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Research interests

My research focuses on language learning and processing, with special attention to real-time spoken language comprehension. Human speech is inherently noisy and highly variable. Yet, just noticeable variations of speech sounds can clue us into *what the speaker meant to say* (e.g., communicative intentions and emotions) as well as *what they said* (e.g., linguistic structures and meanings). To study how this happens, much of my recent research has used intonational speech prosody as a test bed. I investigate how listeners accommodate phonetic variability in the prosodic input to achieve robust pragmatic inferences. Bridging topics on language development, learning, and use, I aim to uncover the mechanisms that allow us to communicate a full range of information including internal states of the mind.

Academic Appointments

- 2024 - Associate Professor, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester
- 2014 - Assistant Professor, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester
- 2013 - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester

Education

Ph.D. Linguistics, Stanford University, 2013.

Dissertation: *Navigating variability in the linguistic signal: Learning to interpret contrastive prosody*

Committee members: Eve V. Clark (main advisor), Dan Jurafsky, Meghan Sumner, Michael C. Frank, Thomas Wasow (chair)

M.A. Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo, Japan, 2006.

MA Thesis: *A developmental study on Japanese children's narrative discourse*. Department of Language and Information Sciences. University of Tokyo.

B.A. Cross cultural studies, Kyoto Prefectural University, Japan, 2004.

Grants/Research Support

2024-2029	\$1,679,298.00 NICHD R01: Identifying the mechanisms of adaptive speech perception (M-PI: Chigusa Kurumada, Xin Xie). Impact score: 25, Percentile: 9
2023	\$44,900.00 University of Rochester Pump Primer II: A Novel dataset Of multimodal interaction between parents and deaf children (Co-PI: Chigusa Kurumada, Zhen Bai & Wyatt Hall, for the funding period 2023-2024)

2021-2024	\$423,500.00 NIDCD R21: Perception and adaptation to talker variability in receptive prosody in ASD (M-PI: Chigusa Kurumada & Loisa Bennetto). Impact score: 24, Percentile: 7
2017	\$11,813 NSF BCS-1524488 Doctoral Dissertation Research: The interaction of expectations and evidence in pragmatic inference and generalizations (PI: Chigusa Kurumada, Co-PI: Amanda Pogue, for the funding period 2017-2018)
2015	\$11,000 NSF BCS-1451751 Workshop: Experimental and Theoretical Advances in Prosody: Variability in prosody, May, 2015. University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign (Chigusa Kurumada & Duane Watson)

Scholarship/Fellowship/Awards

2024 Sep.-Dec.	Senior Research Fellowship, DFG Collaborative Research Centers 1252 (University of Cologne), Germany. A residential fellowship and research support including a stipend of €2,500/month.
2018	The G. Graydon and Jane W. Curtis Award for Nontenured Faculty Teaching, University of Rochester (1-2 recipient out of 130+ eligible untenured faculty each year)
2014	Jerrold J. Katz Young Scholar Award at the 26th CUNY conference on sentence processing (1 recipient each year)
2013	Postdoctoral research fellowship, Japan Society of Promotion of Sciences (Full research fellowship, acceptance rate ~20%)
2011	Paula Menyuk travel grant, Boston University Conference of Child Language and Development. Conference travel grant from Center for East Asian Studies at Stanford University
2008	Student Travel Award, The 34th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society 2011 Ishizaka Foundation Scholarship (2 years of tuition and stipend) Graduate fellowship, Stanford University (for 5 years)

Publications

Editorial Experiences with Special Issues and Volumes

2017	Watson, D., Kurumada, C., Wagner, M., Yu, K., Breen, M. (2017). <i>Variability in prosody</i> . A special issue of <i>Laboratory Phonology</i> .
2014	Arnon, I., Casillas, M., Kurumada, C., & Estigarribia, B. (2014). <i>Language in interaction: Studies in honor of Eve V. Clark</i> . Trends in Language Acquisition Research. John Benjamins.

