

# Bethany Clements

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## EDUCATION

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**New York University (NYU)** New York, NY  
PhD Student (Communicative Sciences and Disorders) Started Sep 2025

**University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)** Santa Barbara, CA  
(College of Letters & Science Honors Program) Jun 2024

- B.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences
- B.A., Linguistics (Emphasis in Speech-Language Sciences and Disorders)
- B.A., English

*Capstone Undergraduate Thesis: Recognition Memory as a Function of Word Slot and Contrastive Accenting in the Visual World Paradigm*

- Examined the effects of prosodic prominence (via contrastive-pitch accenting) on cognitive resource availability, language processing, and memory

## PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES

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### Publications

*In Prep*

- Clements, B. B.<sup>1,2</sup>, Brehm, L. E.<sup>2</sup>, Fraundorf, S. H.<sup>3</sup> (2025). What catches the eye: Recognition memory as a function of contrastive-pitch accenting and word position in the visual world paradigm [Manuscript in preparation]. <sup>1</sup> Communicative Sciences and Disorders Dept., New York University; <sup>2</sup> Linguistics Dept., University of California, Santa Barbara; <sup>3</sup> Psychology Dept., University of Pittsburgh.

### Conference Experience

*Oral Presentations*

- Clements, B. B., Brehm, L. E., Fraundorf, S. H. (2025). What catches the eye: Recognition memory as a function of contrastive accenting and sentence position in the visual world paradigm.
  - 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing; University of Maryland (2025)
  - 7th Annual California Meeting for Psycholinguistics; University of California, San Diego (2024)
  - Southern California Undergraduate Linguistics Conference; University of California, Los Angeles (2024)
  - Linguistics Undergraduate Research Showcase; University of California, Santa Barbara (2024)
  - Undergraduate Research Colloquium; University of California, Santa Barbara (2024)

*Poster Presentations*

- Clements, B. B., Brehm, L. E., Fraundorf, S. H. (2024). What catches the eye: The effects of contrastive accenting on recognition memory in the visual world paradigm. Undergraduate Research Colloquium; University of California, Santa Barbara.

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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### Grants

- UCSB Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) Grant (\$500; 2023-2024)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Acoustic Predictors of Dementia Onset**

Dec 2025 - Present

NYU; *mLab (Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept.)*

- Will collect and compare acoustic conversation data from a software-based system, comparing ADRD detection ability between this data and more traditional linguistic biomarkers of dementia
- Will serve as a psycholinguistic consultant for study designs involving assessing acoustic-linguistic biomarkers of ADRD

### **The Role of Context in Predictive Preactivation Across the Lifespan**

Sep 2025 - Present

*INDEPENDENT RESEARCH - NYU; CoMM Lab (Communicative Sciences and Disorders Dept.)*

- Compiled a literature review detailing the role of conversational and contextual cues in language processing and memory in younger and older adults
- Developed an experimental paradigm for an ongoing research project, which will be carried out via eye-tracking, EEG/ERP, and computational modeling
- Submitted a grant proposal for the NSF GRFP program

### **Bilingualism, Aging, and Lexical Access**

Sep 2025 - Present

NYU; *CoMM Lab (Communicative Sciences and Disorders Dept.)*

- Collected eye-tracking data from older and younger Spanish-English bilinguals observing lexical access in conversation
- Wrote and submitted an abstract for HSP 2026 centering the interplay between age and modality in the allocation of cognitive resources and the management of lexical competition across the lifespan

### **Pitch Accenting, Bilingualism, and Recognition Memory**

Oct 2024 - Present

*INDEPENDENT RESEARCH - UCSB; PrPL Lab (Linguistics Dept.)*

- Expanded on literature regarding memory for contrastive-pitch accents through an eye-tracking study in Cantonese-English bilinguals
- Compiled a literature review on contrastive prosody acquisition and L1 transfer in L2 English-learners
- Co-developed an ongoing study which will pinpoint the acoustic qualities used to learn English in L1 tonal language speakers via a model-fitting approach

### **Pitch Accenting and Recognition Memory**

Aug 2023 - Present

*INDEPENDENT RESEARCH - UCSB; PrPL Lab (Linguistics Dept.)*

- Collaborated with professionals (Dr. Laurel Brehm; Dr. Scott Fraundorf) to expand foundational pitch accenting literature
- Collected, cleaned, and analyzed eye-tracking data to establish causal links between contrastive prosody, fixation-mediated attention, and recognition memory
- Designed a set of 240 stimuli to be used within the visual world paradigm
- Authored a 34-page thesis to be developed for extensions and eventual publication

