

Christina Akbari, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

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Communication Disorders
Arkansas State University
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Professional Education

- 2006 – 2013 *Doctor of Philosophy*, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas. *Major*: Communication Sciences and Disorders
Dissertation: Vowel Epenthesis in Initial Consonant Clusters by Persian Speakers of English.
Dissertation Supervisors: James Dembowski and Katsura Aoyama
Retrieved from <http://library.ttu.edu>.
- 1989 – 1991 *Master of Arts*. University of Houston, Houston, Texas
Major: Communication Disorders.
- 1985 – 1988 *Bachelor of Arts*. Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas
Major: Communication Disorders
Magna Cum Laude

Professional Credentials

- 1992 – Present Certified Member of ASHA #01112685
2016 – Present Arkansas Speech and Hearing Association Member
2015- Present Member of Acoustical Society of America
2014 – Present Arkansas State License #3592
2013 – 2014 Oklahoma State License #4131
1992 – 2013 Texas State License #15629

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Publications

Akbari, C., & Davis, A. (2018). Treating expressive affective prosody in Autism Spectrum Disorder: A case study. *Communication Disorders Quarterly*, 1-8.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1525740118755669>

Shollenbarger, A., Terry, N., & **Akbari, C.** (2017). An investigation of college students' knowledge of stuttering. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups, SIG 4, 2* (Part 2).

Akbari, C. & Shollenbarger, A. (2016). Acoustics of Palilalia: A case study. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics, 29*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1121/2.0000605>

Aoyama, K., **Akbari, C.**, & Flege, J.E. (2016). Prosodic characteristics of American English in school-age children. In J. Barnes, A. Brugos, S. Shattuck-Hufnagel & N. Veilleux (Eds.), *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2016*. (pp. 572-576). ISSN:2333-2042

Akbari, C. & Aoyama, K. (2020) Epenthetic Vowels and Phonemic Vowels: Same or Different? *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups, SIG 19*.

Published Abstracts

Akbari, C., Aoyama, K., & Dembowski, J. (2015). Persian speakers of English: Acoustics of vowel epenthesis. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 137*(4), 2381.

Presentations

Akbari, C. & Metzgar, O. The Effect of Voice Demand on the Perception of Voice in Collegiate Athletic Coaches. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Washington, DC. (Attended Virtually)

Akbari, C. & Camp, A. (2021, November). Counseling in Communication Disorders: How are Universities Preparing Students? Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Washington, DC. (Attended Virtually)

Akbari, C. & Chunn, J. (2020, November). Facilitators and Barriers to the Use of AAC by Practicing SLPs. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. San Diego, CA. (Convention Canceled).

Akbari, C. & Murphree, T. (2019, November). Education of Graduate Students in CD in Treating Adults using Singing-based Therapy. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Wiles, K. & **Akbari, C.** (2019, November). High School Students' Knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Myrick, B. & **Akbari, C.** (2018, November). Understanding Roles for Collaboration: Teach and Speech-Language Pathologist. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.

Politte, B. & **Akbari, C.** (2018, November). Letter Reversals in L2 Learners: The Link between Letter Reversals and Phonemic Awareness Skills. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.

McCurley, B. & **Akbari, C.** (2017, November). Improving the Reading Comprehension of Hispanic Youth that Attend an After-School Program. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Akbari, C. & Shollenbarger, A., (2016, December). *Acoustics of Palilalia: A Case Study*. Poster presentation at the: 5th Joint Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Acoustical Society of Japan, Honolulu, HA.

Gearhart, S. & **Akbari, C.**, (2016, November). *Reading Comprehension through Incidental Learning: Impact of the Barton Reading & Spelling System*. (2016, November). Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Dryer, E., & **Akbari, C.**, (2016, November). *Effectiveness of Video Modeling as an Intervention Technique for Broca's Aphasia*. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Morgan, A., McDaniel, M., & **Akbari, C.**, (2016, November). *Influences of an After-School Literacy Program: A Barton Reading and Spelling system Efficacy Study*. Poster presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Aoyama, K., **Akbari, C.**, & Flege, J. (2016, June). *Prosodic Characteristics of American English in School-Age Children*. Poster presentation at Speech Prosody 2016, Boston, MA.

Akbari, C. (2016, March). *Multidimensional Design for Organic Communication Disorders*. Oral presentation at Learn @stAte, Jonesboro, AR.

Hutchison, A. & **Akbari, C.** (2015, November). *Aprosodia Therapy: The Impact on Affective Prosody in a Child with High Functioning Autism*. Poster presentation at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Denver, CO.