Journal Articles

In progress	Kurumada, C. & Ostrow, A. (in prep). Nice to hear you again: Flexibility and stability of intonation adaptation.
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- Kurumada, C., & Xie, X. (in prep). Adaptive changes of nonnative speech perception: from the initial moments up to 3 weeks.
- Under review Gu, Y., Cutler, S., Xie, X. & Kuruamda, C. (under review). The accent atlas: A geo-location-based approach to assessing nonnative accent familiarity and language diversity
- 2025 Kurumada, C. & Buxó-Lugo, A. (2024). Intonation adaptation to multiple talkers. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition* 50 (12), 1954–1981. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0001419>. (OSF preprint: <https://osf.io/t72gc/>)
- 2024 Kurumada, C., Rivera, R., Allen, P. & Bennetto, L. (2024). Adaptive interpretation of intonation speech prosody in autistic adolescents. *Scientific Reports* DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-66569-x>. (OSF preprint <https://osf.io/zqn6m/>)
- Xie, X. & Kurumada, C. (2024). From first encounters to longitudinal exposure: a repeated exposure-test paradigm for monitoring speech adaptation. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15. DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1383904. (OSF preprint <https://osf.io/5xfpe/>)
- 2023 Xie, X., Jaeger, T. F & Kurumada, C. (2023). What we do (not) know about the mechanisms underlying adaptive speech perception: A computational review. *Cortex*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2023.05.003> (OSF: <https://osf.io/q7gjp/>)
- 2022 Buxó-Lugo, A., & Kurumada, C., (2022). What changes when we tune into talker-specific prosody? *Rochester Working Papers in Language Sciences*
- 2021 Kurumada, C. & Roettger, T. (2021). Thinking probabilistically in the study of intonational speech prosody. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*. 13(1):e1579. doi: 10.1002/wcs.1579. Epub 2021 Oct 2. PMID: 34599647.
- Gardner, B., Dix, S., Lawrence, R., Morgan, C., Sullivan, A., & Kurumada, C. (2021). Online pragmatic interpretations of scalar adjectives are affected by perceived speaker reliability. *PLoS One*, 16(2):e0245130. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0245130. PMID: 33606683; PMCID: PMC7895354.
- Xie, X., Buxó-Lugo, A., & Kurumada, C. (2021). Encoding and decoding of meaning through structured variability in intonational speech prosody. *Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2021.104619>
- 2020 Lee, C., & Kurumada, C. (2020). Learning maximum absolute meanings from variable exemplars. *Language Learning*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lang.12439>
- 2019 Ryskin, R., Kurumada, C., & Brown-Schmidt, S. (2019). Information integration in online modulation of pragmatic inferences during language comprehension. *Cognitive Science*, 43 (8). e12769. DOI: 10.1111/cogs.12769
- Kurumada, C., & Grimm, S. (2019). Meaning predictability in grammatical encoding: Optional plural marking. *Cognition*, 191.103953. DOI: 10.1016/J.COGNITION.2019.04.022
- 2017 Kurumada, C., Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2017). Effects of distributional information on categorization of prosodic contours. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*.

- 2016 | Kurumada, C., & Clark, E. V. (2016). Pragmatic inferences in context: Learning to interpret contrastive prosody. *Journal of Child Language*, available on CJO2016. doi:10.1017/S0305000916000246.
- Pogue, A., Kurumada, C., & Tanenhaus, M.K. (2016). Talker-specific generalization of pragmatic inferences based on under- and over-informative prenominal adjective use. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.02035
- 2015 | Kurumada, C., & Jaeger, T. F. (2015). Communicative efficiency in language production: Case-marker omission in Japanese. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 83, 152-178.
- 2014 | Kurumada, C., Brown, M., Bibyk, S., Pontillo, D., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2014). Is it or isn't it: Listeners make rapid use of prosody to infer speaker meanings. *Cognition*, 133, 335-342.
- 2013 | Kurumada, C., Meylan, C. S., & Frank, M. C. (2013). Zipfian frequency distributions facilitate word segmentation in context. *Cognition*, 127, 439-453.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2018 | Rohde, H. & Kurumada, C., (2018). Alternatives and inferences in the communication of meaning. In Federmeier, C. & Watson, D. G., *Current Topics in Language*, 68 (pp.215-252). Academic Press. *invited contribution
- 2015 | Tanenhaus, M. K., Kurumada, C., & Brown, M. (2015). Prosody and intention recognition. In L. Frazier & E. Gibson (eds). *Explicit and implicit prosody in sentence processing. Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics*, 46 (pp.99-118). Springer International Publishing. *invited contribution
- 2014 | Kurumada, C., & Arnon, I. (2014). Interaction in language acquisition. In Arnon, I., Casillas, M., Kurumada, C., & Estigarribia, B. (eds). *Language in interaction: Studies in honor of Eve V. Clark*. (pp. 1-10). John Benjamins. *invited contribution
- 2013 | Clark, E. V., & Kurumada, C. (2013). 'Be Brief': From necessity to choice. In L. Goldstein (Ed.). *Brevity*. Oxford University Press.
- 2012 | Kurumada, C., & Iwasaki, S. (2012). Negotiating desirability: The acquisition of the uses of ii 'good' in mother-child interactions in Japanese. *The proceedings of the 19th conference of Japanese Korean Linguistics* (pp.511-525).
- 2009 | Kurumada, C. (2009). The acquisition and development of the topic marker wa in L1 Japanese: the role of NP-wa? in child-mother interaction. In Corrigan, B., Moravcsik, E., Ouali, H., and Wheatly, K (eds), *Formulaic language Vol.2 (Typological studies in language)*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins (pp. 347-374).
- Kurumada, C. & Fujii, S. (2009). Creating storylines: Acquisition of topicalization and aspect in narratives by Japanese children. In Inagaki, S et.al (eds). *Studies in language sciences* 8, Tokyo: Kurosio Publishers (pp.93-108).

