William Clapp

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Cognitive scientist and recent Stanford PhD with a background in experimental psychology and linguistics. Experienced in designing, conducting, and analyzing large-scale human-behavioral studies, with growing expertise in AI model behavior analysis. Strong track record of multidisciplinary collaboration and scientific communication. Seeking to apply human-centered research skills and large-scale data analysis to the development of transparent, fair, and trustworthy AI systems.

EDUCATION

Stanford University <div align="right">**Stanford, CA**</div>
PhD in Linguistics (GPA 4.0) <div align="right">*June 2025*</div>
Research focus: cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, phonetics
Dissertation: *Socially guided allocation of attention and the memory encoding of spoken language*
Committee: Meghan Sumner (advisor), Dan Jurafsky, Rob Podesva, & Hyo Gweon

Boston University <div align="right">**Boston, MA**</div>
MA in Linguistics (GPA 4.0) <div align="right">*May 2019*</div>
Boston University <div align="right">**Boston, MA**</div>
BA in German Language & Literature and Political Science <div align="right">*May 2015*</div>

SKILLS & TOOLS

Experiment design, hypothesis testing | Data collection, labeling, wrangling | LLMs, Acoustic models, Seq2seq | Python, R, Praat, JavaScript | PyTorch, Tensorflow, Pandas, NumPy | Statistical modeling, Regression, GAMM | Acoustic analysis, Digital audio workstations, Audio manipulation | Scientific communication, Scientific writing, Public speaking, Teaching

EXPERIENCE

Stanford University <div align="right">**Stanford, CA**</div>
Affiliated researcher (Graduate Student Researcher until June 2025) <div align="right">*September 2019 – Present*</div>
> Planning, designing, and implementing psychological experiments on human auditory perception, speech perception, word recognition, psychophysics, and language understanding, start to finish.
> Designing, implementing, and testing statistical models for analysis of largescale quantitative data, including time series.
> Building complex data pipelines to ensure that analyses are robust and reproducible.
> Extending research coverage to include underrepresented languages, dialects, and communities.
> Writing and publishing peer-reviewed academic papers detailing experimental findings in top-tier journals.
> Preparing talks and posters for presentation at competitive refereed conferences.
> Received National Science Foundation (NSF) funding: Award #2314753 for dissertation research: "Socially guided allocation of attention and the memory encoding of spoken language", with co-PI Meghan Sumner.

Teaching Assistant
> Courses: Introduction to Psycholinguistics (Spring 2021); Methods in Psycholinguistics (Spring 2023).
> Mentored students in groups and one-on-one, graded written work, held office hours.
> Helped students develop conceptual understandings of language cognition as well as technical skills including experiment design, implementation of experiments as web apps with JavaScript, data analysis, designing and interpreting statistical models, digital/audio signal processing (DSP/ASP).

Boston University <div align="right">**Boston, MA**</div>
Graduate Student Researcher <div align="right">*September 2017 – September 2019*</div>
> Designed and implemented experiments, including collecting and processing recordings and analyzing data.
> Conducted phonetic/acoustic analyses in R, Praat, and Python.

Teaching Fellow
> Courses: Introduction to Linguistics (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019).
> Mentored students, led discussion sections, designed course materials, graded written work.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Clapp (2025). Socially-guided allocation of attention and the memory encoding of spoken language. *Stanford University Doctoral Dissertation.*

Clapp & Sumner (2025). Talker-specificity beyond the lexicon: Recognition memory for spoken sentences. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review.*

Clapp & Sumner (2024). The episodic encoding of spoken words in Hindi. *JASA Express Letters.*

Clapp, Vaughn, Todd, & Sumner (2023). Talker-specificity and token-specificity in recognition memory. *Cognition.*

Clapp, Vaughn, & Sumner (2023). The episodic encoding of talker voice attributes across diverse voices. *Journal of Memory & Language.*