Akbari, C., Aoyama, K., & Dembowski, J. (2015, May). *Persian Speakers of English: Acoustics of Vowel Epenthesis*. Poster presented at the Acoustical Society of America convention, Pittsburgh, PA.

Akbari, C., Aoyama, K., Dembowski, J. & Koul, R. (2014, November). *Vowel epenthesis in initial consonant clusters by Persian speakers of English*. Poster presented at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Akbari, C. (2011, March). *Using picture symbols and the Writing with Symbols program to promote language development/literacy skills in the classroom*. Presented for In-Service Training for the Beaumont Independent School District, Beaumont, TX.

Akbari, C. (2010, June). *Promoting literacy through picture symbols*. Texas Assistive Technology Network Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Akbari, C. (2010, May). *Promoting literacy through picture symbols*. Presented for training purposes at the Region 5 Education Service Center, Silsbee, TX.

Aoyama, K. & **Akbari, C.** (2008, July). *Rhythmic and durational measures of speech in English-speaking school-age children*. Poster presented at the International Association for the Studies of Child Language, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Aoyama, K. & **Akbari, C.** (2008, November). *Rhythmic and durational measures of speech in English-speaking school-age children*. Poster presented at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Chicago, IL.

AWARDS/GRANTS

Awards

Akbari, C. (2015, spring). Provost's Faculty Development Award. Funding to attend the Acoustical Society of America's May 2015 Meeting. Award Amount: \$2,089.40

Grants Submitted

Akbari, C. (2017, November). "La Escuelita" Summer Learning Program. Submitted to Arkansas Community Foundation. – Joint grant with Department of Communication Disorders and Hispanic Community Services, Inc. to provide a summer language/literacy enhancement program for children from Kindergarten through 6th grade attending the summer program. (\$11,750).

Akbari, C. (2016, August). Start-up Funds for an After-School Language and Literacy Program at the Hispanic Center of Jonesboro. Submitted to the A-State Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Akbari, C. (2016, April). A Community-Based Service-Learning Project to Promote Increased Language and Literacy Development in Hispanic Children in Northeast Arkansas. Submitted to ASHA.

Akbari, C. (2015, May). Impact of Delayed Auditory Feedback and Melodic Intonation Therapy on Palilalia. Submitted to American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Akbari, C. (2014, September). Utilization of COMPASS: Competency Assessment in Speech Pathology and understanding the clinical formative/summative assessment tools used nationwide. Submitted to CAPCSD.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Graduate

AHSL 5143	Aural Rehabilitation Lab (Audiology Graduate Students)	Fall 07
AHSL 5383	Clinical Practicum	Fall 06, 07; Spring 07, 08; Summer 07
CDIS 5423	AAC	Fall 13; Summer 14
CD 6303	AAC	Fall 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
CDIS 5143	Articulation and Phonological Disorders	Spring 14
CD 6053	Research in Communication Disorders	Summer 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
CD 575V	Clinical Practicum	Fall 06, 07, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
CD 676V	Clinical Practicum	Spring 07, 08, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
CD 677V	Clinical Practicum	Summer 07, 08, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Undergraduate

CD 2653	Introduction to Communication Disorders	Fall 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21; Spring 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
CD 4203	Organic Communication Disorders	Spring 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
CD 4873	Research Problems	Spring 17, 18
CD 3113	Aging	Summer 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
CD 4063	Multicultural Issues in Communication Disorders	Fall 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
CD 480V	Special Topics: Bilingual Children	Fall 17
CD 480V	Special Topics: Multicultural Issues	Fall 18
CDIS 3313	Phonetics	Fall 13
CDIS 4133	Aural Rehabilitation	Spring 14
CDIS 4113	Communication Disorders in Children	Spring 14
CD 4753	Clinical Practicum	Spring 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

Guest Lecturer

AHSL 3220	Supervised Observation Lab	Fall 07
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	Topic: Pragmatic deficits in children with Autism	
AHSL 4427	Assessment Procedures in SLP	Spring 07
	Topic: Formal/Informal Assessment Measures	
AHSL 4427	Assessment Procedures in SLP	Spring 07
	Topic: Standardized Assessment	
AHSL 4427	Assessment Procedures in SLP	Spring 07
	Topic: Type-Token Ratio Administration/Scoring	
AHSL 4344	Multicultural Issues in Communication Disorders	Fall 06
	Topic: Issues of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the School Setting	

Chair of Graduate Thesis

Metzgar, O. *The Effect of Voice Demand on the Perception of Voice in Collegiate Athletic Coaches* (2021)

Camp, A. *Counseling in Communication Disorders: How are Universities Preparing Students?* (2021)

Chunn, J. *Facilitators and Barriers to the Use of AAC by Practicing SLPs*. (2020)