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- 2023 | Xie, X. & Kurumada, C (2023). Nonnative accent adaptation in the initial moments and over a month. *The 20th International Congress on Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*. Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2022 | Hossein, E., Cahoon, M., Liu, Y., Bai, Z. & Kurumada, C (2022). Context-responsive ASL Recommendation for Parent-Child Interaction. *The 24th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers*. Athens, Greece. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1145/3517428.3550366>
- Bai, Z., Codick, E. M., Tenesaca, A., Hu, W., Yu, X., Hao, P., Kurumada, C., & Hall, W (2022). Signing-on-the-fly: Technology preferences to reduce communication gap between hearing parents and deaf children. *IDC '22: Interaction Design and Children*. Braga, Portugal [doi.acm.org?doi=3501712.3529741](https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1145/3517428.3550366)
- 2018 | Singhal, A., Ali, M. R., Baten, R. A., Kurumada, C., Marvin, E. W., & Hoque, M. E. (2018). Analyzing the impact of gender on the automation of feedback for public speaking. *Proceedings of the 8th Int. Workshop on Human Behavior Understanding (HBU)*. Xi'an, China.
- 2017 | Kurumada, C., & Grimm, S. (2017). Communicative efficiency in language production and learning: Optional plural marking. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2015 | Pogue, A., Kurumada, C., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2015). Speaker-specific generalization of pragmatic inferences based on pronominal adjectives. *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2014 | Kurumada, C., Brown, M., Bibyk, S., Pontillo, D., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2014). Rapid adaptation in online pragmatic interpretation of contrastive prosody. *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2013 | Kurumada, C., Brown, M., Bibyk, S., Pontillo, D., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2013). Incremental processing in the pragmatic interpretation of contrastive prosody. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Kurumada, C. (2013). Contextual inferences over speakers' pragmatic intentions: Preschoolers' comprehension of contrastive prosody. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Sumner, M., Kurumada, C., Gafter, R., & Tice, M. (2013). Phonetic variation and the recognition of words with pronunciation variants. *Proceedings of the 35th the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2012 | Kurumada, C., & Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2012). Pragmatic interpretation of contrastive prosody: It looks like speech adaptation. *Proceedings of the 34th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Sapporo, Japan, August.
- Meylan, S., Kurumada, C., Börschinger, B., Johnson, M., and Frank, M. C. (2012). Modeling online word segmentation performance in structured artificial languages. *Proceedings of the 34th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

- 2011 | Kurumada, C., Meylan, S., & Frank, M. C. (2011). Zipfian word frequencies support statistical word segmentation. *Proceedings of the 33th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Invited talks, Colloquiums, and Tutorials

- 2024 | Kurumada, C. (2024). Depends on who said it: The role of cross-talker variability in perception and adaptation of speech prosody. An invited talk at the Linguistics Circle Colloquium at the University of Edinburgh.
- Kurumada, C. (2024). Depends on who said it: The role of talker-variability in the development and adaptation of speech prosody. An invited talk at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (MPI).
- Kurumada, C. (2024). Variable talkers, adaptive listeners: Where to find prosodic categories (if ever!) and how listeners can navigate prosodic variability. An invited talk at the colloquium of the Department of Phonetics of the University of Cologne, Germany.
- Kurumada, C. (2024). Understanding the mind through variable speech. An invited lecture at the department of language sciences at the University of California, Davis.
- 2023 | Kurumada, C. (2023). Experimental design for psycholinguistic research. An invited workshop tutorial at the 2nd PhD Skills Workshop at the University of Stockholm, Sweden.
- Xie, X., Jaeger, T. F & Kurumada, C. (2023). What is learned during perceptual learning in speech? A zoom lecture organized by the SPEAC group (Bosker) and the Sound Learning group (PI James McQueen) at the Max Planck Institute / Radboud University, Nijmegen.
- Kurumada, C. (2023). Accurate perception, flexible comprehension: How do listeners navigate the cross-talker variability in speech prosody? An invited lecture at the department of language sciences at the University of California, Irvine. [Slides]
- 2022 | Kurumada, C. (2022). Running Experiments Online (with no coding). An invited workshop tutorial at the PhD Skills Workshop at the University of Stockholm, Sweden. <https://sites.google.com/view/reo-tutorial/home>
- 2021 | Kurumada, C. (2021). Understanding the mind through speech: Is it true that English has no politeness-marking? [Plenary talk given in Japanese. The title translated into English.] An invited, general audience lecture at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, (Over Zoom). Nov 5th. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S6qK7g9FeE>
- 2020 | Kurumada, C. (2020). What do production data tell us about rational comprehension of speech prosody?. An invited talk at the Psychology Joint Lab meeting (Brown-schmidt/Watson), Vanderbilt University, (Over Zoom). Oct 29th.
- Kurumada, C. (2020). It all depends on who said it: Adaptive communication of intention through the noisy signal. An invited talk at the Ivanova Lab meeting, University of Texas, El Paso (Over Zoom). Oct 21st.

