

# Saira Ambreen

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## Education

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- PhD Speech & Hearing Sciences**, The University of Hong Kong, HK SAR **2023**  
*Thesis:* Development of speech sounds and phonetic complexity in Urdu-speaking children  
*Supervisors:* Dr. Carol K. S. To, Prof. Xiuli Tong
- MS Speech and Language Pathology**, University of the Punjab, Pakistan **2016**  
*Thesis:* Acoustic analysis of normal voice patterns in Pakistani adults  
*Supervisors:* Ms. Nazia Bashir, Ms. Sharmeen Aslam Tarar, Dr. Rukhsana Kausar
- MSc Human Development and Family Studies**, University of the Punjab, Pakistan **2013**  
*Thesis:* Relationship between generalized anxiety disorder and academic motivation of university students  
*Supervisors:* Ms. Samina Chaudhary, Dr. Attiya Inam
- BSc Home Economics**, Govt. College of Home Economics University of the Punjab, Pakistan **2011**

## Short-term Study

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- PolyU Summer School – Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience (LCN)** **July-August 2019**  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HK SAR  
*Courses:* CBS6441-Advanced Topics in Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics (cr. hrs. 3)  
CBS6442-Advanced Topics in Research Methodology for Language Sciences (cr. hrs. 3)

## Employment History

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- Post-doctoral Researcher** **November 2023-present**  
*The University of Hong Kong, HK SAR*
- Teaching Assistant** **2020**  
*The University of Hong Kong, HK SAR*  
*Courses:* SHSC3032-Language Development and Language Disorders in the Pre-primary School Years  
SHSC5032-Advanced Studies I: Interprofessional Practice and Multilingualism in Pediatric Settings
- Lecturer** **September-October 2018**  
*Multan College of Speech & Language Therapy, Pakistan*
- Clinical Supervisor** **September-October 2018**  
*Ibn-e-Siena Hospital & Research Institute, Pakistan*
- Web Developer** **February-May 2017**  
*Independent/Free-lancer*
- Research Assistant** **December 2016-January 2017**  
*Centre for Clinical Psychology, University of the Punjab, Pakistan*  
*Project:* Generosity, Emotion Regulation, and Perceived Wellness in Elderly

**Supervisor:** Ms. Tehreem Arshad

**Junior Speech-Language Pathologist**

*Speech Therapy Clinic, Pakistan*

**Supervisor:** Ms. Sharmeen Aslam Tarar

**June 2016-January 2017**

**Web Administrator & Coordinator**

*Pakistan Association of Speech-Language Pathology (PASP)*

**October 2015-December 2016**

**Web Developer**

*Independent/Free-lancer*

**June 2015- August 2016**

**Intern**

*Department of Psychiatry, Fauji Foundation Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan*

**July-August 2013**

**Intern**

*Department of Developmental Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan*

**June-July 2012**

## Volunteer Activities

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**Member, Youth Counselling & Development Network – YCDN**

**June 2018-March 2019**

**Subject & Career Advisor, Career Counseling Portal, Pakistan**

**May 2016-March 2019**

## Awards & Honors

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**Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS)**

*The University of Hong Kong, HK SAR*

**2019-23**

**Certificate & Shield for outstanding performance in SCC Examination**

*Tabindah Model High School, Burewala, Pakistan*

**2007**

**Certificate & Shield of Honor**

*Iqra Board of Education, Punjab, Pakistan [regd.]*

**2005**

## Book Chapter

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**Ambreen, S.** & To, C. K. S. (forthcoming). Urdu speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

## Journal Publications

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Anwar, M., Khan, N., Tarar, S. A., & **Ambreen, S.** (under preparation). *Acoustic Analysis of Normal Voice Patterns in Young Pakistani Children*.

