

Anne Pycha
Professor
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A. Background information

1. Formal education

2008 Ph.D, Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley

1993 B.A. with honors, Religious Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

2. Doctoral Thesis

Morphological Sources of Phonological Length

Advisors: Sharon Inkelas (chair), Keith Johnson, Larry Hyman

3. Academic and Professional Positions Held

2025-present. Professor. Department of Linguistics, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Associate Professor, 2018-2025. Assistant Professor, 2012-2108. Chair of Department, 2021-2024.

2010-2012. Visiting Assistant Professor. Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

2008-2010. IGERT Post-Doctoral Fellow, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania.

2002-2008. Graduate student, Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.

2000-2002. Graduate student, Linguistics, University of Chicago.

1999. Science writer, Freelance.

1996-1998. Research associate, Scientific Learning Corporation, Oakland, California

1993-1996. Technical writer, Lotus Development Corporation, Cambridge, Massachusetts

4. Special honors, awards, and research grants

Honors and awards

2024. Member of Inaugural Cohort, Educators Institute, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
Selected for a semester-long institute that supports instructors in the creation of effective, research-based learning experiences for student success.
2022. Office of Research/UWM Foundation Research Award, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
Recognizes and encourages UWM assistant and associate professors who have shown the potential to achieve distinction in their academic disciplines through scholarship, creative activity, and the dissemination of knowledge.
- 2025, 2024, 2021, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2013. Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) award.
2018. Nominee, UWM Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year.
2015. Fellow, Kavli Scientist-Writer Workshop, New York University (competitive award for travel, accommodation, and tuition to one-week workshop)
2014. Fellow, Trans-Disciplinary Challenge Seminar on Language, Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
2007. Abigail Hodgen Publication Award, University of California, Berkeley
2006. Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California, Berkeley

Continuing education

2024. Clinical Research Basics, Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) of Southeastern Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin. Two-session, in-person bootcamp covering the basics of managing clinical trials.
2024. Multidisciplinary Team Science Workshop, Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) of Southeastern Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin. Five-session, online workshop covering principles of successful teams for clinical and scientific research.

Funding activity

2021. Submitted proposal. "Factors in the recall and recognition of words." Principal Investigator: Anne Pycha. Research Assistance Fund, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Status: Funded. \$3,568.
2020. Submitted proposal. "Effects of face masks on speech production and perception." Principal investigators: Anne Pycha, Georgia Zellou. Collaborative research award, Linguistics, National Science Foundation. Status: Unfunded.
- 2015, 2016. Submitted proposal. "Listener perception of prefixes, roots, and suffixes." Principal investigator: Anne Pycha. Standard research award, Linguistics, National Science Foundation. Status: Unfunded.
2013. Submitted proposal: "Explaining Phonological Patterns with Memories." Principal Investigator: Anne Pycha. Competitive award through Research Growth Initiative, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Status: Funded. \$68,760.

B. Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Chapters

*Denotes undergraduate author from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