### **Production and Perception of Language**

Aug 2023 - Jun 2025

*UCSB; PrPL Lab (Linguistics Dept.)*

- Coded and analyzed speech errors in sentence-completion output for >100 participants
- Recruited and worked with children and adults for three different experiments on the development of emotion words (30h)

- Instructed undergraduate RAs in the use of portable and stationary eye-tracking equipment
- Participated in a research initiative to enhance diversity in language science research using LLMs

### **Acquisition of Tonal Languages**

Apr 2023 - Jun 2024

*UCSB; Mayer Lab (Psychological and Brain Sciences Dept.)*

- Collaborated with native Mandarin speakers and opera singers to establish grading scales for musical pitch productions and second-language Mandarin utterances
- Spliced and categorized audio files from >60 participants using Shotcut (30h)
- Scored second-language Mandarin learners on pitch-accent replication and production of basic Pinyin and pitch contours (40h)
- Conducted statistical analyses on the correlation between musical pitch ability and success in pitch-contour production in Mandarin

### **Language of Trigger Warnings**

Jul 2023 - Dec 2023

*UCSB; Literature and Mind Program (English Dept.)*

- Assembled a 94-page review summarizing educational, political, and psychophysiological consequences of trigger warning use
- Prepared and delivered a well-attended campus presentation and Q+A session on trigger warnings and trauma
- Led a discussion panel for the Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Initiative on the language and rhetoric of trigger warnings in education

## **LEADERSHIP & SERVICE**

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### **NYU SHARE-CSD**

Jun 2026 - Jul 2026

*Mentor, Supervisor*

- Will supervise undergraduate students interested in CSD in an intensive six-week research immersion program
- Will mentor undergraduate students, present workshops on the research process, and give tailored advice on students' graduate school aims

### **NYU Aging and Technology**

Nov 2025 - Present

*Organizing Committee*

- Will organize and volunteer at two coffee-hour roundtables that culminate in a grant-writing workshop
- Analyzed survey data from conference attendees, creating table groups tailored to their research specializations, skills offered, and resources needed
- Served as a volunteer during the conference, recording brainstorm notes for tables of professionals working in the aging and technology research sphere

### **Alpha Sigma Kappa (ASK): Women in Technical Studies**

Sep 2022 - Jun 2024

*General Member*

- Regularly volunteered with philanthropic organizations for beach cleanups, necessities drives, academic enrichment panels, etc. (>60h)
- Raised upwards of \$1000 in fundraisers for programs including Coastal Fund, Donors Choose, and Girls Inc.

*Vice President of Operations (May 2023 - May 2024)*

- Managed Big-Little mentorship program for women and nonbinary students in STEM fields
- Coordinated events and reserved locations for a large (>50) student organization

- Communicated with the executive, chapter, and national boards to refine and revise ASK bylaws  
*Professional Fraternity Council (PFC) Representative* (May 2023 - May 2024)
- Collaborated with other PFC representatives across on-campus professional organizations to host networking events for PFC members (>50h)

### **College of Letters (CLS) and Science Honors Program**

Jun 2021 - Jun 2024

#### *Academic Track*

- Completed 40h of community service, specializing in tutoring and ESL instruction for underprivileged families in the Santa Barbara community
- Designed and completed an undergraduate honors thesis
- Enrolled in intensive, supplemental courses intended to expand and enrich student experiences (>6 seminars)

### **UCSB Community Affairs Board**

Sep 2020 - Jun 2021

#### *Tutor (Remote)*

- Worked as a virtual tutor 1-2x/week for underprivileged families through UCSB CAB's "Family Literacy Program"
- Maintained a balance in sessions between homework help for students and supplemental reading and language instruction for parents seeking ESL experience

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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### **Honors**

- Dean's Honors List (UCSB CLS)
- Letters and Science Honors Program (UCSB CLS)

### **Awards**

- 2024 Outstanding Senior Award (Linguistics Dept., UCSB)
- 2024 Hyung Il Pai Award for Korean Language (East Asian Language and Cultural Studies Dept., UCSB)

## **SKILLS & INTERESTS**

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**Skills and Certifications:** R, eye-tracking (EyeLink Duo), Python (limited), Qualtrics, Excel, MoCA, MMSE-2, Praat, ExperimentBuilder

**Languages:** Spanish (limited), Korean (limited)

**Research Interests:** Cognitive aging, neurodegenerative disease, language neuroscience, psycholinguistics, cognitive neuroscience, anticipatory processing, neural basis of language and memory, attention/awareness and language processing, statistical/computational modeling, machine learning