

# Lalitha Balachandran

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📍: Department of Linguistics  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

✉: [lalithab@ucsc.edu](mailto:lalithab@ucsc.edu)  
🏠: [people.ucsc.edu/~lbalacha](https://people.ucsc.edu/~lbalacha)

**Interests**     **Research:** psycholinguistics, memory & language, semantics, pragmatics, discourse, focus, information structure, ellipsis, (implicit) prosody  
**Pedagogy:** instructional equity, STEM & Social Sciences equity

## Education

2019-     **Ph.D. Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
          *Advisor:* Matt Wagers (expected completion date: 2024)  
2016-18     **B.A. Linguistics, Specialization in Computing**, University of California, Los Angeles  
2015-16     Diablo Valley College  
2014         University of Colorado, Boulder

## Non-degree Programs

2023         **Course Design & Delivery** - Graduate Certificate Program, Teaching & Learning Center (TLC), UC Santa Cruz  
2023         **Equity-minded Mentoring** - Graduate Certificate Program, TLC, UC Santa Cruz  
2022         **Teaching for Equity** - Graduate Certificate Program, TLC, UC Santa Cruz  
2022         **Graduate Pedagogy Fellows Program** - Pedagogical Leadership Certificate, TLC, UC Santa Cruz

## Publications & Presentations

*Note:* † co-first author

### Publications

submitted     **Balachandran, L.**, McNamara, M. B., Lee, Herbert K. H., & Tassio, M. Impacts of Online Instruction in Prerequisite Courses on Student Performance in Postrequisite Courses.  
2022             Duff, J. & **Balachandran, L.** Participants seek shared outlooks in non-canonical disagreements: Evidence from a corpus of dyadic conversation in English. In the Proceedings of *SemDial 26* (DubDial).  
2022             **Balachandran, L.** Reciprocal questions and the pragmatics of argument reversing verb phrase ellipsis. In the Proceedings of *Sinn und Bedeutung 26*.

### Edited Volumes

2022             Balachandran, L. & Duff, J. (eds). *Syntax and Semantics at Santa Cruz, Volume V*. Linguistics Research Center, UC Santa Cruz.

### Posters

2023             *Enhancing STEM diversity efforts: Insights from geographic analysis of registrants for NASA's SMD Bridge Program Workshop*. with Jeremias Nunez, Nicolle Zellner, & Lorenzo Pappas. National Diversity in STEM 2023 Conference (SACNAS).  
2023             *Domain-sensitivity of sentence memory and (lack of) temporal contiguity effects*. with Stephanie Rich† & Matt Wagers. *Architectures & Mechanisms in Language Processing (AMLaP) 29*, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain, & Language.  
2023             *Top-down expectations vs. bottom-up information in prosodic memory*. with Morwenna Hoeks†, Nicholas Van Handel, & Amanda Rysling. HSP 36, University of Pittsburgh.  
2022             *Compression vs. partition: Memory domains and the processing of appositives*. with John Duff†, Pranav Anand, & Amanda Rysling. AMLaP 28, University of York.

## Talks

- 2023 *Does memory for focus structure interfere with memory for prosody?* with Morwenna Hoeks<sup>†</sup>, Nicholas Van Handel, & Amanda Rysling. Talk at CAMP5.
- 2023 *Implicit prosodic representations do not affect recognition or retrieval.* with Matt Wagers & Amanda Rysling. Short talk at CAMP5.
- 2022 *Participants seek shared outlooks in non-canonical disagreements: Evidence from a corpus of dyadic conversation in English.* with John Duff. Talk at SemDial 26 (DubDial), Technological University Dublin.
- 2022 *"It's alive!": Animacy-based structural expectations rapidly update with context.* with Stephanie Rich, John Duff, Matthew Kogan, Maya Wax Cavallaro, Nicholas Van Handel, & Matt Wagers. Short talk at the Conference on Human Sentence Processing 35, UCSC.
- 2021 *Reciprocal Questions and the Pragmatics of Argument Reversing Verb Phrase Ellipsis.* Talk at Sinn und Bedeutung 26, University of Cologne, Germany.
- 2021 *Singular vs. Plural Themselves: Evidence from the Ambiguity Advantage.* with Nicholas Van Handel, Stephanie Rich, & Amanda Rysling. Short talk at the CUNY Sentence Processing Conference 34, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2019 *Number Attraction in Production: errors and speech rate profiles narrow a production-comprehension contrast.* with Margaret Kandel, Cassidy Wyatt, & Colin Phillips. Talk at the CUNY Sentence Processing Conference 32, University of Colorado, Boulder.

## Invited Presentations

- 2023 *Working with Teaching Teams.*  
Co-panelist, New Faculty Teaching Academy, UCSC.
- 2020 *Argument Reversals in Verb Phrase Ellipsis.*  
Words with Friends, Stanford University.

## Other

- 2023 *Does memory for focus structure interfere with memory for prosody?* with Morwenna Hoeks<sup>†</sup>.  
Linguistics at Santa Cruz, UCSC.
- 2022 *Report on Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions; Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions; Tribal Colleges and Universities; and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions.* NASA Science Mission Directorate Bridge Program Workshop.
- 2022 *The pragmatics of argument-reversing verb phrase ellipsis: a QUD-based account.*  
Linguistics at Santa Cruz, UCSC.
- 2018 *Prosodic Learning in an Avian Model Species for Human Language.*  
Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference, UCLA.