- Song, J., *Rojas, C., and Pycha, A. (2025) Factors modulating perception and production of speech by AI tools: A test case of Amazon Alexa and Polly. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Pycha, A., and Finley, S. (2024). Psycholinguistic approaches to vowel harmony. In van der Hulst, H. & Ritter, N. (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Vowel Harmony*.
- Pycha, A., and Zellou, G. (2024). The influence of accent and device usage on perceived credibility during interactions with voice-AI assistants. *Frontiers in Computer Science*.
- Pycha, A., *Culleton, T., and Song, J. (2024). The role of speech style, frequency, and density in recognition memory for spoken words. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Zellou, G., Pycha, A., and Chitoran, I. (2023). Use of gradient anticipatory nasal coarticulatory cues for lexical perception in French. *Journal of Laboratory Phonology*.
- Zellou, G., Cohn, M., and Pycha, A. (2023). Listener beliefs and perceptual learning: Differences between device and human guises. *Language*.
- Zellou, G., Pycha, A., and Cohn, M. (2023). The perception of nasal coarticulatory variation in face-masked speech. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.
- Aldholmi, Y. and Pycha, A. (2023). Segmental contributions to the intelligibility of Arabic sentences. *Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics*.
- Song, J., Pycha, A., and *Culleton, T. (2022). Interactions between voice-activated AI assistants and human speakers and their implications for second-language acquisition. *Frontiers in Communication*.
- Pycha, A., Cohn, M., and Zellou, G. (2022). Face-masked speech intelligibility: the influence of speaking style, top-down information, and background noise. *Frontiers in Communication*.
- Cohn, M., Pycha, A., and Zellou, G. (2021). Intelligibility of face-masked speech depends on speaking style: Comparing casual, smiled, and clear speech. *Cognition* 210.
- Pycha, A. (2021). Phonological and morphological roles modulate the perception of consonant variants. *Linguistics Vanguard* 7(1).
- Pycha, A. (2020). Differences in perception and memory for speech fragments in complex versus simple words: Two experiments. *The Mental Lexicon* 15(2): 189-222.
- Zellou, G. and Pycha, A. (2018). The gradient influence of temporal extent of coarticulation on vowel and speaker perception. *Journal of Laboratory Phonology* 9(1), 12.
- Pycha, A. (2017). A new test for exemplar theory: Varying versus non-varying words in Spanish. *Glossa* 2(1): 82. 1–31.
- Pycha, A. (2017). False memory rates for morphologically simple versus complex words in English. *The Mental Lexicon* 12(1): 71-106.
- Pycha, A. (2017). False memories for varying and non-varying words in American English. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience* 32(2): 205-220.
- Pycha, A. (2016). Co-articulatory cues for communication: An investigation of five environments. *Language and Speech* 59(3): 364-386.
- Pycha, A & Dahan, D. (2016). Differences in coda voicing trigger temporal realignment of gestures: A test case from the American English diphthong /aɪ/. *Journal of Phonetics* 56: 15-17.
- Pycha, A. (2015). Subjective perception of affixation: A test case from Spanish. *Lingua* 159: 47-69.

- Pycha, A. (2015). Listeners process prefixes differently: Evidence from a noise-rating task. *Word Structure* 8(1): 53-83.
- Pycha, A. (2010). A test case for the phonetics-phonology interface: Gemination restrictions in Hungarian. *Phonology* 27(1): 119-152.
- Pycha, A. (2009). Lengthened affricates as a test case for the phonetics-phonology interface. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 39(1):1-31.
- Caballero, G., M.J. Houser, N. Marcus, T. McFarland, A. Pycha, M. Toosarvandani, and J. Nichols. (2008). Nonsyntactic ordering effects in noun incorporation. *Linguistic Typology* 12(3): 383-422.
- Pycha, A., Inkelas, S., and Sprouse, R. (2007). Morphophonemics and the lexicon: A case study from Turkish. In M.J. Solé, P. Beddor, & M. Ohala (eds.) *Experimental Approaches to Phonology* (pp 369-385). Oxford University Press.

Edited collections

- Zellou, G., and Pycha, A. (2022). Investigating the Effect of Listening Conditions on Speech Intelligibility. Special collection of *Languages*.
- Zellou, G., DiCanio, C., Pycha, A., and Yu, A. (2021). Sound Change in Endangered Languages and Small Communities. Special collection of *Linguistics Vanguard*.

