

Class of 2025

Departmental Scholars*

Jennifer Aira Miyaki †

Allison Rulli

Bachelor of Arts

Jazmine Aceves Sevilla

Pradyumn Acharya

Natalia Krista Adomaitis

Sonal Aggarwal

Fulati Aizihaer

Remi Akopians †

Batool Fawzi Al yousif

Ammar Almarzooq

Fernando A Althann T Chaumiere R

Karim Amr

Aryan Arora

Maya Athwal

Selena Bahro

Dixie Bailón

Sarah Maria Belew-Gaidola

Kriti Beswal

Leia Rose Broughton

Olivia Brown

Kara Nicole Bryant

Charles Andre Castillo

Katarina Julianne Castro

James Thomas Cessna

Dhanya Charan ‡

Jessica Chen

Gor Chizhikyan

Katia Sori Choi

Minyu Choi

Chianie Chou Chi

Aanas Saidul Chowdhury

Kara Kimiko Chu

Yesenia Cortes Lopez

Jocelyn Monique Cortez †

Kathryn Isabella Cunningham

Melina Elizabeth Darlas

Rama Chandra Das

Vahe Deverian

Kristina (Tessa) Domingo

Bridget G Donlan

Julia Endriga

Cia Evangelio

Jean-Max Fawzi

Daniel Fenex

Class of 2025

Bachelor of Arts (cont.)

Elizabeth Flynn

Paden Frye

Lori Garavartanian ‡

Elizabeth Garcia

Samuel Eli Gerstmann

Elizabeth Gin

Indigo Golub

Kento Lee Goodman

Rohini Kira Govier

Noelle Ann Kyla Guzman

Saffiya Haque

Seth Hatton

Huameng Cora He

Serena Grace Hermann

Wesley Hsieh

Yixin Hu

Lionel Hu

Anna Christine James

Jiwoo Jeong

Michael Jiang

Charlene Juarez

Lauren Mika Jutabha

Ethan Kahn

Chiemeka Kalu

Ayah Kashkoul

Dohyun Kim

Soyeon Kim

Arine Kim

Elizabeth Kim

Priya Khatkar

Kaitlyn Khoe

Amariyah Lane-Volz

Alva Larsson

David Jongchan Lee

Casey Lee

Zhifei Lei

Daniel Li

Yancheng Li

Hannah Shiaotian Lin

Alwena Lin

Jenny Liu

Rammus Yenji Lo

Marco Lombardi

Jeffrey Kairui Lu

Tiana Ly

Anika Malayappan

Imre Maximilian Meszaros

Jennifer Aira Miyaki *†

Emma Katherine Montilla ‡

Johanne Lanease Gacelo Moresco

Class of 2025

Bachelor of Arts (cont.)

Rohan Mortensen

Naomi Eliza Muñoz

Misuzu Nakazawa

Chinonyerem Ndukwe

Justin Tri Tue Nguyen

Kimberly Huynh Nguyen

Khanh Nguyen

Charlotte Norris

Marguerite Novikov

Casey Jean O'Brien ‡

Venus Ochoa Lopez

Lilia Rose Osborne

Shahana Osman

Nicole Yupangco Pacheco

Monica Pal

Sanjita Pamidimukkala

Hajong Park

Teresa Parsons

Arjun Pawar ‡

Sabrina Peruzzi

Mario Prado

Sam Pham

Jennie Pham

Emely Daya Pinto Flores

Krystal Quinto

Shayna Rabin

Kati Rady-Pentek

John Reinker

Donovan Rimer

Raquel Rodriguez

Alexander Roznovsky

Allison Rulli *

Hemanth Sammatur

Rutvi Shah

Mohammed Hameed Shaik

Elizabeth Shay

Grace Shoemaker

Haleigh Reese Simington

Carolyn Grace Skorina

Eavan Jael Clavo Soriano

Sanjna Tailor

Michael Telezing

Momo Terasaka

Tej Paul Thambi

Jack Thompson

Asiah Raine Kosaka Torres

Abigail Tran

Tyler Tran

Jaquelin Trujillo Ultreras

Shuk Yee Tsui

Class of 2025

Bachelor of Arts (cont.)

Ryusuke Tsumida

Monique Tunnell

Sragvi Vadali

Anbu V

Jafarri Charles Venus-Nocentelli

Karoline V

Seth Vigil

Adeline Amanda Villarreal †

Raina Wan

Haoran Wang

Jenny Wang

Kevin Wang

Yixing Wang

Gabriel Frank Weisiger

Monrelle Franshan Wilson

Monique Wong †

David Tong Wu

Zihan Xia

Yinlin Xie

Angeline Xu

Maxwell Xu

Karin Yamaoka

Angela Hui-Xin Yang

Daisy Sijia Ye

Simon Yegikyan

Gareth Ong Yu †

Brian Zhao

Boyi Zheng

Jeffrey Zhou

Jennie Zhou

Felix Zhou

* Departmental Scholars carry the honor of completing both a B.A. and M.A. degree in Linguistics simultaneously through the Departmental Scholars Program

† Departmental Honors Recipient

‡ Departmental Highest Honors Recipient

Class of 2025

M.A. and Ph.D. Recipients

Master of Arts

Thomas Conway, M.A.