- Kurumada, C. (2020). How do you know what I mean?: Adaptive perception and comprehension of human speech prosody. An invited guest lecture at the Summer Research Internship program, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester. July 8th.
- 2019 Kurumada, C. (2019). Depends on who said it: Talker-sensitive processing of acoustic signal. An invited talk at the Language and Cognition workshop, Stanford University, May 24th.
- Kurumada, C. (2019). Ambiguity all the way down: Inferring intentions from the acoustic signal. An invited talk at the workshop on *Dynamics of Ambiguity*, University of Tübingen, Germany, February 24th.
- 2018 Kurumada, C. & Buxó-Lugo, A. (2018). Variability and inferences in pragmatic interpretation of speech prosody. An invited talk at a symposium at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society: *What Speech Prosody Can Tell Us About Cognition* (Chaired by Cassandra Jacobs), November 17th.
- 2017 Kurumada, C. (2017). Roles of adaptation in the pragmatic language comprehension. An invited talk at the CSLI workshop: Bridging computational and psycholinguistic approaches to the study of meaning, February 17th.
- 2016 Kurumada, C. (2016). Expectation adaptation in pragmatic processing: How do listeners infer speaker intentions from the variable acoustic signal? An invited talk at the University of Potsdam, June 19th.
- Jaeger, T. F., & Kurumada, C. (2016). Adaptation to an ever-changing world: Evidence for *smart* adaptation to changing statistics in motor control and language processing. An invited talk at Stockholm University, June 7th.
- Kurumada, C. (2016). Communicative efficiency and probabilistic language production. A plenary talk at the workshop on experimental approaches to East Asian Languages, University of Hawaii, Manoa, May 19th.
- Kurumada, C. (2016). Acoustic pragmatics: How listeners infer speaker intentions from the acoustic signal. A colloquium talk in the department of linguistics, University of Oregon, May 4th.
- 2015 Kurumada, C. (2015). Processing and interpreting the variable prosodic signal. An invited talk at the workshop in the 3rd meeting of Experimental and Theoretical Approaches to Prosody (ETAP). University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 28th.
- 2014 Kurumada, C. (2014). Roles of contextual inferences in the acquisition of English contrastive prosody. An invited talk at the workshop on the role of prosody in language learning: Stress, tone, and intonation. Macquarie University, Sydney. December 8th.
- Kurumada, C. (2014). Perception and interpretation of speech prosody. An invited tutorial at the 15th Australasian international speech science & technology conference. University of Canterbury, Christchurch, December 3rd.

- 2013 | Kurumada, C., Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M. (2013c, Nov.). A probabilistic approach to the interpretation of contrastive prosody: It looks like speech adaptation. NZIBB seminar, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.
- Kurumada, C., Brown, M., Bibyk, S., Pontillo, D., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2013, Sep). Is it or isn't it: An eye-tracking study on the pragmatic interpretation of English contrastive prosody. A psycholinguistics workshop at the Donders Institute, Radboud University, Nijmegen.
- Kurumada, C., Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M. (2013b, Sep.). Distributional learning in the interpretation of English contrastive prosody. Phonology group lab meeting, Stockholm University.
- Kurumada, C., Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M. (2013a, Aug.). Intonation and Inference: A probabilistic approach to interpreting English contrastive prosody. In phonetics and phonology group, ZAS Berlin.
- 2012 | Kurumada, C., Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M. (2012, Nov.). Rapid adaptation in pragmatic interpretation and acquisition of contrastive prosody. In Goldberg Lab, Princeton University.

Conference Presentations (Oral Presentations)

- 2025 | Ostrow & Kurumada, C. (2025). Nice to hear you again: Listeners maintain prosodic adaptation over 7 days. The 2025 annual meeting of Human Sentence Processing (HSP). University of Maryland.
- 2023 | Gu, Y., Cutler, S., Xie, X., & Kurumada, C. (2023). Rapid speech adaptation under adverse listening conditions. The 2023 annual meeting of Psychonomics Society. San Francisco.
- Kurumada, C., Rivera, R., Allen, P., & Bennetto, L. (2023). Perception and adaptation of receptive prosody in autistic adolescents. The 2023 annual meeting of Psychonomics Society. San Francisco.
- Kurumada, C., Rivera, R., Allen, P., & Bennetto, L. (2023). Accurate but not flexible?: Perceptual learning of receptive prosody in autistic adolescents. The 48th meeting of Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD).
- Rubio-Fernandez, P., & Kurumada, C. (2023). The development of informativity: Multimodal referential communication in Spanish and Norwegian preschoolers. The 2023 meeting of Many Path to Language (MPaL). Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.
- Xie, X., & Kurumada, C. (2023). Speech adaptation in a moment and over a month. The 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Pittsburgh, PA.
- Ostrow, A., Silverman, N., & Kurumada, C. (2023). Flexibility and stability in adaptive interpretation of intonational prosody in younger and older adults. The Linguistics Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting. Denver, Co.