Recent Presentations

- Alcorn, J. and Pycha, A. (2025). Differences in working memory strategies between monolinguals and bilinguals demonstrated by performance on a dual-task Corsi blocks task. 66th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Denver, Colorado.
- Pycha, A. (Invited speaker). (2025). Factors modulating perception and production of speech by AI assistants: A test case of Amazon Alexa and Polly. Joint work with J. Song and C. Rojas. Department of Language Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- Pycha, A. (2025). Comparing implicit phonological knowledge of humans and LLMs. 30th Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference, Indiana University.
- Pycha, A. (2024). Who killed Sparkman? Chapter 1. Milwaukee Interdisciplinary Workshop of Academic Writers.
- Song, J., Rojas, C., and Pycha, A. (2024). Factors modulating perception and production of speech by AI assistants: A test case of Amazon Alexa and Polly. Phonology Group, Department of Linguistics, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
- Issa, S., and Pycha, A. (2024). Artificial intelligence realization of morphemic word-Final s in English: Phonetic evidence for voiceless clitic -s and plural -s. Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference (MidPhon 29), University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.
- Cohn, M., Pycha, A., and Zellou, G. (2024). Real versus imagined addressees: Prosodic differences across human- and device-directed speech. 100th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Pycha, A., Song, J., and Culleton, T. (2022). Low density and clear speech make spoken words more memorable. 18th International Conference on Laboratory Phonology.
- Pycha, A. (Invited speaker). (2021). Intelligibility of face-masked speech: Interactions with speech style and social information (joint work with Michelle Cohn and Georgia Zellou). Language Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing Workshop. University of Chicago.

- Hashimoto, N., Heuer, S., Pycha, A., & Shimrack, R. (2020). Phonological neighborhood density: What matters when naming images? Proposal accepted at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA (convention canceled).
- Pycha, A. (2020). Word context affects the categoricity of segment representations. 17th International Conference on Laboratory Phonology.
- Pycha, A. (2020). Categoricity of segment representations depends upon word context. Berkeley Linguistic Society, University of California, Berkeley.
- Pycha, A. (2020). (Invited speaker). Categoricity of segment representations depends upon word context. Department of Linguistics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- Aldholmi, Y. & Pycha, A. (2019). The role of consonants versus vowels in English speech intelligibility. Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference 24, Milwaukee, WI.
- Heuer, S., Hashimoto, S., & Pycha, A. (2019). Phonological neighborhood density and naming images. Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference 24, Milwaukee, WI.
- Pycha, A. (2019). (Invited speaker). Perception and memory of individual morphemes in spoken words: Two experiments. Princeton Phonology Forum, Princeton University.
- Hashimoto, N., Heuer, S., & Pycha, A. (2019). The role of phonological neighborhood density in naming images. Clinical Aphasiology Conference 2019, Whitefish, MT.

Publications for Lay Audiences

- Mind Your “Fs” and “Vs”: Agriculture May Have Shaped Both Human Jaws and Language. *Scientific American* (front page story on website), March 2019
- Why Click Speech is Rare. *Scientific American*, December 2017
- New Simpler Parkinson’s Tests Probe Walking, Talking, Typing. *Scientific American*, June 2017
- ‘R’ is for Red: Common Words Share Similar Sounds in Many Languages, *Scientific American* (front page story on website), September 2016
- An Auditory Component to Autism, *Scientific American*, September 2016
- Language Could Diagnose Parkinson’s, A.L.S., and Schizophrenia Before Lab Tests, *Scientific American*, February 2016
- The Universal Meaning of Consonants, *Scientific American Mind*, November 2015
- Rhyme Like a Rapper, *Scientific American Mind*, November 2015
- Fast Talkers: Spanish is Faster than English, but Mandarin is Slow, *Scientific American*, April 2012
- Social Clicks: Sounds Associated with African Languages are Common in English, *Scientific American*, February 2012

C. Teaching Ability and Experience

1. Courses usually taught (instructor of record)

- University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*
- Linguistics 100, Diversity of Human Language
- Linguistics 440(G), Psycholinguistics
- Linguistics 461/761, Introduction to Phonology
- Linguistics 561/861, Advanced Phonology
- Linguistics 590, Morphology
- Linguistics 802, Seminar in Phonology and Phonetics
- Linguistics 806, Seminar in Experimental Design and Data Analysis

2. Courses previously taught (instructor of record)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Fall 2010 through Spring 2011

Linguistics 390C, Sounds of Englishes

Linguistics 414, Introduction to Phonetics for Linguists

Linguistics 402, Speech Sounds and Structure

Linguistics 730, Graduate seminar in phonology

Linguistics 730, Graduate seminar in phonetics (co-taught)

San Francisco State University, Fall 2007

English 424, Phonology and Morphology

3. Direction of graduate student research

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Principal advisor

Current: Amirah Alruwais and Sara Issa, Doctoral dissertators. Emmanuel Gyasi, doctoral student.