Murphree, T. *The exposure, knowledge, and experience of graduate students in communication disorders on treating speech/language issues in adults with neurological disorders using singing-based therapy*. (2019)

Wiles, K. *High school students' knowledge of autism spectrum disorder*. (2019)

Williams, K. *Gender differences in the knowledge-base of the signs of developmental disorders including autism*. (2019)

Mortoti, P. *Acoustic characteristics that contribute to Ghanaian accented American English*. (2018)

Politte, B. *Prevalence of letter reversals in L2 learners and the link between letter reversals and phonemic awareness skills*. (2018)

Myrick, B. *Understanding roles for collaboration: Teacher and speech-language pathologist*. (2018)

McCurley, B. *Reading Comprehension Skills of Hispanic Youth Who Attend an Afterschool Program*. (2017)

McDaniel, E. *The Impact of Language Acquisition of Motor Programming (LAMP) on Speech Development in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or Developmental Disabilities*. (2017)

Harris, H. *The Effectiveness of Video Modeling in Word-Finding Therapy for Individuals Diagnosed with Broca's Aphasia*. (2017)

Gearhart, S. *Reading Comprehension through Incidental Learning: Efficacy of an After-School Literacy Program Utilizing the Barton Reading & Spelling System*. (2016)

Dryer, E. *Effectiveness of Video Modeling as a Treatment for Broca's Aphasia*. (2016)

Hutchison, A. *Aprosodia Therapy: The Impact on Affective Prosody on a Child with High Functioning Autism*. (2015)

Thesis Committees

Lemmons, H. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Speech-Language Pathology Services* (2022)
Committee: Shollenbarger, A., **Akbari, C.**, Scott, S.

Emberson, A., *Pragmatic Abilities in Adolescents and Young Adults with Hearing Loss* (2021)
Committee: White, L., **Akbari, C.**, Good, J.

Grisham, A., *Teachers' Knowledge/use of Morphological Awareness Instruction in the Classroom* (2021)
Committee: Good, J., **Akbari, C.**, Jones, S.

Giddings, J., *Do SLP Graduate Students Practice Daily Vocal Hygiene Regiments* (2021)
Committee: Shollenbarger, A., **Akbari, C.**, Brantley, S.

Combs, C. *Thyroid Hormone Diseases and Allergies on Voice*. (2020)
Committee: Shollenbarger, A., **Akbari, C.**, Brantley, S.

Nodine, T. *An Examination of the Impact of Dialect on First Graders' Reductions of Final Consonant Clusters in Spelling*. (2019)
Committee: Shollenbarger, A., **Akbari, C.**, Good, J.

Day, A. *A concurrent validity study of listening comprehension measures in English language learners (ELLs)*. (2017)
Committee: Shollenbarger, A., Neeley, R., **Akbari, C.**

Bray, R. *Attitudes of Graduate Students in Communication Disorders Regarding Cultural Competencies*. (2016)
Committee: Neeley, R., Shollenbarger, A., McDaniel, M., **Akbari, C.**

Lindley, A. *Mindfulness (Meditation) and Stuttering*. (2016)
Committee: Shollenbarger, A., Pait, A., **Akbari, C.**, Khramtsova, I.

Watkins, T. *The Influence of Literacy Intervention on Mathematics Performance*. (2016)
Committee: McDaniel, M., Pait, A., Good, J., **Akbari, C.**

Morgan, A. *Influences of an After-School Literacy Program: A Barton Reading and Spelling System Efficacy Study*. (2016)

Committee: McDaniel, M., Pait, A., **Akbari, C.**

Caples-Thrasher, M. *The Use of Speech-In-Noise Testing as a Measure of Hearing Aid Benefit*. (2015).

Committee: McDaniel, M., Aldridge, R., **Akbari, C.**

Terry, N. *College Students' Knowledge about Stuttering: A Preliminary Investigation*. (2015)

Committee: Shollenbarger, A., Pait, A., **Akbari, C.**

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committees

Milsap, K. (2018). Nursing Students' Knowledge of Craniofacial Anomalies

Committee: Shollenbarger, A., Neeley, R., **Akbari, C.**

Advising

Graduate (2015-Present)

Undergraduate (2015-Present)

SERVICE

University Service

Committee Chairperson, Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee (2015-2016, 2016-2017)

Committee Secretary, Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee (2017-2018)

Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee Member (2018-2021)

Research Mentor, Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Scholars Program (2016)

A-State Assessment Committee (2019 – present)

Graduate Curriculum Committee (2019 – present)

College Service

Committee Member, Infection Control (2015-2016)

