

# Kuniko Nielsen

## Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor  
Linguistics Department  
Oakland University  
1025 Human Health Building  
Rochester, MI 48309

+1-248-370-2175  
<https://files.oakland.edu/users/nielsen/web/nielsen@oakland.edu>

### Research Interests

- Phonetic imitation and accommodation
- Effect of lexical factors on speech perception and production
- Developmental changes of phonological representations
- Audio-visual speech perception

### Employment

2008 - 2014 Assistant Professor. Department of Linguistics, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

2014 - present Associate Professor. Department of Linguistics, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

### Education

- 2008 Ph.D. Linguistics. University of California, Los Angeles  
Dissertation Title: "Word-level and Feature-level Effects in Phonetic Imitation"  
Committee Co-Chairs: Patricia Keating, Colin Wilson  
Committee Members: Bruce Hayes, Sun-Ah Jun, Jody Kreiman
- 2004 M.A. Linguistics. University of California, Los Angeles  
Thesis Title: "Segmental Differences in the Visual Contribution to Speech Intelligibility"  
Committee Chair: Patricia Keating  
Committee Members: Bruce Hayes, Colin Wilson
- 1999 B.A. Linguistics (with distinction) and Chinese. Ohio State University  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Thesis Title: "A Cross-Language Study of Classifying Stops in Japanese and Chinese: The difference and its significance for second language acquisition."  
Committee Chair: Michael Broe  
Committee Members: Marjorie Chen, Mari Noda

### Grants, Fellowships and Awards

- 2014-2015 URC Faculty Fellowship Award, Oakland University  
2010-2011 URC Faculty Fellowship Award, Oakland University  
2006-2008 NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant (to Patricia Keating)  
2006-2006 Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA  
2000-2005 Full tuition and fees grant, UCLA Linguistics Department  
1999 OSU Arts and Sciences Excellence in Scholarship Award

**Publications****Peer-reviewed journal articles:**

**Nielsen, K.** (2015). Continuous versus categorical aspects of Japanese consecutive devoicing. *Journal of Phonetics*, 52, 70-88.

**Nielsen, K.** (2014). Phonetic imitation by young children and its developmental changes. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 57(6), 2065-2075.

**Nielsen, K.** (2011). Specificity and abstractness of VOT imitation. *Journal of Phonetics*, 39, 132-142.

**Refereed conference proceedings:**

**Nielsen, K.** and Scarborough, R. (2015). Perceptual asymmetries between greater and lesser vowel nasality and VOT. *Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.

**Nielsen, K.** (2013). Investigating developmental changes in phonological representation using the imitation paradigm. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* (Vol. 19, p. 060086).

Mielke, J., **Nielsen, K.**, & Magloughlin, L. V. (2013). Phonetic imitation by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Investigating the role of procedural and declarative memory. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* (Vol. 19, p. 060142).

Zellou, G., Scarborough, R., and **Nielsen, K.** (2013). Imitability of contextual vowel nasalization and interactions with lexical neighborhood density. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* (Vol. 19, p. 060083).

**Nielsen, K.** (2011). Effect of lexical frequency and neighborhood density on audiovisual spoken word recognition. *Proceedings of the 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Hong Kong, China.

**Nielsen, K.** (2010). Phonetic imitation of Japanese vowel devoicing. *Proceedings of INTERSPEECH-2010*, 1553-1556. Makuhari, Japan.

**Nielsen, K.** and Wilson, C. (2008). A Hierarchical Bayesian Model of Multi-level Phonetic Imitation. *Proceedings of the 27th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. Abner, N. and Bishop, J., 335-343. Somerville, MA.

**Nielsen, K.** (2007). Implicit Phonetic Imitation is constrained by Phonemic Contrast. *Proceedings of the 16th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 1961-1964. Saarbrücken, Germany.

**Nielsen, K.** (2006). Specificity and Generalizability of Spontaneous Phonetic Imitation. *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Spoken Language Processing*. Pittsburgh, PA.

**Nielsen, K.** (2005). Generalization of phonetic imitation across place of articulation. *Proceedings of the ISCA Workshop on Plasticity in Speech Perception*, 47-50. University College London, London, UK.