- 2021 Kurumada, C., Xie, X., & Buxó-Lugo, A. (2021). An Ideal-observer approach to structured talker variability in prosodic productions. The annual conference of the German Linguistic Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, DGfS).
- Xie, X., Buxó-Lugo, A., & Kurumada, C. (2021). Distributional learning as a driver of robust speech processing. The 34th CUNY conference of sentence processing, University of Pennsylvania, PA.
- 2020 Kurumada, C., & Buxó-Lugo, A. (2020). Prosodic adaptation is talker-sensitive but not talker-specific. The 33rd CUNY conference of sentence processing, Amherst, MA.
- 2019 Buxó-Lugo, A., & Kurumada, C., (2019). Intonation-meaning mapping in flux: Navigating the variability through talker-sensitive adaptation. Meaning in flux 2: connecting development, variation, and change. New Haven, CT, October 11th.
- Buxó-Lugo, A., & Kurumada, C. (2019). That was a question?: Accommodating variability in intonation interpretations. The 32nd CUNY conference of sentence processing, Boulder, CO.
- 2018 Pogue, A., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Kurumada, C. (2018). Integrating socially situated non-linguistic cues in pragmatic generalization. Pre-AMLaP workshop on Socially situated language processing, ZAS Berlin, September 5th.
- Dix, S., Morgan, C., Lawrence, R. & Kurumada, C. (2018). Integration of bottom-up and top-down information in on-line interpretations of scalar adjectives. LSA annual meeting, Salt Lake City, January 7th.
- 2017 Lee, C. & Kurumada, C., (2017). Contextual inferences through variable exemplars: An artificial adjective learning study. The 42nd meeting of Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston, MA, November 3rd.
- Kurumada, C., & Grimm, S. (2017). Roles of meaning predictability in language production and learning. Meaning in flux: connecting development, variation, and change. New Haven, CT, October 13th.
- Lee, C. & Kurumada, C., (2017). Roles of prototypes vs. situation-based inferences in the learning of absolute gradable adjectives. Meaning in flux: connecting development, variation, and change. New Haven, CT, October 13th.
- 2016 Ryskin, R., Kurumada, C., & Brown-Schmidt, S. (2016). Bottom-up adaptation of online pragmatic inferences to variability of speakers. The 29th CUNY conference on sentence processing.
- 2015 Pogue, A., Kurumada, C., & Tanenhaus, M.K. (2015). Speaker-specific pragmatic generalizations based on under- vs. over-informative utterances. Experimental Pragmatics 2015. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Pogue, A., Kurumada, C., & Tanenhaus, M.K. (2015). Exploring expectations based on speaker-specific variation in informativity. Formal and experimental pragmatics: methodological issues of a nascent liaison. Berlin, Germany.

- 2014 Kurumada, C., Brown, M., Bibyk, S., Pontillo, D., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2014). Expectation-adaptation in the incremental interpretation of contrastive prosody. The 27th CUNY conference of sentence processing. The Ohio State University, March 13th.
- 2013 Kurumada, C., Brown, M., Bibyk, S., Pontillo, D., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2013). Is it or isn't it: Listeners make rapid use of prosody to infer speaker meanings. Annual meeting of the New Zealand linguistics society. Christchurch, November 21st.
- Kurumada, C., & Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M.K. (2013). Comprehension and acquisition of contrastive prosody: Rational inference helps adults and children cope with noisy input. The 26th CUNY conference of sentence processing, University of South Carolina, March 24th.
- Kurumada, C., & Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M.K. (2013). Rapid adaptation in pragmatic interpretation of contrastive prosody. LSA annual meeting, Boston, January 5th.
- 2012 Kurumada, C., & Jaeger, T. F. (2012). Communicatively efficient language production and case-marker omission in Japanese. LSA annual meeting, Portland, January 6th.
- 2011 Kurumada, C., Meylan, S., & Frank, M. C. (2011). Statistical word segmentation of Zipfian frequency distributions. BUCLD 36, Boston, November 4th.
- Kurumada, C. & Jaeger, T. F. (2011). Beyond animacy: Probability-based effects on the case-marker omission in Japanese. The workshop on structural alternations: Speaker and hearer perspectives, University of Groningen, Netherlands, August 24th.
- Kurumada, C. (2011). Topicality and aspect marking: A case of Japanese narrative and conversational discourses. DGfS 2011, University of Gottingen, Germany, February 27th.
- Kurumada, C. (2011). Syntactic context affects probability estimation: Evidence from Japanese relative clauses. LSA annual meeting, Pittsburgh, January 6th.
- Gafer, R., Kurumada, C., Tice, M., & Sumner, M. (2011). Integrating frequency, formality, and phonology in the perception of speech. LSA annual meeting, Pittsburgh, January 8th.
- 2009 Kurumada, C., & Iwasaki, S. (2009). Negotiating desirability: The acquisition of the uses of *ii* 'good' in mother-child interactions in Japanese. The 19th Japanese Korean Linguistics, University of Hawaii at Manoa, November 12th.
- Takubo, Y., Hayashi, Y., Motoki, T., & Kurumada, C. (2009). The digital museum project for the documentation of Ikema Ryukyuan. 1st International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC), University of Hawaii, Manoa. March, 13th.
- 2008 Kurumada, C., & Iwasaki, S. (2008). Parallel acquisition of lexical meanings and pragmatic functions: The case of Japanese adjective *ii*. The 10th meeting of the Japanese Society of Language and Sciences, Shizuoka Prefectural University, July 12th.
- 2007 Kurumada, C. (2007). *Boshi intarakushon ni miru kakari-jyoshi wa no kino to hattatsu*: A study on the development of topic-particle *wa* in Japanese in child-mother interaction. The 9th Japanese Society of Language and Sciences, Miyagi Women's Christian University, July 7th.

