

Introducing the Incoming Graduate Student Class of Fall 2017

Department of Psychology



Ana Maria Hoffman (C&D)

I graduated from the University of San Francisco with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Neuroscience. As an undergraduate, I had the chance to study the influence of communication on generational stereotypes in the Aging and Diversity Lab. I also collaborated with the Reasoning Lab for my thesis, which focuses on finding an intervention for hindsight bias through causality. In another research venture, I created a cross-cultural study between the United States and Germany, focusing on surveillance attitudes after a terror attack. At Emory, I will be joining Dr. Patricia Bauer's Lab, and am looking forward to studying the challenges of integrating information between two languages as well as the physiological changes that occur during autobiographical memory retrieval in different age groups and in relation to gender. In my free time I enjoy reading, watching movies, and sports.



Blaire Pingeton (Clinical)

I was born and raised in a suburb outside of Boston, MA. A trained classical singer, I completed my Bachelor's degree in Music at NYU studying classical voice. Upon graduation I enrolled in the Columbia University postbac program in psychology, and began working in the lab of Dr. Catherine Monk. During my three years with Dr. Monk I coordinated three separate studies, all investigating the perinatal origins of adult psychiatric disruption. In Dr. Goodman's lab I hope to continue studying how prenatal maternal behavior, socioeconomic status, and fetal/ maternal physiology influences child development. When I am not coaxing babies asleep for MRI/EEGs I am often teaching yoga!

Brooke McKenna (Clinical)



I grew up in Chapel Hill, NC and attended the University of North Carolina, where I received a double major in Biology and Psychology. During my time at UNC, I studied the association between interpersonal stress and the development of depression, self-injury, and other health-risk behaviors. I became interested in how genetic liability interacts with social stressors to influence psychopathology, and decided to join a Molecular Psychiatry lab at the University of Iowa. As a clinical research assistant, I studied the genetic and metabolic factors that contribute to neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder. This fall I will be joining Dr. Patricia Brennan's BUILD lab, where I hope to combine my knowledge of environmental stress and molecular biology to study the effects of biological risk and childhood adversity on developmental psychopathology. In my free time, I enjoy traveling with friends, playing sand volleyball, exploring local restaurants, and going on hikes with my adorable pup!

Jacquelyn Ellison (C&D)



I was born and raised in and around Denver, Colorado, and completed a concurrent BA/MA degree in Linguistics, and the graduate certificate in Cognitive Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Since Graduation, I skied 50 days on slushy springtime snow and worked with Dr. Keith Lyle in his memory lab at the University of Louisville, where research focused on the interaction between handedness and cognitive flexibility, in the context of a network model of lexical reference. I'm excited to be working with Dr. Wolff, using a (big) data-driven approach to understand the organizational system of language, how the syntactic form and pragmatic structure interact to continuously, dynamically activate and update knowledge representations. I want to understand how the allocation of attention resources modulates sentence and discourse comprehension, and how such complex real-time behaviors could arise from a highly constrained computational system. My spare time is spent hopping between projects - homebrewing with my husband, Eric, building the latest improvement to my loom, and spinning/weaving the mountains of raw wool that keep finding their way into my closet. I Love to hike and ski, and eat good food and drink good beer.

Lauren Bertin (Clinical)



I was born and raised in New York City. I received my bachelor's degree in science and scientific communication from Bennington College in 2012. During my undergraduate education, I also interned in several labs investigating a diversity of topics—including, but not limited to, the biological basis of color perception and iPS cell models of psychiatric diseases. After graduating, I worked at Columbia University Medical Center studying the molecular mechanisms underlying glioblastoma. Reevaluating my long-term career goals and having had a taste of what it was like to participate in psychological research through my prior internships, I decided to enroll in courses at The City University of New York at Hunter College to obtain a second B.A. in psychology. While working as part of the Hunter College Addiction and Behavioral Impulsivity Team (H.A.B.I.T.) in Dr. Joel Erblich's lab, I became interested in studying the etiology and development of substance use disorders. This fall, I look forward to joining Dr. Rohan Palmer's lab and utilizing behavioral genetics to help us unravel the individual differences that persistently emerge in the addiction literature. When I am not in the lab, I enjoy yoga, baking, trying new restaurants, and hiking with friends.