**Nielsen, K.** (2004). Segmental Differences in the Visual Contribution to Speech Intelligibility. *Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Spoken Language Processing*, 2533-2536. Jeju, Korea.

### **Working Papers and Manuscripts:**

(Under revision) Zellou, G., Scarborough, R., and **Nielsen, K.** The imitability of coarticulatory vowel nasalization: influences of phonological naturalness and lexical neighborhood density.

**Nielsen, K.** (2012). Japanese consecutive devoicing as a phonetic process: the relative contribution of conditioning factors and its speaker variability. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics No.111*, 162-176.

**Nielsen, K.** (2007). The Interaction between Spontaneous Imitation and Linguistic Knowledge. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics 105*, 125-137.

**Nielsen, K.** (2005). Investigation of SLI Children's Semantic Knowledge through Intonation Patterns. *UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics no.13, Papers in Psycholinguistics 2*, 76-86.

**Nielsen, K.** (2005). Kiche Intonation. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics 104*, 45-60.

**Nielsen, K.** (2004). Segmental Differences in the Visual Contribution to Speech Intelligibility. *UCLA Working Paper in Phonetics 103*, 106-147.

### **Edited Volume:**

Okabe, R and **Nielsen, K.** Eds. (2005). *UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics no.13, Papers in Psycholinguistics 2*. Department of Linguistics, UCLA.

### **Presentations**

August 2015 (with Rebecca Scarborough) Perceptual Asymmetries between Greater and Lesser Vowel Nasality and VOT. Talk presented at the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Glasgow, UK.

May 2015 (with Rebecca Scarborough) Listeners' sensitivity to nasal coarticulation and its interactions with lexical neighborhood density. Poster presented at the 169th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, PA.

January 2015 (with Rebecca Scarborough) More vs. Less: Asymmetries in the Perception of Nasality and VOT. Talk presented at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, OR.

July 2014 Developmental Changes in Phonological Representation: An investigation using the imitation paradigm. Talk presented at LabPhon 14 Satellite Workshop on "Gestural Coordination Within and Between Speakers in First Language Phonological Acquisition". Tachikawa, Japan.

- January 2014 (with Georgia Zellou and Rebecca Scarborough) The imitability of coarticulation: influences of phonological naturalness and lexical neighborhood density. Talk presented at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Minneapolis, MN.
- November 2013 The imitability of coarticulatory vowel nasalization. Talk presented at Phonetics-Phonology Talk Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- July 2013 (with Jeff Mielke and Lyra Magloughlin) Phonetic imitation by neurotypicals and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Poster presented at LSA 13 Workshop: How the brain accommodates variability in linguistic representations. Ann Arbor, MI.
- June 2013 Investigating developmental changes in phonological representation using the imitation paradigm. Poster presented at the 21st International Congress on Acoustics. Montreal, Canada.
- June 2013 (with Jeff Mielke and Lyra Magloughlin) Phonetic imitation by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Talk presented at the 21st International Congress on Acoustics. Montreal, Canada.
- June 2013 (with Georgia Zellou and Rebecca Scarborough) Imitability of Contextual Vowel Nasality and Interactions with Lexical Neighborhood Density. Poster presented at the 21st International Congress on Acoustics. Montreal, Canada.
- April 2013 Phonetic imitation by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Talk presented at Phonetics-Phonology Talk Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- December 2012 Developmental changes in phonological representation: an investigation using the imitation paradigm. Talk presented at Phonetics-Phonology Talk Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- October 2012 The effect of age on phonetic imitation in children. Poster presented at the 164<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Kansas City, MO.
- July 2012 Individual differences in phonetic imitation: investigating the role of Autism Spectrum Disorders and autistic-like traits. Poster presented at the 13<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Laboratory Phonology. Stuttgart, Germany.
- March 2012 (with Jeff Mielke and Lyra Magloughlin) Investigating AQ score as a factor in phonetic imitation. Poster presented at the Conference on Sources of Individual Linguistic Differences, Ottawa, Canada.
- November 2011 Interaction between lexical effects and visual information. Talk presented at Phonetics-Phonology Talk Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- November 2011 Phonetic imitation by school-age children. Poster presented at the 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. San Diego, CA.