- 2006 | Kurumada, C. (2007). The interactional origin of the Topic-particle *wa* in Japanese. Linguistics symposium on formulaic language, University of Milwaukee, April 18-21st.
- Kurumada, C. (2006). A developmental analysis on the particle *wa* in Japanese. The inaugural conference of Japanese Studies Association in Southeast Asia (JSA-ASEAN), National University of Singapore, October 12-14th.
- Kurumada, C. & Fujii, S. (2006). Constructing storylines: A constructional approach to the structure and development of narratives. The 4th International conference on construction grammar, Tokyo University, September, 2nd.
- Kurumada, C. & Fujii, S. (2006). Creating storylines: A developmental study on Japanese children's narratives. The 8th Japanese Society for Language Sciences, International Christian University, June 16th.

Conference Presentations (Poster Presentations)

- 2024 | Gu, Y., Cutler, S., Xie, X., & Kurumada, C. (2024). Short- and long-term exposure to non-native accents on adaptive speech perception. The 30th AMLaP Conference, Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, Edinburgh, September 6th.
- 2023 | Gu, Y., Xie, X., & Kurumada, C. (2023). Rapid speech adaptation under adverse listening conditions. The 2023 meeting of Society for the Neurobiology of Language. Marseille, France.
- Xie, X., Jaeger, T. F., & Kurumada, C. (2023). What we do (not) know about the mechanisms underlying adaptive speech perception. The 2023 meeting of Society for the Neurobiology of Language. Marseille, France.
- Gu, Y., Xie, X., & Kurumada, C. (2023). Rapid speech adaptation under adverse listening conditions. The 2023 annual meeting of Psychonomics Society. San Francisco.
- Xie, X., Jaeger, T. F., & Kurumada, C. (2023). What we do (not) know about the mechanisms underlying adaptive speech perception. The 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Chicago, IL.
- Xie, X., & Kurumada, C. (2023). Nonnative speech adaptation in the initial moments and over a month. The 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Chicago, IL.
- Kurumada, C., Rachel, R., Allen, P. & Bennetto, L. (2023). Accurate, but not flexible?: Adaptive interpretation of intonation speech prosody in autistic adolescents. The Meeting on Language in Autism (MOLA). Duke University, Durham, NC. (*Poster not presented due to scheduling conflicts)
- 2022 | Liu, K., Buxó-Lugo, A. & Kurumada, C. (2022). Efficient talker-adaptation to prosodic variability: flexibility and stability over time. The 1st Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of California, Santa Cruz (Zoom).

- Xie, X., Jaeger, T. F. & Kurumada, C. (2022). Mechanisms of Change: how do we know when our perception gets adapted to the input? The 1st Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of California, Santa Cruz (Zoom).
- 2021 Xie, X., Buxó-Lugo, A. & Kurumada, C. (2021). Distributional learning as a driver of robust speech processing. The 34th CUNY conference on sentence processing, University of Pennsylvania (Zoom).
- 2019 Gardner, B., & Kurumada, C. (2019). Variation in the rational interpretation of slights: Gender-based microaggressions . The 32nd CUNY conference on sentence processing, University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 2019 Gardner, B., & Kurumada, C. (2019). *You're good at math for a woman: An experimental analysis of gender-based microaggressions*. Annual meeting of the Linguistics Society of America. New York City.
- 2018 Buxó-Lugo, A. & Kurumada, C. (2018). Navigating variability in question-statement prosody. The 59th meeting of Psychonomics Society, New Orleans.
- Buxó-Lugo, A., Nourani, S. & Kurumada, C. (2018). Accommodating variations in pragmatic interpretations of intonation contours. The 4th meeting of Experimental and Theoretical Advances in Prosody (ETAP4), University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Lee, C., & Kurumada, C. (2018). Learning absolute adjective meanings through non-absolute exemplars. The 31st CUNY conference on sentence processing, UC Davis.
- Gardner, B., Clark, M., Pogue, A., & Kurumada, C. (2018). Real-time pragmatic processing with a novel lexicon. The 31st CUNY conference on sentence processing, UC Davis.
- 2017 Buxó-Lugo, A., Kurumada, C., & Watson, D. (2017). Adaptation and learning in prosodic phrasing of syntactically ambiguous sentences. The 30th CUNY conference on sentence processing, Boston.
- Kurumada, C., Plvan-Franke, J., Orth, W., & Grimm, S. (2017). Communicative efficiency in language production and evolution: Optional plural marking. The 30th CUNY conference on sentence processing, Boston.
- Orth, W., Pogue, A., & Kurumada, C. (2017). The role of context and information in the interpretation of scalar adjectives. The 30th CUNY conference on sentence processing, Boston.
- Pogue, A., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Kurumada, C. (2017). Causal attributions in the adaptation of pragmatic informativity assumptions. The 30th CUNY conference on sentence processing, Boston.
- 2016 Ryskin, R., Kurumada, C., & Brown-Schmidt, S. (2016). Information integration in online modulation of pragmatic inferences during language comprehension. The 57th meeting of Psychonomic Society, Boston, Nov.17th.
- Gardner, B., Sullivan, A., Trine, T., Jaeger, T. F., & Kurumada, C. (2016). Rapid adaptation of online pragmatic inferences based on scalar adjectives. The 22nd AMLaP Conference, Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, Bilbao, Spain, September 3rd.

