Elizabeth Jiwon Im

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Education

Stanford University (Stanford, CA) *2024 - Current*
PhD student in Psychology - Neuroscience area
Advisor: Dr. Kalanit-Grill Spector

Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD) *2018 - 2022*
B.A. in Cognitive Science (focal area: computational neuroscience)
B.A. in Medicine, Science, and Humanities
Cumulative GPA 3.85 | Major GPA: 4.00

Research Experience

Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab @JHU (PI: Dr. Leyla Isik) Baltimore, MD
Lab Manager *January 2023 – August 2024*

- Lead research project investigating the developmental trajectory of social perception in publicly-available fMRI movie data
- Analyze fMRI data using Inter-subject correlation (ISC) analysis, Region of Interest analyses and voxel-wise encoding models

Undergraduate Researcher *May 2022- January 2023*

- Annotated different linguistic and speech features in a movie stimulus, and analyzed their contributions to fMRI data to investigate social cognition and better understand how people categorize social scenes
- Trained voxel-wise encoding model with the annotated data to investigate potential new features that may predict social brain activities based on fMRI data

Cognitive Neuroscience Lab @JHU (PI: Dr. Michael McCloskey) Baltimore, MD
Undergraduate Researcher *January 2021 - December 2022*

- Led an independent research on Graphic Motor Plan and investigated whether visual feedback affects or changes the stroke direction when writing
- Developed new stimulus set for participant testing sessions, read current dysgraphia research papers, and analyzed statistical data from 3 participants with dysgraphia in the on-going study and compared the results to that of typical writers
- Tested subjects for the developmental dysgraphia study, communicated with family and prepped for test sessions, learned to score different neuropsychological diagnostic tests

Chen Lab @ JHU (PI: Dr. Janice Chen) Baltimore, MD
Undergraduate Research Assistant *May 2021 – May 2022*

- Dense feature and timestamp labeling for naturalistic movie stimuli interpretability
- Using original Python script, analyzed and extracted data from a naturalistic memory study to categorize actions from movie clips

Lab for the Developing Mind @ NYU (PI: Dr. Moira Dillon) New York, NY (Remote)
Summer Research Assistant *May 2021- July 2021*

- Recruited participants using university-wide lab database *BabyChildTeen* and contacted parents of potential participant babies
- Encoded and labeled children's response for analysis

PSN Lab @ Korea University (PI: Dr. Jiwon Hur) Seoul, South Korea
Summer Research Assistant *July 2020 – August 2020*

- Reviewed 30 research papers for meta-analysis paper on using XR technology in psychiatric treatments for emotion regulation
- Co-Led weekly Python learning sessions for neuroimaging and presented on Emotional Regulation research

Publications

Im, E., Shirahatti, A, and Isik, L. (2025) "Early neural development of social perception: evidence from voxel-wise encoding in young children and adults." *Journal of Neuroscience*

McMahon, E., **Im, E. J.,** Bonner, M., & Isik, L. (2025). A spatiotemporal hierarchy for social interaction perception in the lateral visual stream. (Under review)

McCloskey, M., **Im, E**., Wong, K. W., Luo, E., Updaya, N. Srijomkwan, K., & Chen, C. (2025) *"Effector Independence in Writing." Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*

Research Presentations

Im, E., Shirahatti, A., Isik, L. *"Early neural development of social interaction perception: evidence from voxel-wise encoding in young children and adults"* Presented as at Stanford Computational Cognitive Science Reading Group 2025 (Stanford, CA), *Talk

Im, E., Shirahatti, A., Isik, L. *"Early neural development of social interaction perception: evidence from voxel-wise encoding in young children and adults"* Presented as at Cognitive Computational Conference 2024 (Cambridge, MA), Poster

Im, E., Shirahatti, A., Isik, L. *"Early neural development of social perception: evidence from voxel-wise encoding in young children and adults"* Presented as at Vision Science Society Annual Conference 2024, *Talk

Im, E., Shirahatti, A., Isik, L. *"Investigating the neural development of social scene perception in young children using naturalistic stimuli."* Presented at Seeing and Action Workshop (Coimbra, Portugal) 2023 *Poster and Talk, ANT Neuro Travel Award Winner

Im, E., Shirahatti, A., Isik, L. *"Investigating the neural development of social scene perception in young children using naturalistic stimuli."* Presented at Vision Science Society Annual Conference 2023, Poster

