cristobál Lachiorag Zapotec	Fieldwork
Bangladeshi Bengali, San Martín Peras Mixtec	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, FLEx
Typesetting	LaTeX

Membership & Service

To the university

- 2022-2025 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 & Marginalized Languages in East and Southeast Asia, UCLA
- Oct 21-23, 2022 Volunteer, The 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP), UCLA
- May 23, 2022 Session chair, 182nd meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver CO
- ad-hoc Reviewer, Journal of South Asian Linguistics
- ad-hoc Reviewer, Journal of Phonetics

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