2024. Rozan Al Ghamdi, Doctoral dissertation. "Evolution of Phonological and Morphological Features in the Ghamdi Arabic Dialect: A Contemporary Analysis of Vowel Harmony and Gender Distinction."

Current position: Lecturer, Al Baha University.

2024. Maaly Al Omary, Doctoral dissertation. "Arabic Heritage Speakers' Production and Perception of Arabic Emphatic-Plain Contrasts."

Current position: Lecturer in Arabic, Marquette University.

2023. Allison Potter, Master's thesis. "Variability is Key: How French Liaison Production in Nigerien French Sheds a Light on Dialectal and Acquisition Differences."

2022. Saad Alshahrani, Doctoral dissertation. "Syllable structure and phonological processes of Southern Najdi Arabic: An Optimality Theoretic Model."

Current position: Assistant Professor, University of Bisha, Saudi Arabia.

2018. Yahya Aldholmi, Doctoral dissertation. Segmental Contributions to Speech Intelligibility in Nonconcatenative vs. Concatenative Languages."

Current position: Associate Professor, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia.

2018. Reham Alhammad, Doctoral dissertation. "The Role of the Syllable Contact Law-Semisyllable (SCL-Semi) in the Coda Clusters of Najdi Arabic and Other Languages."

Current position: Assistant Professor, Majmmah University, Saudi Arabia.

2015. Amara Sankhagowit, Master's thesis. Distribution of Tone Phonemes in Thai.

2013. Meagan Dailey, Master's Thesis. An Exploration of the Motivations behind Hawu Vowel Metathesis. (Co-principal advisor with Professor Garry Davis).

2013. Alison Garcia, Doctoral thesis. Allophonic Variation in Spanish Fricatives.

Current position: Lecturer in Spanish, Concordia University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Invited external committee member

2023. Nicholas Aoki. Dissertation proposal. Effects of Socio-Indexical Information in Multi-Talker Accent Perception. Department of Linguistics, University of California, Davis.

4. Course innovations

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Linguistics 105, Linguistic Approaches to AI Literacy

Linguistics 355, Language Behavior of AI Models

Linguistics 590, Morphology

D. Service and Outreach Activities

1. Service to the Department, College, and University

2024-present. Member, Letters & Science Academic Program and Policies Committee, Graduate Program Review Committee, Codification Committee

2024-present. Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Linguistics

2021-2024. Chair, Department of Linguistics

2020-2023. Member, Social Sciences Executive Committee. Review dossiers for candidates for tenure and promotion.

2018. Supervised undergraduate research on “Pupil Response to False Memories during Speech Perception”, presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, by undergraduates Krist Schubilske and Jasen Sonnen.

2017-2018, 2019-2020. Member, Graduate Research Fellowships Committee. Read and provided rankings for scholarship applications from approximately 75 master’s and doctoral students in all disciplines across the university.

2017. Member, UWM Letters & Science Undergraduate Scholarships Committee. Provided written evaluation and rankings for scholarship applications from approximately 100 students.

2012, 2017. Member, UWM New Directions Scholarship Committee. Evaluated scholarship applications from first-year students.

2016. Member, UWM Letters & Science Undergraduate Scholarships. Provided written evaluation and rankings for scholarship applications from approximately 100 students.

2013-2020. Colloquium Coordinator, Department of Linguistics. Organized speakers from off-campus and on-campus to deliver colloquium talks on diverse areas of language and linguistics research.

2014. Supervised undergraduate research on “False Memory Rate Comparison between Word Initial and Word Final [t]”, presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Kentucky, by undergraduates Ellen Abolt, Rebecca Lehr, and Dylan Pearson.

2013. Volunteer Mentor for Undergraduate Research at UWM Summer Program: Provided directed research experience for incoming first-year student.