- 2015 | Ryskin, R., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Kurumada, C. (2015). Adaptation of pragmatic inferences transfers across contrastive domains. The 28th CUNY conference on sentence processing, Los Angeles, March 21th.
- 2013 | Kurumada, C. (2013). Contextual inferences in comprehension and acquisition of contrastive prosody. BUCLD 38, Boston, November 2nd.
- 2012 | Kurumada, C., Brown, M., & Tanenhaus, M.K. (2012). Distributional learning and probabilistic inferences in pragmatic interpretation of contrastive prosody. BUCLD 37, Boston, November 3rd.
- | Kurumada, C., & Jaeger, T. F. (2012). Communicative efficiency and grammatical encoding in speech: Predicting case-marker omission in Japanese. The 25th CUNY conference on sentence processing, New York, March 16th.
- | Kurumada, C. (2010). Integrating structural probability: The case of Japanese relative clause production. International Workshop on Language Production, University of Edinburgh, UK, September 3rd.

Academic Service

Promotion of Open Scholarship

- 2023- | Faculty coordinator, the Open Scholarship Community at the University of Rochester. (One of two faculty representatives to organize regular meetings and events to facilitate open scholarship practices on the University of Rochester River Campus and University of Rochester Medical Center (<https://opensci.lib.rochester.edu/>))

General Audience Engagement and Lecture

- 2025 | Community Engagement Studio (CTSI, University of Rochester) with 12 community participants and stakeholders to discuss language communication research on autism. (Apr.6.2025)
- 2022 | Outreach seminar given for 700+ Japanese middle school and high school students on language learning and communication in the era of AI. (Feb.12.2022)

Organizing Conferences, Workshops and Research Groups

- 2022-present | Founder and Instructor, The Workshop on Ph.D Research Skills for the Language & Cognitive Sciences (website) , Stockholm University. Giving a workshop on experiment design and scientific practices to 12-30 Ph.D students each year.

2022	Organizer, Public lecture by Dr. Julie Sedivy "Memory speaks: the challenge of nurturing our whole linguistic selves", funded by the Center for Language Sciences, and the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, and the River Campus Libraries at the University of Rochester (website)
2021	Co-founder and organizer, An open lab meeting on talker-variability across levels of speech categories. Over 60 researchers from institutions across the world participated in a series of open discussions on segmental and suprasegmental speech perception and adaptation. (website)
2020-	Co-founder and organizer, Audience Design Reimagined (ADR) reading group. (website)
2019	Organizer, Science Communication workshop with Dr. Julie Sedivy "Making connections: How scientists can write about science for the rest of the world", funded by Department of BCS, Center for Language Sciences, and the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program at the University of Rochester (website)
2018	Committee member, Director search committee for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the University of Rochester
2017-2018	Organizing Committee, NSF-funded workshop on "Real-world language: Future directions in the science of communication and the communication of science" with Jim Magnuson, Delphine Dahan, and Craig Chambers
2017-2018	Center for Language Sciences (CLS) Colloquium Organizer.
2015	Organizing Committee, The Third Conference on Experimental and Theoretical Approaches to Prosody (ETAP) with Duane Watson and Michael Wagner.
2014-2017	Leading an NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Program workshop. Organizing weekly workshops and peer review for graduate and undergraduate students in BCS who are submitting their proposals.
2011	Organizing Committee, The 25th CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing.
2009	Organizing Committee, Child Language Research Forum (CLRF)
2009-2011	Stanford Psychology of Language Tea (SPLaT!) Talk Series Coordinator.

Reviewing Research Grants

National Science Foundation (2019-2024, 4)

reviewing papers for journals

Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics (2023, 1), JEP:LMC (2020-2023, 4), Psychonomic Bulletin & Review (2021, 1), Language sciences (2021, 1), Language acquisition (2021, 1), Language & Cognition (2020, 1), Laboratory Phonology (2020, 1), Auditory Perception & Cognition (2019, 1), Journal of Memory & Language (2019, 1), Journal of Child Language (2014, 1), Cognition (2015-2020, 4), Cognitive Neuropsychology (2015: 1), Cognitive Psychology (2015-2107, 2), Cognitive Science (2014-2018, 2), Language and cognitive processes (2014, 1), Language and Speech

(2015-2024, 5), *Language Learning and Development* (2016, 1), *Semantics and Pragmatics* (2017, 1)

Reviewing Abstracts for Conferences

Discourse Expectations: Theoretical, Experimental and Computational perspectives (2017), Annual meeting of Cognitive Science Society (2014-present, Experimental and theoretical approaches to prosody (2015-present), The CUNY conference on sentence processing / Human Speech Processing (2014-present), Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (2014-present)

Advising

Post-doctoral Fellow

Past: | Xin Xie (Assistant professor, UC Irvine), Andrés Buxó-Lugo (Assistant professor, SUNY Buffalo)

Graduate Students

Current: | Ruby Zeng (BCS, thesis committee member), Rachel Rivera (Psychology, project member), Pia Järnefelt (University of Uppsala, Sweden, Mid-seminar evaluator)
Past: | Xiong Zhang (CS, thesis committee member), Sarah Bybik (BCS, thesis committee member), Maryam Seifeldin (BCS, main advisor), Amanda Pogue (BCS, main advisor), Kathryn Toffolo (Neuroscience, thesis committee member), Yuhang Xu (Linguistics, thesis committee member)