Im, E. & McCloskey, M. *"Examining the effect of visual feedback on English handwriting stroke pattern direction."* Presented at Omega Psi Annual Spring Conference 2022

Im, E. & McCloskey, M. "*Examining the effect of visual feedback on English handwriting stroke pattern direction."* Presented at JHU DREAMS Conference 2022

Honors & Awards

2025	Academic Partnership, Project Aria, Meta
2023	ANT Neuro Travel Award, Seeing and Action Workshop 2023
2022	University General Honors, Johns Hopkins University
2022	Departmental (Cognitive Science) Honors, Johns Hopkins University
2022	*Blue Hatchlings*, JHU Fast Forward U Accelerator Program Seed Grant
2022	Faculty-selected Best Poster, Omega Psi 2022 Spring Conference
2022	Student-voted Favorite Poster, Omega Psi 2022 Spring Conference
2022, 20, 18	Dean's List, Johns Hopkins University
2021	JHU Life Design Lab Summer Funding Award
2020-22	Honors, Omega Psi Cognitive Science Undergraduate Society
2018	Cum Laude Society, Mercersburg Academy
2018	John Mountain Prize for the Best Essay, Mercersburg Academy
2015-17	Honorary Mention, Scholastics Arts and Writing Awards

Academic Position and Service

2025	Academic Research Partner, Project Aria, Meta
2024	Panelist, *Paths to PhD*, Stanford Department of Psychology
2022, Fall	Course Assistant, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Automation*

2021-22	Membership Chair & Board member, *Omega Psi Cognitive Science Undergraduate Society*
2021-22	Mentor, *Omega Psi Cognitive Science Undergraduate Society*

Technical Skills

Pytorch, Cluster computing, Python, MATLAB, R, Bash Scripting, MRICron, Jupyter, Qualtrics, Blender, PyHab, LookIt, Google suite, Microsoft Suite, Figma, Copyediting

Leadership & Volunteering

Blue Hatchlings, Fast Forward U @ JHU Baltimore, MD
Founder *September 2022 – Current*

- Student-led, not-for-profit start-up with an end goal to establish an accessible and affordable childcare center for everyone in the Johns Hopkins University community
- Early childhood education practicum course partner with Teaching and Learning Program at Johns Hopkins University School of Education

Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, MD
Peer Study Consultant *January 2021 - June 2023*

- Advise 2-3 peer students on study habits per semester (weekly study planning and other academic related concerns)
- Selective process, nominated based on GPA, academic strength and character

Freshman Pre-Orientation Leader *August 2022*

- Lead a group of 27 incoming freshmen to help them acclimate to their new environment, navigate resources, organize educational and social activities, and continue to be a part of their support system throughout their first year of college

Camp Charm City, American Diabetes Association Baltimore, MD
Counselor *August 2022*

- Overlooked 7 campers (ages between 10-12) with type-1 diabetes for five days and led activities such as sports and talent show practices
- Mitigated conflicts between campers and helped everyone have a fun time
- Assisted medical staff with the campers' blood sugar and insulin monitoring

Johns Hopkins Tutorial Project Baltimore, MD
Tutor *January 2019 – May 2019*

- Tutored a local elementary student (5th grade) on math and reading, twice a week
- Developed creative approaches for student to enjoy reading and learning process

Child Life Center, Kennedy Krieger Institute @ JHMI Baltimore, MD
Volunteer *September 2018 – January 2018*

- Led art craft sessions on weekends as a part of BelieveInArt, a volunteering group at Johns Hopkins University that brings art classes to serve the local communities in Baltimore

Other Experiences and Selected Literary Publications

Columnist, Johns Hopkins News-Letter 2018 – 2021
Wrote bi-weekly columns for student-run newspaper at Johns Hopkins University on transitioning in time, physical space, and identity

Student Blogger, Communications Intern (DIS Sweden) 2020
Selected through a multi-step selection process to work as a student blogger during a Study Abroad semester in Stockholm, Sweden (https://unicornwrites.travel.blog)

Finalist, The Apprentice Writers Literary Magazine 2018
Non-fiction writing *Here Lies Lobster* selected as the Pennsylvania state representative for a national publication

Author, Fantastic Bird 2018
Wrote and painted accompanying illustration for a children's book, Fantastic Bird