2012. Linguistics Coordinator, UWM Undergraduate Open House. Organized department’s presence at open house event.

2. Service to the Profession

2024-2025. Co-chair, Public Relations Committee, Linguistic Society of America.

2021-2024. Member, Executive Committee, Association for Laboratory Phonology.

2021-2022. Member, Organizing Committee, 18th International Conference on Laboratory Phonology

2023, Fall

Panel member for proposals submitted to Linguistics Program, National Science Foundation
Coach for presenters at “Five-Minute Linguist” event, Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America

2023, Spring

Panel member for proposals submitted to Linguistics Program, National Science Foundation

2022, Fall

Panel member for proposals submitted to Linguistics Program, National Science Foundation

2021

Reviewer of symposium proposals, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting

Abstract reviewer for Annual Meeting on Phonology

2020

Reviewer for grant proposal to National Science Foundation.

2019

Reviewer for grant proposal to National Science Foundation. Reviewer for tenure dossier at a major state university.

2017

Reviewer of symposium proposals, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting

Abstract reviewer for Annual Meeting on Phonology

2016

External reviewer, The Icelandic Center for Research.

External reviewer for doctoral dissertation, “An Acoustic Study of Tone and Phonation in Punjabi”, Faculty of Arts, Department of English, The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan.

Reviewer of symposium proposals, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting

Abstract reviewer for Annual Meeting on Phonology

2015

Abstract reviewer for Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics, and Annual Meeting on Phonology.

2013

Peer reviewer for grant proposals to the National Science Foundation.

Invited peer reviewer for manuscripts submitted to *Cognition* (2022, 2023), *Cognitive Science* (2012), *Eurasip Journal on Audio, Speech, and Music Processing* (2023), *Frontiers in Psychology* (2021), *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (2018, 2023), *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* (2012, 2016), *Journal of Laboratory Phonology* (2016, 2017, 2019), *Journal*

of Phonetics (2015, 2016, 2019, 2022), *Language and Speech* (2015, 2023), *Lingua* (2014), *Linguistic Review* (2014), *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (2013), *Origins of Sound Change* (Oxford University Press) (2012), *Oxford Handbook of Language Prosody* (2018), *Oxford Handbook of Vowel Harmony* (2021), *Phonology* (2012), *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics* (2017), *Proceedings of the Algonquian Linguistics Conference* (2018, 2021, 2023), *Radical: A Journal of Phonology* (2019)

3. Service to the Community

2024, Summer. Linguistic Partner, Breath of Life, Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival. One week working with tribal members on the Juaneño/Luiseño language, University of California, Berkeley.

2007, Summer. Linguistic Partner, Breath of Life, Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival. One week working with tribal members on the Southern Sierra Miwok language, University of California, Berkeley.

2017-present. Volunteer, Girls Who Code. Department of Computer Science, UWM. Facilitators: Professors Christine Cheng and John Tang Boyland.

4. Consultative services to groups

2025. Linguistic Consultant, DataForce by Transperfect (Paid).

2024. Writing Consultant, Outlier AI (Paid).

2019. Chicago site lead, Summer Immersion Program, Girls Who Code. (Paid).

2014. Judge for Science Media Awards 2014, Boston, Category of Best Short Film. (Unpaid).

2012-2014. Phonetics Consultant for SRI International, Menlo Park, California. (Paid).

E. Languages

French (C1), Spanish (B2)

F. Press Coverage Related to Research

Researchers look at how masks impact communication, CBS 58 WJDT, Milwaukee, WI. (March 18, 2021)

As mask-wearing prevails, people are adapting to understand speech. *US News & World Report*. (February 8, 2021)

What did you say? How masks affect your communication and understanding. WFMY News, Greensboro, NC. (February 4, 2021)

UC Davis study finds face masks do not impact ability to communicate. CBS 13, Sacramento. (February 3, 2021)

UC Davis conducts study on how wearing a mask affects our speech patterns. KCBS radio, Sacramento, CA (February 3, 2021)