Committee: Stefan Keine (Chair), Ben Eischens, Jesse Harris

Jennifer Aira Miyaki, M.A.

Committee: Jesse Harris and Jessica Rett (Co-Chairs), Kie Zuraw

Post-graduation plans: Disability Law Fellowship 2025-2026, considering applying to Ling PhD, social work, and law school programs.

--

I was president of Bruin Linguists Society (BLing) and chair of the Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (SCULC) from 2021-2023. In 2021-2022, I was a research assistant and a part of the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URSP) at UCLA. In 2023, I presented at the Seventh Annual Berkeley Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium and UCLA's Phonology Seminar and won the Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research for my research on phonological compound reduction in American Sign Language (ASL). In 2024, I was a co-event organizer for Drs. Daria Bahtina and Giuseppina Silvestri's Rethinking Bilingualism workshop. Since 2023, I have also been honored to serve as the Linguistics Peer Advisor for our department.

Class of 2025

Master of Arts (cont.)

Allison Rulli, M.A.

Committee: Jessica Rett (Chair), Dylan Bumford, Stefan Keine

Post-graduation plans: MSc in Logic at University of Amsterdam

--

Currently interested in the syntax-semantics interface and conducting fieldwork.

Previously worked with Professor Rett on the Semantics of Cancer.

Doctor of Philosophy

Abeer Ali Abdullah Abbas, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Morphological Structure in the Arabic Mental Lexicon:

Productivity and Priming Effects in Nominal and Verbal Patterns

Committee: Megha Sundara (Chair), Jesse Harris, Stefan Keine, Kie Zuraw

Current Position: Assistant Professor at Jazan University

--

My research explores how the brain processes language, with a specific focus on the morphological structure of the Arabic mental lexicon. I investigate how productivity affects the processing of nominal and verbal patterns using masked and cross-modal priming experiments. The findings highlight the brain's sensitivity to morphological regularities and support dual-route models of lexical access.

Class of 2025

Doctor of Philosophy (cont.)

Jake Aziz, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: The Phonetics and Phonology of So-Called Vowel Devoicing in Malagasy

Committee: Sun-Ah Jun and Kie Zuraw (Co-Chairs), Nancy Hall, Bruce Hayes

Post-graduation plans: I returned to UCLA as a lecturer in phonology and will now begin my academic job search in Canada.

--

My research centers on the phonetics and phonology of Malagasy, an Austronesian language spoken in Madagascar. In my dissertation, I look at a phenomenon called "vowel devoicing", where certain Malagasy vowels seem to not be pronounced, using acoustic evidence to argue that the vowels have not truly disappeared and modelling this result using a theory of gestural phonology. I also have a research programme investigating the intonational and prosodic properties of Malagasy, showing how Malagasy prosodic structure is linked to syntactic structure.

Colin Brown, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: The Form and Function of Interrogatives in Sm'algyax

Committee: Yael Sharvit and Harold Torrence (Co-Chairs), Lisa Matthewson, Ethan Poole

Current Position: SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, University of British Columbia

Doctor of Philosophy (cont.)

Jinyoung Jo, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Individual differences in phonology: the realization of stem-final coronal obstruents in Korean

Committee: Kie Zuraw (Chair), Bruce Hayes, Jongho Jun, Megha Sundara

Current Position: Social Science Research Professional at Stanford University

--

Jinyoung's research investigates individual differences in phonology, focusing on both adult speakers and children's language. Jinyoung's PhD years were productive in every sense: not only did she complete her dissertation, but she also made a baby.

Ekaterina (Katya) Khlystova, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Extralinguistic Cognition and Verb Argument Structure in Development: Learning and Processing

Committee: Laurel Perkins (Chair), Tim Hunter, Jeffrey Lidz, Megha Sundara

Current Position: Working at a healthcare start-up ensuring patient-reported outcome surveys are useful to both patients and healthcare professionals!

--

In my dissertation, I looked at how different extralinguistic cognitive systems can influence early language learning and use. In one part of my dissertation, I looked at how preschoolers and adults perceive complex events as a way of understanding limitations that the visual working memory system may have on the acquisition of verbs that label such complex events; in the second part, I developed a computational parser examining how working memory and cognitive control can

Doctor of Philosophy (cont.)

influence early sentence processing individually and in tandem. Before that, I worked on quantifying phonetic variation in naturalistic infant-directed speech and conducting some follow-up experiments with infants based on those findings.

Huilei Wang, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Quantificational Scope and Clause-(Un)Boundedness

Committee: Ethan Poole and Yael Sharvit (Co-Chairs), Dylan Bumford, Tim Hunter

Current Position: Postdoctoral Scholar, Humboldt Research Fellowship

Yang Wang, Ph.D.

Dissertation Title: Studies in morphophonological copying: Analysis, experimentation and modeling

Committee: Bruce Hayes and Tim Hunter (Co-Chairs), Claire Moore-Cantwell, Kie Zuraw, Colin Wilson

Current Position: Assistant Professor at the University of Utah

--

My research focuses on how the structural properties of natural languages, especially (morpho)phonology, are represented, computed and learned. To address these questions, I seek converging evidence from different methodologies, including traditional/formal linguistic analyses, mathematical investigations, computational modeling, and experimental studies.

