

Jahnavi Narkar

jnarkar@ucla.edu · jahnavinarkar.com

Research interests

Experimental phonetics and phonology, typology, phonetics-phonology interface, laryngeal phonetics and phonology, phonetic theory.

Employment

Fall 2026- Lecturer, University of California, Los Angeles

Education

- 2026 **University of California, Los Angeles**
PhD in Linguistics
Dissertation: *Optimal laryngeal settings: Stop inventories*
Committee: Pat Keating (co-chair), Megha Sundara (co-chair), David Goldstein, Bruce Hayes & Kie Zuraw
- May 2020 **Wayne State University**
MA in Linguistics
- December 2016 **Cummins College, Purdue University**
BS, MS in Mechanical Engineering

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

* = undergraduate co-author

Journal publications

- resubmitted* 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*.
- 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*.
- 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*.

Conference Presentations

* = undergraduate collaborator, † = presenting author

Refereed

- 2026 *The Sound Soup: Reverse-engineering the recipe*. 5-Minute Linguist presentation at the LSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2026 *Lexical stress and syllable weight in Hindi-Urdu pop text-setting* (with Muhammad Rehan[†] & Dhanya Charan^{*†}). Talk at the LSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2026 *Stop inventories are determined by markedness AND economy*. Poster at the LSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2025 *Investigating Lexical Stress in Hindi-Urdu Pop Music* (with Muhammad Rehan & Dhanya Charan^{*†}). Poster at the Sixth Joint Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and Acoustical Society of Japan, Honolulu, HI.
- 2025 *A probabilistic typology of Proto-Indo-European stops*. Poster at the Seventh Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2025 *A probabilistic model of stop inventory typology*. Talk at Issues in Phonological Typology, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway.
- 2025 *La sonoridad de las vocales no modales en el mixteco de San Martín Peras* (with Ben Eischens[†]). Simposio Internacional de Fonología Indoamericana, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Querétaro, México.
- 2025 *A perceptual explanation for the adaptation of aspirated stops in Indic languages* (with Max Meszaros^{*}). Poster at the 188th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, New Orleans, LA.
- 2024 *The production of phonation type in San Martín Peras Mixtec* (with Ben Eischens[†]). Talk at The 4th Sound Systems of Latin America, University of Washington, WA.
- 2023 *Acoustic Properties of the Four-Way Laryngeal Contrast in Bengali Infant Directed Speech*. Poster at the 20th International Congress on the Phonetic Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2023 *Laryngeal realist representations in Bengali*. Poster at the 30th Manchester Phonology Meeting, Manchester, England.
- 2022 *Evaluating the Learnability of Vowel Categories from Infant Directed Speech* (with Katya Khlystova, Connor Mayer, Ann M. Aly, Ji Young Kim & Megha Sundara). Poster at the 182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver, CO.
- 2022 *The Four-way Voicing Distinction in Bengali Infant Directed Speech* (with Megha Sundara). Poster at the 182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver, CO.
- 2020 *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.
- 2020 *The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indian English: The Role of Phonetics in Adaptation*. Poster at West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics 37, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.
- 2020 *No Puffs Given: The Curious Absence of Aspiration in Indo-Aryan Loanwords and Indian English*. Poster at the 17th Old World Conference in Phonology, University of Warsaw, Poland.

- 2020 *Adaptation of English Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages: VOT about Aspiration?* Talk at The Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2019 *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, WI.
- 2019 *Adaptation of English Alveolar Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages.* Talk at The 16th Annual Workshop in General Linguistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.
- 2018 *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, GA.
- 2018 *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, IL.

Non-refereed

- 2023 *Bootstrapping prosodic prominence from Infant Directed Speech* (with Megha Sundara). Talk at the UCLA Phonetics Seminar.
- 2023 *Underspecification and apparent opacity in San Cristóbal Lachirioag Zapotec.* Talk at the 2023 Field Methods Mini-conference, UCLA.
- 2021 *Phonetic interpretation of phonological gradience: A case study from Adonara.* Talk at Fieldwork, Language Documentation & Linguistic Theory in Indonesia, held virtually by the University of Delaware.

Invited talks

- 2026 *Languages are the same. Languages are different.* Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune, India.
- 2025 *Reverse-engineering the Proto-Indo-European stop inventory.* Program in Indo-European Studies, UCLA.
- 2025 *Optimal Stop Inventories: A comprehensive reassessment.* Colloquium talk, Department of Linguistics, The University of New Mexico.
- 2019 *Adaptation of English Alveolar Stops in Indo-Aryan Languages.* Annual Linguistics Student Research Colloquium, Wayne State University.
- 2018 *Half Rhymes in Popular Music: Similarity of Features and the P-map.* LING Lunch, Purdue Linguistics Association, Purdue University.

Awards & Scholarships

- 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 – *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

Spring 2027	Introduction to Applied Phonetics (LING 102), UCLA – <i>planned</i>
	Linguistics and Speech Pathology (LING 115), UCLA – <i>planned</i>
Winter 2027	Introduction to Applied Phonetics (LING 102), UCLA – <i>planned</i>
	Experimental Phonetics (LING C204A - graduate, LING C104 - undergraduate), UCLA – <i>planned</i>
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

2021-2025	15 undergraduate research assistants (individual durations between 1 and 3 quarters), UCLA.
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Membership & Service

To the university

2022-2025	Member, Colloquium committee, UCLA
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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, 182 nd meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Denver CO
2026-	Reviewer, International Journal of American Linguistics
2025-	Reviewer, Journal of Phonetics
2024-	Reviewer, Journal of South Asian Linguistics

Affiliations

2026-	Member, International Phonetic Association
2021-	Member, Linguistic Society of America
2021-	Member, Acoustical Society of America

Skills

Languages

Native	English, Marathi
Near-native	Hindi-Urdu
Heritage	Konkani
Advanced	Standard Indonesian
Intermediate	Spanish, Standard Italian
Fieldwork	Adonara (<i>in-situ</i>), San Cristobál Lachiorag Zapotec (<i>ex-situ</i>)
Research	Bangladeshi Bengali, San Martín Peras Mixtec

Technical skills

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

Other experience

Work

2016 - 2019	Advanced Engineer, General Motors, Detroit.
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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.
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