

Anne Pycha

Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Milwaukee, WI 53201 U.S.A.

Education

2008. Ph.D., Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley. Dissertation: *Morphological Sources of Phonological Length*. Committee: Sharon Inkelas (chair), Keith Johnson, Larry Hyman.
1993. B.A. with honors, Religious Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Academic Positions

Associate Professor (2018-present) and Chair (2021-present). Department of Linguistics, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
2012- 2018. Assistant Professor. Department of Linguistics, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
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.

Honors and awards

2023. Member of Inaugural Cohort, Educators Institute, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. *Selective, semester-long institute that supports instructors in the creation of effective, research-based learning experiences for student success.*
2022. Office of Research Award, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. *Recognizes UWM professors who have shown potential to achieve distinction through scholarship, creative activity, and the dissemination of knowledge.*
2021, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2013. Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows Award, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
2018. Nominee, Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
2015. Fellow, Kavli Scientist-Writer Workshop, New York University.
2014. Fellow, Trans-Disciplinary Challenge Seminar on Language, Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Chapters

Zellou, G., Pycha, A., and Chitoran, I. (2023, in press). Use of gradient anticipatory nasal coarticulatory cues for lexical perception in French. *Journal of Laboratory Phonology*.
Zellou, G., Cohn, M., and Pycha, A. (2023, in press). Listener beliefs and perceptual learning: Differences between device and human guises. *Language*.
Pycha, A., and Finley, S. (2023, in press). Psycholinguistic approaches to vowel harmony. In van der Hulst, H. & Ritter, N. (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Vowel Harmony*.
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 the journal *Languages*.
- Zellou, G., DiCanio, C., Pycha, A., and Yu, A. (2021). Sound Change in Endangered Languages and Small Communities. Special collection of the journal *Linguistics Vanguard*.

Press Coverage

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)

Recent Presentations

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

Funding activity

Funded proposals

2021. Factors in the recall and recognition of words. Principal Investigator: Anne Pycha.

Research Assistance Fund, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Status: Funded. \$3,568.

2013. 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.

Unfunded proposals

2020. Effects of face masks on speech production and perception. Principal investigators: Anne Pycha, Georgia Zellou. Collaborative research, Linguistics, National Science Foundation.

2015, 2016. Listener perception of prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Principal investigator: Anne Pycha. Standard research, Linguistics, National Science Foundation.

Courses 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

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

Advising

Principal advisor at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

In progress. Rozan Alghamdi, Doctoral dissertator. Evolution of Phonological and Morphological Features in the Ghamdi Arabic Dialect: A Contemporary Analysis of Vowel Harmony and Gender Distinction. In progress.

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.

I have also served as second or third committee member for numerous other doctoral and master's students.

Leadership

2024 onwards. Co-Chair, Public Relations Committee, Linguistic Society of America

2021-present. Chair, Department of Linguistics, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

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

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

2020-2023. Member, Social Sciences Executive Committee. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Service to the Profession

Invited peer reviewer for manuscripts submitted to *Cognition* (2023, 2022), *Cognitive Science* (2012), *Frontiers in Psychology* (2021), *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (2023, 2018), *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* (2016, 2012), *Journal of Laboratory Phonology* (2019, 2017, 2016), *Journal of Phonetics* (2023, 2022, 2019, 2016, 2015), *Language and Speech* (2023, 2015), *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* (2023, 2021, 2018), *Radical: A Journal of Phonology* (2019)

Invited panel member for Linguistics Program, National Science Foundation (Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022).

Invited ad-hoc reviewer for Linguistics Program, National Science Foundation (2020, 2019, 2013).

Invited panel reviewer for American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting (2021, 2017, 2016).

Abstract reviewer for Annual Meeting on Phonology (2021, 2017, 2016, 2015).

Reviewer for tenure dossier at a major state university (2019), The Icelandic Center for Research (2016), Doctoral dissertation, “An Acoustic Study of Tone and Phonation in Punjabi”, Faculty of Arts, Department of English, The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan (2016).

Service to campus

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

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

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

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

2013-present. 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.

Relevant Professional and Volunteer Work

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

2017-present. Assistant administrator and Tutor, Girls Who Code. Department of Computer Science, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. (Volunteer).

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

Continuing Education

Study of Spanish language at La Hacienda Spanish School, Guanajuato, Mexico (2 weeks of immersion in Spring 2023) and Instituto Cultural de Oaxaca, Oaxaca City, Mexico (1 week of immersion in Winter 2023, 2 weeks of immersion in Spring 2022).

Anne Pycha

Languages

American English (native), French (C1), Spanish (B2)

Skills

R for Statistical Computing. Qualtrics for online research. Canvas for online course management. Microsoft Office software. Google office applications. Essential programming skills.