- August 2011 Effect of lexical frequency and neighborhood density on audiovisual spoken word recognition. Talk presented at the 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Hong Kong, China.
- September 2010 Phonetic imitation of Japanese vowel devoicing. Poster presented at the 11th International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (INTERSPEECH-2010). Makihari, Japan.
- July 2010 Japanese vowel devoicing as a gestural overlap. Poster presented at the 12th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Albuquerque, NM.
- April 2010 Lexical frequency and Japanese vowel devoicing. Poster presented at the 159<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Baltimore, MD.
- April 2010 Phonetic imitation and levels of phonological representations. Talk presented at Colloquium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- November 2009 Investigation of phonological representations using the imitation paradigm. Talk presented at Phonetics-Phonology Talk Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- January 2009 (with Peter Graff and Kie Zuraw) Investigating Preferential Imitation. Talk presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, San Francisco, CA.
- October 2008 The effect of lexical frequency on Japanese vowel devoicing. Talk presented at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Linguistics Society, Detroit, MI.
- May 2008 (with Colin Wilson) A Bayesian Network Model of Multi-level Phonetic Imitation. Talk presented at the 27th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, Los Angeles, CA.
- January 2008 Phonetic imitation of Japanese vowel devoicing. Talk presented at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Chicago, IL.
- August 2007 Implicit phonetic imitation is constrained by phonemic contrast. Poster presented at the 16th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Saarbrücken, Germany.
- December 2006 (with Patricia Keating, Frank Manis, and Jennifer Bruno) Acoustic phonetic variability and auditory word recognition by dyslexic and nondyslexic children. Poster presented at the 152<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Honolulu, HI.
- September 2006 The specificity and abstractness of spontaneous phonetic imitation. Poster presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Spoken Language Processing, Pittsburgh, PA.
- June 2006 The specificity and abstractness of phonetic imitation. Poster presented at the 10th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Paris, France.

- January 2006 VOT imitation generalizes across phonemes and natural classes. Talk presented at the 80th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Albuquerque, NM.
- November 2005 The specificity and abstractness of phonetic imitation. Talk presented at RIKEN BSI Forum, Wako, Japan.
- October 2005 The interaction between specificity and linguistic contrast. Poster presented at the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Minneapolis, MN.
- June 2005 Generalization of phonetic imitation across place of articulation. Poster presented at the ISCA Workshop on Plasticity in Speech Perception, London, UK.
- May 2005 Generalization of the imitation effect within a natural class. Poster presented at the 149<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Vancouver, Canada.
- October 2004 Segmental differences in the visual contribution to speech intelligibility. Poster presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Spoken Language Processing, Jeju, Korea.
- May 2004 Segmental differences in the visual contribution to speech intelligibility. Poster presented at the 148<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, New York, NY.

## Teaching Experience

### Oakland University

- LIN 201: Introduction to Linguistics
- LIN 305/505: Phonetics Theory
- LIN 303: Introduction to Phonology
- LIN 409/609: Studies in the Structure of a Language
- ALS 176: The Humanity of Language
- ALS 334/534: Language Development in Children

### UCLA

- Linguistics 1: Introduction to the Study of Language (Teaching Fellow, with Prof. Philippe Schlenker and with Dr. Felicia Lee)
- Linguistics 20: Introduction to Linguistics (Teaching Assistant, with Jason Riggle)
- Linguistics 103: Introduction to General Phonetics (Teaching Associate, with Prof. Kie Zuraw)
  
- Linguistics 104: Experimental Phonetics (Teaching Associate, with Prof. Patricia Keating)
- Linguistics 135: Neurolinguistics (Teaching Fellow, with Prof. Susan Curtiss)

## Graduate Student Advising

### Oakland University

- 2015 Rhonda Yates-Rogers, MA Seminar Paper: *Merging Or Resisting: The Status of Low Back Vowels in Coleman, Oklahoma* (Chief supervisor)