**Ambreen, S.**, & To, C. K. S. (under preparation). Speech sound acquisition in Urdu-speaking children.

**Ambreen, S.**, & To, C. K. S. (under preparation). Phonetic complexity in Urdu-speaking children.

**Ambreen, S.**, & To, C. K. S. (2024). Review of the phonological system of contemporary Urdu spoken in Pakistan. *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 1–12.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17549507.2024.2324905> [Link]

- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (2022). Development of the Urdu speech assessment test. *Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology*, 24(3), 138–145. [\[Link\]](#)
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (2021). Phonological Development in Urdu-Speaking Children – A Systematic Review. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 64(11), 4213–4234. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2021\\_JSLHR-21-00148](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_JSLHR-21-00148). [\[Link\]](#)
- Hamdani, S. Z., & **Ambreen, S.** (2021). Data for the Narrative Skills of Urdu-speaking Preschoolers. *Data in Brief*, 34. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2021.106737>. [\[Link\]](#)
- Ambreen, S.,** Hamdani, S. Z., & Anwar, M. (2020). Speaking Fundamental Frequency of Native Urdu Speakers – A Pilot Study. *Journal of Voice*, 36(1), 23–28. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvoice.2020.03.016>. [\[Link\]](#)
- Ambreen, S.,** Bashir, N., Tarar, S. A., & Kausar, R. (2020). Maximum Phonation time in Adults with Normal Voices. *Rawal Medical Journal*, 45(3). [\[Link\]](#)
- Ambreen, S.,** Bashir, N., Tarar, S. A., & Kausar, R. (2017). Acoustic Analysis of Normal Voice Patterns in Pakistani Adults. *Journal of Voice*, 33(1), 49–58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvoice.2017.09.003>. [\[Link\]](#)

### Conference Poster & Presentation (refereed)

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- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (November 2024). The Index of Phonetic Complexity: Adaptation to Urdu. Oral presentation at *Early Childhood Voices Conference (ECV2024)*. Charles Sturt University. Australia.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (November 2024). Urdu Speech Development. Oral presentation at *Early Childhood Voices Conference (ECV2024)*. Charles Sturt University. Australia.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (July 2024). Acquisition of Urdu vowels in typically developing children. Poster presented at *International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)*. Prague, Czech Republic.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (July 2024). Adaptation of the index of phonetic complexity to Urdu. Poster presented at *International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)*. Prague, Czech Republic.
- Qi, X., Ng, W. W. H., Tsang, G. H. K., **Ambreen, S.,** So, K. K. H., & To, C. K. S. (December, 2022). Efficacy of a self-directed video-based caregiver-implemented language program. Oral presentation at *Early Childhood Voices Conference (ECV2022)*. Charles Sturt University. Australia. [\[Link\]](#)
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (June 2022). Urdu phonological system: Exploring the acquisition and developing a language-specific assessment test. Oral presentation at *International Child Phonology Conference (ICPC)*. Purdue University, Canada.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (May 2022). A review of the Urdu phonological system. Poster presented at *The National Conference of Speech Pathology Australia (SPA)*. Melbourne, Australia.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (November 2021). Developing a speech assessment test for Urdu-speaking children. Poster presented at *The ASHA Convention*. Washington DC, USA.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (November 2021). Urdu phonological acquisition by typically developing children - A systematic review. Poster presented at *The ASHA Convention*. Washington DC, USA.
- Ambreen, S., & To, C. K. S.** (June 2021). The Development of Urdu Speech Sound Assessment Test (USAT). Oral presentation at *International Child Phonology Conference (ICPC–virtual)*. Alberta, Canada.
- Anwar, M., **Ambreen, S.,** Tarar, S. A., & Khan, N. (June 2021). Acoustic Analysis of Young Urdu Speaking Children. Poster presented at *International Child Phonology Conference (ICPC–virtual)*. Alberta, Canada.
- Anwar, M., **Ambreen, S.,** Tarar, S. A., & Khan, N. (June 2021). Characteristics of Word Initial Stop Consonants produced by Young Urdu Speakers. Poster presented at *International Child Phonology Conference (ICPC–virtual)*. Alberta,

Canada.

**Ambreen, S., & To, K. S. C.** (December 2020). A systematic review of Urdu phonological development. Oral Presentation at *Research Postgraduate Conference (RPC 2020-21)*. Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong, HK SAR.

Anwar, M., Khan, N., Tarar, S. A., & **Ambreen, S.** (March 2020). An acoustic study of word initial stop consonants among two-to-five years old Urdu speakers. Oral presentation at *7<sup>th</sup> National Medical & Allied Health Conference*. Rashid Latif Medical College & Arif Memorial Teaching Hospital, Pakistan.