Undergraduate Students (independent study/honors thesis)

Past: | Elizabeth Cooley ('15), Valerie Langlois ('16) (Bilski-Mayer summer research fellowship recipient), Eugene Rorer ('16), Wesley Orth ('17, The professor's choice award recipient at the Undergraduate Research Expo), Stephen Powell ('17, Bilski-Mayer summer research fellowship recipient), Joseph Plvan-Franke ('17), Ashley Andino ('18, McNair Scholar), Bethany Gardner ('18, Catherine Block Memorial Prize recipient), Crystal Lee ('18, the O'Hern Scholarship and '19 NSF Doctoral Research Improvement grant recipient), Sadie Dix, Rachel Myers ('18), Cameron Morgan ('18), Kevin Liu ('22 Bilski-Mayer summer research fellowship recipient), Anthony Prudent ('24), Amelia Ostraw ('22 Bilski-Mayer summer research fellowship recipient) & Seth Cutler ('23 Bilski-Mayer summer research fellowship recipient)
Current: | Quinn Kubistek ('25), Isabella Johnson ('25), Tiketa Thomas ('28, Meliora summer research fellowship recipient)

Other undergraduate students in the lab: 5 (2014-2015), 8 (2015-2016), 12 (2016-2017), 7 (2017-2018), 3 (2018-2019), 3 (2019-2020), 2 (2019-2020), 1 (2020-2021), 1 (2021-2022), 3 (2023-2023)

Teaching

Course Development Fellowship and Education Grants

2023	Open Education Grant, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester.
2017	College Course Development Fellowship, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Rochester.
2016	College Course Development Fellowship, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Rochester.
2015	College Course Development Fellowship, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Rochester. Discover grant (\$6400) to develop tablet-based experimental paradigms for preschoolers.

Courses Taught

BCS 206/207 **Undergraduate research in Cognitive Sciences** (Advanced undergraduate workshop class, 10 students), Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester, Fall & Spring 2015-2025. Click [here](#) to view a course website with students' work products (science outreach videos).

BCS 259 **Language Development** (Advanced undergraduate lecture class, 39 students), Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester, Spring/Fall 2016-2023.

BCS 310 **Senior Seminar** (Advanced undergraduate lecture class, 12 students), Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester, Fall 2022-2023.

BCS 501 **Language Pro-Seminar** (Graduate seminar class, 4 students), co-instructor Dr. Michael K. Tanenhaus, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester, Fall 2015-2017.

Teaching Assistant for Noah Goodman, Introduction to Cognitive Science, Stanford University, Spring 2011-2012.

Teaching Assistant for Eve V. Clark, Language Acquisition 1, Stanford University, Fall 2010-2011.

Teaching Assistant for Vivienne Fong, Introduction to Linguistics, Stanford University, Spring 2009-2010.

Teaching Assistant for Adele Goldberg, Construction Grammar, Linguistic Society of America Linguistic Institute, 2009.

Teaching assistant, Academic English, University of Tokyo, 2004-2005.

Research Assistant Experiences

2009	Research Assistant, Noun-Modifying Constructions in Languages of Eurasia: Reshaping theoretical and geographical boundaries (PI: Yoshiko Matsumoto), Presidential Fund for Innovation in the Humanities 2008-2009, Stanford University.
2007 - 2009	Research Assistant, Linguistic Development of Bilingual Children (PIs: Yuriko Oshima-Takane and Fred Genesee), Department of Psychology, McGill University, Québec, Canada.

Outreach, Community building, and Other Services

2024- present	University of Rochester, A special session in undergraduate writing course (WRT262) <i>Writing as an insider in your discipline</i> , faculty panelist
2022	University of Rochester, Student writing competition, faculty judge
2021-	University of Rochester, Undergraduate Research EXPO, faculty judge
2021-	University of Rochester, Neuroscience Diversity Commission, member
2019-	Co-Founder, URWINS (University of Rochester Women in Sciences) with Dr. Farran Briggs, providing a support network for female scientists from various career stages
2019 Oct.	Discussant, Attending an information session for first-generation students who seek academic and research career paths (organized by the Green Center at the University of Rochester)
2019 Apr.	Discussant, Attending a student-organized a Pan-Asian Professionalism Panel, providing career advice and sharing personal narratives)(the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) at the University of Rochester)
2018	Providing a commentary to a popular science outlet (e.g., Interview comments for articles that cover scientific discoveries on deaf children's early visual perceptual skills: https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/deaf-children-begin-processing-information-differently-infancy).
2017- 2019	Organizer, Grant-writing workshop for applicants of NSF Graduate research fellowship (5-10 students per year, 3 awardees for the past 3 years)
2008- 2012	Creating an educational material for endangered language teaching and preservation. Hanashiro, C & Takahashi, M. (2012). <i>Mimamui busu nu hanasu A story of the guardian star</i> (A trilingual picture-book written in Ikema-Ryukyuan, Japanese and English). Y., Takubo, T., Motoki, & C. Kurumada (eds.) Kyoto University Global Center of Excellence for Reconstruction of the Intimate and Public Spheres in 21st Century Asia.