- 2014 Deborah Bush, MA Seminar Paper: *L1 interference in Arabic ESL learners: Syllable structures and phonotactic constraints*. (Chief supervisor)
- 2014 Amanda Walsh, MA Seminar Paper: *The Influences of the Northern Cities Shift on Vowel Production: A Focus on Bilingual Mexican-American Youth in Southeast Michigan*. (Second reader)
- 2014 Kristina Pye, MA Thesis: *Dialogue: A Question of Language Superiority and Proficiency*. (Second reader)
- 2014 Abdulraheem Zakri, MA Seminar Paper: *Complex Onsets in Damad Arabic*. (Second reader)
- 2013 Meshary Aljarid, MA Seminar Paper: *Vowels and Vowel Alternations in Urban Hijazi Arabic Dialect*. (Second reader, Completed December 2013)
- 2013 Kevin Hickey, MA Seminar Paper: *Homographs and English Word Stress: A Literature Review and Brief Study of Japanese Bilingual Production of Contrastive Homographic Stress*. (Second reader, Completed April 2013)
- 2013 Abdullah Lajlani, MA Seminar Paper: *An Analytical Study of the Phonology of the Tihami Arabic in Saudi Arabia*. (Second reader, Completed April 2013)
- 2012 Audra Lord, MA Seminar Paper: *Producing Contrast: Tense/Lax High Spanish-Speaking Learners of English*. (Second reader, Completed December 2012)
- 2011 Kasandra Gallagher, MA Seminar Paper: *Vowels in English Pronunciation Instruction and the International Phonetic Alphabet*. (Second reader, Completed April 2011)
- 2011 Lula Palushaj, MA Seminar Paper: *The Impact of Age on L1 Phonological Transfer: VOT Variation between Early and Late Native Albanian Learners of English*. (Chief supervisor, Completed January 2011)
- 2010 Hamed Al Tairi, MA Thesis: *Consonant Clusters in Mukallaene Arabic Dialect: Observation and An OT Account*. (Second reader, Completed December 2010)
- 2010 Sharon Pearce, MA Seminar Paper: *The English vowels of Spanish speakers: An assessment of the Speech Learning*. (Chief supervisor, Completed May 2010)
- 2009 Melissa Vervinck, MA Seminar Paper: *Improving the English Consonant Pronunciation of Native Spanish Speakers Using IPA of Both Languages*. (Second reader, Completed May 2009)

**Other universities (Ph.D. thesis committee):**

- 2015 Harim Kwon, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan: *Cue Primacy and Spontaneous Imitation: Is Imitation Phonetic or Phonological?*

## Professional Service

Member, Technical committee on Speech Communication, Acoustical Society of America		2011 – 2014
Member, Scientific committee for International Symposium on Imitation and Convergence in Speech		2011 - 2012
Journal Article Reviewing	<i>Journal of Phonetics</i>	2009 – present
	<i>JSLHR</i>	2008 – present
	<i>Speech Communication</i>	2010 – present
	<i>Frontier in Cognitive Psychology</i>	2013 – present
	<i>Attention, Perception, &amp; Psychophysics</i>	2013 – present
Grant Reviewing	<i>NSF</i>	2009
Conference Abstract Reviewing	<i>INTERSPEECH</i>	2010 – present
	<i>ISICS2012</i>	2012

## University and Departmental Service

### *Oakland University*

University Assessment Committee	2013 – 2015
Graduate Studies Committee	2010 – 2012
College of Arts and Sciences Assembly member	2009 – 2011
Departmental Webmaster	2013 – present
Department representative for Assessment Committee	2013 – present
Member of re-employment review committee	2008 – 2013
Member of promotion review committee	2009

### *UCLA*

Speech Perception Job Search Committee	2006 – 2007
Linguistics Colloquium Committee	2004 – 2006

## Membership

Acoustical Society of America  
 Association of Laboratory Phonology  
 Phonetic Society of Japan  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 International Speech Communication Association

## Languages

Native: Japanese  
 Fluent: English  
 Speaking and reading knowledge: Chinese, Norwegian