

## Yaxin Liu

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### EDUCATION

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**Emory University** 2017 - 2023 (expected)  
Ph.D Candidate in Psychology (Cognition & Development)  
Advisor: Stella F. Lourenco, PhD

**University of Toronto** 2013 - 2017  
Honors B.Sc. Psychology & Cognitive Science, minor in linguistics  
*High Distinction*  
Advisors: Ian Spence, PhD & Katherine Duncan, PhD

### AWARDS, HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

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The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mental Effort Workshop Travel Award	2022
SPSP Graduate Travel Award	2022
Cognitive Development Society Diversity Travel Award	2022
Laney Graduate School Professional Development Research Award (\$2500)	2021
<i>Finalist</i> , Dean's Teaching Fellowship (Technology Enhanced; \$23,831)	2021
SIRE Graduate Fellowship in Social Sciences (\$23,831)	2021
SIRE Fellowship in Natural Sciences (\$8000, declined)	2021
Laney Graduate School Fellowship (\$2500 each year)	2017 - 2022
The Ethel Treble and F Louis Barber Travelling Scholarship (\$2000)	2017
The Regent's Participation Award (\$1000)	2017
Dean's List Scholar, University of Toronto	2014 – 2017
Undergraduate Fellowship, University of Toronto (\$21,700)	2016
The Joseph Wesley MacCallum Scholarship (\$1000)	2016
The Regent's In-course Scholarship (\$1000)	2014

### PUBLICATIONS

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Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (submitted). Trial history influences the malleability of gender differences in children's mental rotation performance. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*

Liu, Y., Ayzenberg, V., & Lourenco, S. F. (submitted). Object geometry serves humans' intuitive physics of stability.

Lourenco, S. F., & Liu, Y. (2023). The Impacts of Anxiety and Motivation on Spatial Performance: Implications for Gender Differences in Mental Rotation and Navigation. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/09637214231153072>

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. (2022).** Affective Factors Affect Visuospatial Decision-making: A Drift Diffusion Modeling Approach. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 44. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9kd457qg>

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2021).** Visual perception of apparent motion follows minimization principles of geometry. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 47(9), 1247-1252. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xhp0000938>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### *Talk presentation*

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2022, July).** Affective factors affect visuospatial decision-making: A drift diffusion modeling approach. Talk presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Toronto, Canada.

### *Poster presentation*

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2022, Nov).** Gender differences of motivation-related effects in childhood. [Poster](#) presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mental Effort Workshop. Brown University, RI.

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2022, May).** Drift diffusion modeling informs visuospatial decision making. [Poster](#) presented at the Vision Sciences Society. St.Pete Beach, FL. <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.22.14.3394>

**Liu, Y., Ayzenberg, V., & Lourenco, S. F. (2022, April).** Children, adults, and machines use the geometric centroids of objects to judge physical stability. [Poster](#) presented at the Cognitive Development Society. Madison, WI.

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2020, July).** Object stability is determined by geometric centroid. Poster presented at the 20th annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society. V-VSS, Online. <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.20.11.1508>

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2019, May).** Perception of Apparent Motion is Constrained by Geometry, not Physics. Poster presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society. St. Pete Beach, FL. <https://doi.org/10.1167/19.10.37b>

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2019, Oct).** Will it fall? The perceptual roots of physical stability in humans. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society. Louisville, KY.

**Liu, Y., & Lourenco, S. F. (2019, June).** Perception of Apparent Motion is Constrained by Geometry, not Physics. Poster presented at the International Conference on Predictive Vision. Toronto, Canada.

Liu, Y., & Banton, S, supervised by Prof. Ian Spence (2015, Mar). *Strategy Use and Spatial Visualization Ability in Mental Rotation*. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Forum, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto.

## DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

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Emory University, Psychology Research Seminar (2022, Oct). *Intuitive physics of object stability is informed by geometry*.

Emory University, Psychology Research Seminar (2021, March). *Attitude or Aptitude? The role of affective factors in mental rotation*.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Lourenco Lab**, Emory University 2017 - Current  
Graduate Student (PI: Dr. Stella Lourenco)

**Duncan Lab**, University of Toronto 2016 – 2017  
Independent Project Student (PI: Dr. Katherine Duncan)

**Engineering Psychology Lab**, University of Toronto 2014 - 2017  
Research Opportunity Student & Research Assistant (PI: Dr. Ian Spence)

**Voice and Resonance Lab**, Rehabilitation Science Institute, University of Toronto 2015 - 2016  
Research Assistant (PI: Dr. Tim Bressmann)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Instructor of Record**  
Scholarly Inquiry and Research Fall 2022, Spring 2023  
Sex and Cognition Summer 2022

**Lab Instructor**  
Probability and Statistics Fall 2021  
Laboratory in Experimental Methods Spring 2019, Spring 2022

**Teaching Assistant**  
Statistics with SPSS Spring 2021  
Cognitive Development Fall 2020  
Introduction to Psychobiology and Cognition Fall 2018, 2019

**Guest Lecturer**  
Cross Cultural Psychology November 2021  
Introduction to Psychobiology and Cognition October 2018

Introduction to Psychology II

March 2018

## **MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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*Graduate Mentor.* Scholarly Inquiry and Research Program 2022  
*Graduate Mentor.* Annual Meetings of CogSci Society July 2022  
*Graduate Mentor,* Emory Undergraduate Journal Club 2020 – 2021  
*Student Mentor,* Research Opportunity Program, University of Toronto 2016-2017

### *Undergraduates mentored*

Mrudhula Nithiyakumar, Research Assistant 2022 - present  
 Argie Dabrowski, Research Assistant 2022 - present  
 Anna Bulka, Research Assistant 2018 - 2019  
 So Ye Han, Research Assistant 2018 - 2020  
 Noyona Mukherji, Research Assistant 2018 - 2019

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Vision Sciences Society (2019 - )  
 Cognitive Development Society (2019 - )  
 Cognitive Science Society (2020 - )  
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (2022 - )  
 Society for Research in Child Development (2022 - )

## **SERVICE**

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*Reviewer.* SURE. Summer Undergraduate Research Program Feb 2023  
*Technical Chair.* 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings of CogSci Society. July 2022  
*Reviewer.* The New School Psychology Bulletin 2021  
*Member.* Curriculum Committee 2021  
*Member.* Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee 2020 - present

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH & ACTIVITIES**

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Graduate Women's Collective, Center for Women, Emory 2021-2022  
*Volunteer,* Fernbank Museum - Adventures in Science Day 2018, 2019  
*Volunteer,* Atlanta Science Festival 2018  
*Graduate Teacher,* Roots & Shoots, Toolmer Elementary School, Atlanta 2017-2018  
*Literacy Tutor,* Chalkfarm Public School, Toronto, Canada 2015  
*Music Therapist,* Fellburn Care Center, BC, Canada 2012-2013

## **EXTRA TRAINING**

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Deep Learning (application based), Neuromatch Academy	2021
Computational neuroscience (application based), Neuromatch Academy	2020
Applied Analysis of Behavior Certification, Geneva Institute of Autism, Toronto	2016
Vision Science Summer School (competitive entry), Center for Vision, York University	2016

## **SKILLS**

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Languages: English (proficient); Mandarin (native); Japanese (intermediate)

Neuroimaging: AFNI

Programming: Python, R, JavaScript, MATLAB, Julia

Stimulus creation and presentation: Illustrator, Photoshop, Unity 3D, Blender 3D, PsychoPy