Committee Member, Student and Alumni Affairs (2016-2017)

Chair, Student and Alumni Affairs (2017-2018)

Curriculum Committee (2019-present)

PRT Committee (2021-present)

Departmental Service

Committee Member, Curriculum Committee (2014 - present)

Committee Member, Foundation Account Committee (2014 - present)

Committee Member, Clinical Committee (2014 - present)

Committee Member, Admissions and Credits Committee (2014 - present)

Community Service

Director, Language and Literacy Program at the Hispanic Center of Jonesboro (2016-Present)

Director, ICan-Astate – (2019-present)

Professional Service

Acoustical Society of America – Committee Member, Speech Communication (2017-present)

Reviewer, Journal of Allied Health (2019-present)

Guest Reviewer, Sage Publishing (2017)

Guest Reviewer, Jones and Bartlett Learning (2016-2017)

Guest Reviewer, Plural Publishing (2015)

Board Member, Autism Association of North East Arkansas (2015)

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Speech-Language Hearing Association

Arkansas Speech-Language Hearing Association

Acoustical Society of America

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Special Interest Group (2014-2018)

Augmentative and Alternative Communication Special Interest Group (2014-present)

Speech Science Special Interest Group (2015- present)

Professional Experience

August 2014 – Present

Associate Professor, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR

Teach both graduate and undergraduate coursework. Supervise both undergraduate and graduate students in clinical practicum at the university clinic. Conduct research in areas of interest. Work to acquire extramural funding. Supervise research of graduate students through master's theses. Provide service through departmental, college, and university level committees. Provide service through community organizations.

August 2013 – August 2014

Visiting Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University – Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

Taught both graduate and undergraduate coursework. Supervised both undergraduate and graduate students in an off-campus clinical setting.

August 2011 to July 2013

Speech-Language Pathologist/In-Home Trainer, Nederland ISD, Nederland, TX

Responsible for the assessment and treatment of speech and language disorders for students within the school district. Complete all of the necessary paperwork for Admission Review and Dismissal meetings. Document student progress/performance. Established guidelines for RTI speech/language services. Worked closely with ESL teachers in the determination of language differences/disorders for ESL learners. Actively involved with assistive technology/AAC evaluations. Worked with families of students with Autism and other handicapping conditions to carry over skills to the home

environment through in-home training. Students served included those with Autism, cognitive deficits, hearing impairments, visual impairments, and learning disabilities.

August 2008 to May 2011

Lead Speech-Language Pathologist/Supervisor/Assistive Technology Specialist, Bridge City ISD, Bridge City, TX

Responsible for the assessment and treatment of children from 2 to 21 within the district with various types of disorders including Autism, cognitive delays, physical impairments, visual impairments, learning deficits, and hearing impairments. Actively involved with Response to Intervention strategies and Child Find. Supervised both CFY intern and Speech Assistant. Completed all necessary paperwork including Assessment, Review, and Dismissal meeting forms and assessments. Conducted Assessment, Review, and Dismissal meetings. Provided In-Service trainings on various topics to other SLPs in the district as well as other special education personnel. Served as the lead person on the Assistive Technology Team. Developed the assistive technology assessment protocol used by the district. Assessed assistive technology and AAC needs for special education students being served in both special and general education settings. Conducted portions of AT evaluations, disseminated portions to be completed by other professionals/individuals, collected/compiled completed data, reported findings, and made recommendations at ARD meetings. Provided training on the use of various types of technology to parents and school personnel.

August 2006 to May 2008

Clinical Supervisor/Instructor, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, TX

Supervised both graduate and undergraduate students in the on-campus clinic in the areas of child language disorders, articulation/phonological processing disorders, and AAC. Completed formative and summative evaluations. Assigned grades. Instructor for graduate audiology class covering aspects of aural rehabilitation from assessment through treatment. Guest lecturer for several classes.

August 2001 to May 2006

Speech-Language Pathologist, Nederland ISD, Nederland, TX

Responsible for the assessment and treatment of children from three to ten with speech/language disorders. Worked closely with regular education, special education, and ESL teachers to provide information on such topics as multicultural language issues, spelling programs, and classroom strategies for working with children with Autism. Coordinated services with other professionals, such as Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Vision Specialists.

August 1995 to August 2001

Self-Employed Speech-Language Pathologist/Supervisor, Nederland, TX

Responsible for assessment and treatment of children from 3 to 21 in several local school districts. Supervised Assistant Speech Therapists and Grandfathered Speech Therapists for Medicaid reimbursement. Responsible for marketing services, developing contracts,

billing, purchasing of equipment, and the day-to-day business operations. Provided contract speech services to several local home-health agencies and school districts.