## Teaching & Mentorship

### Lead Instructor, UC Santa Cruz

- |                         |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fall 2023               | Psycholinguistics I     | Faculty Mentor: Matt Wagers  |
| Fall 2022 - Winter 2023 | Pedagogy of Linguistics | Faculty Mentor: Ryan Bennett |

### Teaching Assistant, UC Santa Cruz

- |             |                                  |   |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Summer 2023 | Variation in Language Processing | Instructor: Stephanie Rich              |
| Spring 2022 | Psycholinguistics I              | Instructor: Morwenna Hoeks              |
| Winter 2022 | Semantics I                      | Instructor: Jake Vincent                |
| Fall 2021   | Psycholinguistics I              | Instructor: Matt Wagers                 |
| Summer 2021 | Language OnLine                  | Instructor: Tom Roberts                 |
| Spring 2021 | Invented Languages               | Instructor: Pranav Anand                |
| Winter 2021 | Syntax I                         | Instructors: Jorge Hankamer, Ivy Sichel |
| Fall 2020   | Semantics I                      | Instructor: Jake Vincent                |

### **Grader, UC Santa Cruz**

Summer 2022                      Invented Languages                      Instructor: Pranav Anand

### **Teaching Assistant, German School of Fremont**

2014-15                      Advanced German                      Instructor: Roya Housseini  
2013-15                      Intermediate German                      Instructor: Roya Housseini

### **Mentorship**

2022-                      **Mentor**, s/lab, UCSC Linguistics.  
2022-23 Undergraduate RAs: Cal Boye-Lynn, Jenna Maas, AJ Testerman  
2023-24 Undergraduate RAs: Cal Boye-Lynn, Claire Sakurauchi  
2018-19                      **Mentor**, Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Lab, UMD Linguistics.  
Undergraduate RAs: Andrew Merchant, Cassidy Wyatt; co-mentored Macie McKittrick, Katte Luckhurst, Stephanie Pomrenke

### **Research Positions**

2023                      **Graduate Student Researcher**, TLC, UC Santa Cruz  
*Mentors:* Herbie Lee, Megan McNamara, Michael Tassio  
*Project:* Evaluating the efficacy of online learning through analysis of student outcomes in online vs. face-to-face undergraduate courses  
2021                      **Member**, r/lab (Resumption & Animacy Lab) - Contextual Animacy Group (Co-PIs: Ivy Sichel, Maziar Toosarvandani, Matt Wagers); NSF BCS #2019804  
Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Cruz  
2018-19                      **Lab Manager**, Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Lab (PI: Colin Phillips)  
Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park  
2017-18                      **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Language Processing Lab (PI: Jesse Harris)  
Department of Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles  
2016-18                      **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, White Lab (PI: Stephanie White)  
Dept. of Integrative Biology & Physiology, University of California, Los Angeles

### **Professional Experience**

2023                      **Summer GSI Peer Support Team**, Course Design & Delivery Program,  
Teaching & Learning Center, UCSC  
2022-23                      **Graduate Intern** - Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Bridge Program, NASA HQ  
Summer-Fall 2022: SMD Bridge Program Community Workshop  
Summer 2023: SMD Bridge Program mentorship, program design, and proposal review  
*Mentor:* Patricia Boyd  
2016-18                      **Student Assistant**, Office of Information Technology, UCLA  
2015-16                      **Office Assistant**, LeadGenius, Berkeley, CA

### **Awards & Honors**

2023                      Summer GSI Peer Support Team Fellowship, TLC, UC Santa Cruz.  
2023                      Humanities Division Summer Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.  
2022                      Graduate Pedagogy Fellows Fellowship, TLC, UC Santa Cruz.  
2021                      Humanities Summer Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.  
2020                      Summer Regents Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.  
2020                      Linguistics Department Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.  
2020                      Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, NSF.  
2019-20                      Regents Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz.  
2017-18                      Undergraduate Research Fellows Scholarship, Undergraduate Research Center, UCLA.

## Service

2022-        **Member**, EquiL (Equity in Linguistics), UCSC Ling.  
2022-23    **Co-founder/organizer**, EquiL (Equity in Linguistics), UCSC Ling.  
2022        **Reviewer**, California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, UCLA.  
2021-22    **Co-organizer**, s/lab (Syntax, Semantics, & Language Processing Lab), UCSC.  
2021-22    **Member**, Conference on Human Sentence Processing Organizing Committee, UCSC.  
Spring 2021 **Co-organizer**, SPLAP! (Semantics, Pragmatics, & Language Philosophy), UCSC.  
2021        **Co-presenter** (with Dan Brodtkin), Applying to Grad School Workshop, UCSC Ling.  
2019        **Member**, California Meeting on Psycholinguistics Organizing Committee, UCSC.

## Skills

### Programming languages

proficient in Python, R  
familiar with MATLAB, JavaScript, HTML  
rusty in C++, Haskell

### Experimental methods

eye-tracking, EEG

### Languages

English (native)  
Tamil (heritage)  
German (advanced)

### Software

PClbex, Praat, ELAN, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X