Tarar, S. A., & **Ambreen, S.** (2016). Evidence-based Practice – The New Face of Clinical Practice. Oral presentation at *3<sup>rd</sup> National Medical & Allied Health Conference*. Rashid Latif Medical College & Arif Memorial Teaching Hospital, Pakistan.

**Ambreen, S.** (2016). Clinical Application of Evidence-based Practice in Speech-Language Pathology. Oral presentation at *3<sup>rd</sup> National Medical & Allied Health Conference*. Rashid Latif Medical College & Arif Memorial Teaching Hospital, Pakistan.

## Professional Memberships

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International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)	<b>2024-present</b>
The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)	<b>2021-22</b>
The Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists (HKAST)	<b>2019-20</b>
Pakistan Association for Speech-Language Pathologists (PASP)	<b>2018-20</b>

## Invited Talk

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<b>Invited Panel Talk (webinar), University of Home Economics, Pakistan</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>Topic:</i> Reflections from the field: Scope and opportunities for graduates of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)	
<b>Invited Talk (virtual), WEmpower, Pakistan</b>	<b>2020</b>
<i>Topic:</i> Scholarships and funding opportunities at the University of Hong Kong	

## Certification

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<b>Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (CTLHE)</b>	<b>2019</b>
Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, The University of Hong Kong, HK SAR	

## Jury/Examiner

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**Juror**, for the *Final Jury* of the *BS 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Industrial Design Project*, titled “**Edutainment**”, held at the School of Arts, Design, and Architecture (SADA), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pakistan

## Skills

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<b>Languages</b>	Urdu (native), Punjabi (native), English (fluent)
<b>Software</b>	Praat, Phon

## Short Courses and Workshops

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<b>Vocal Function Exercises</b>	<b>July 2018</b>
via MedBridge (Contact Hrs.: 1; offered for .01 ASHA CEUs; Intermediate Level, Professional Area)	

<b>Auditory – Perceptual Voice Evaluation</b>	<b>June 2018</b>
via MedBridge (Contact Hrs.: 0.5; offered for .05 ASHA CEUs; Intermediate Level, Professional Area)	
<b>English at Work: Job Interviews (04 weeks)</b>	<b>May 2018</b>
via edX, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong	
<b>Academic Integrity (04 weeks)</b>	<b>April 2018</b>
via FutureLearn, University of Auckland, New Zealand	
<b>Author-AID Research Communication Course (07 weeks)</b>	<b>November 2017</b>
via inasp.info	
<b>Schizophrenia (05 weeks)</b>	<b>October 2017</b>
via Coursera, Wesleyan University, USA	
<b>Developing Your Research Project (08 weeks)</b>	<b>October 2017</b>
via FutureLearn, University of Southampton, UK	
<b>How to Write a Scientific Paper: Project-centered Course (04 weeks)</b>	<b>October 2017</b>
via Coursera, École Polytechnique, France	
<b>Understanding Dementia MOOC (09 weeks)</b>	<b>September 2017</b>
Wicking Dementia Centre, University of Tasmania, Australia	
<b>Deriving Clinical Meaning from Medical Chart Review</b>	<b>September 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Stuttering: Treatment Strategies for Effective and Behavioral Roadblocks</b>	<b>September 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Using Coaching Strategies to engage with Families in an Early Intervention Context</b>	<b>September 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Using Written Language Assessment and Intervention to yield Powerful Payoffs</b>	<b>September 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Tips for the Differential Diagnosis of Central Auditory Processing Disorder</b>	<b>May 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Collaboration with Interpreters: Securing Positive Outcomes</b>	<b>June 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Measuring Outcomes for the Patients with Cochlear Implants</b>	<b>July 2016</b>
American Speech – Language – Hearing Association (ASHA)	
<b>Preventing Dementia MOOC</b>	<b>2016</b>
Wicking Dementia Centre, University of Tasmania, Australia	
<b>Certificate in Psychology Research Methods</b>	<b>2014</b>
via Alison E-learning Platform, Ireland	
<b>Diploma in Children Studies</b>	<b>2014</b>
via Alison E-learning Platform, Ireland	
<b>Social Psychology Course</b>	<b>2013</b>

via Coursera, Dept. of Psychology, Wesleyan University, USA