Madeleine Cohen (Clinical)

I'm from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, but have lived in Boston, MA for the last 6 years. I graduated from Boston University in 2015 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in French. Since then, I've worked as a Research Technician at the Boston University Twin Project, where we examine the genetic and environmental influences on changes in children's temperament across the preschool age period. I'm really looking forward to joining Dr. Brennan and the whole team at the BUILD lab to expand upon my knowledge of child development with an added biological and clinical component. Outside of work and school I'm an avid reader and runner, and enjoy doing watercolors and spending time with my friends and family.



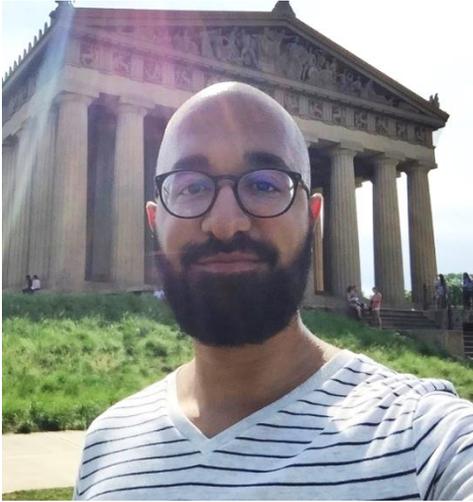
Ruu Harn "Annie" Cheng (C&D)

Originally from Hong Kong, I attended high school in Massachusetts and got my BA and MA at Johns Hopkins University. While at JHU, I majored in Cognitive Science and minored in Visual Arts. For my MA thesis, I studied neural representation of spatial boundary cues. At Emory, I will be joining Dr. Daniel Dilks' lab to further investigate the neural processes underlying scene perception. In my free time, I enjoy drawing and spending times with family and friends.



Shauna Bowes (Clinical)

Although I am originally from Citrus Heights, California, I moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee when I was ten years old. I recently graduated from Emory with a B.S. in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology. Because I loved Emory so much as an undergraduate, I am extremely thrilled to have the opportunity to stay as a graduate student! During my junior year of college, I began working in Dr. Scott Lilienfeld's lab to assist with Ashley Watts' project investigating the associations between psychopathic personality and rape myth acceptance in undergraduates. In my senior year, I conducted an honors thesis examining relations between psychopathy and negative emotionality in community participants. As a graduate student, I will continue to work in Dr. Lilienfeld's lab, and am particularly eager to examine the potential behavioral, emotional, and neurobiological underpinnings of psychopathic traits in addition to etiological models of psychopathy. In my free time, I love watching incredibly bad reality television, baking yummy desserts, chatting the ears off my friends and family, eating an insane amount of carbohydrates, and following animals on social media. I am excited to meet everyone and embark on this new, crazy journey!



Yaseen Jamal (C&D)

I was born and raised in Chicago, IL but I've lived in Atlanta for the past 7 years. I graduated from Emory in 2013, receiving a BS with honors in philosophy and biology, and I joined the combined MD/PhD program at Emory in 2014. I'm now in the graduate phase of training, and I'm excited to be working with the Dilks lab to study multisensory scene perception and mental imagery. Previously, I have trained in a variety of labs in molecular/cellular neuroscience, biochemistry, and animal behavior, and I also completed an honors thesis on the neural basis of human well-being. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, hiking, tennis, yoga, and playing the piano.



Yaxin Liu (C&D)

Originally from China, I lived in Vancouver for one year before I started my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto in 2013, and graduated with Honors Bachelor of Science in psychology and cognitive science in 2017. As an undergraduate researcher during my time at Toronto, I worked with Dr. Ian Spence in the Engineering Psychology Lab exploring sex differences in spatial cognition. I also did my independent project under the supervision of Dr. Katherine Duncan, investigating the learning and memory mechanisms under novelty. My research interests are broad but mostly focus on spatial development, which I am excited to start working on it with Dr. Stella Lourenco at Emory this fall. While I am not in the lab, I enjoy playing musical instruments, observing cats, cooking with friends, and cycling.