

Elizabeth Jiwon Im

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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

Research Interests

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1. *How do children and teenagers see, and experience, their world differently or similarly beyond traditional lab settings?*
 2. *How does our naturalistic visual and social experience shape the development of functional organization in the brain?*
 3. *How can we leverage biologically plausible models of the brain to help us further understand what is driving such cortical development?*

Publications

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- 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*

Selected Presentations

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- Im, E.**, Grill-Spector, K. "Do you see what I see? Mobile eye-tracking in natural environments reveals selective social-visual engagement and developing visual field biases in children and teens" Presented at Cognitive Computational Conference 2026 (New York City, NY), *Talk
- Im, E.**, Grill-Spector, K. "Do you see what I see? Investigating the development of visual diet in children and teens using mobile eye-tracking in natural environment" Presented at Vision Science Society Annual Conference 2026, *Talk, NEI Travel Grant
- Im, E.**, Shirahatti, A., Isik, L. "Early neural development of social interaction perception: evidence from voxel-wise encoding in young children and adults" Presented 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 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

Selected Honors & Awards

2026	National Eye Institute (NEI) Early Career Scientist Travel Grant 2026
2025	Academic Partnership, Project Aria, Meta
2023	ANT Neuro Travel Award, Seeing and Action Workshop 2023
2022	University General Honors, Johns Hopkins University
2022	<i>Blue Hatchlings</i> , JHU Fast Forward U Accelerator Program Seed Grant
2022	Faculty-selected Best Poster, Omega Psi 2022 Spring Conference

Academic Position and Service

2025-Current	Organizer, Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Journal Club @ Stanford
2025-2026	Graduate Program Committee, Neuroscience Area Student Rep, Stanford Department of Psychology
2024	Panelist, <i>Paths to PhD</i> , Stanford Department of Psychology
2021-22	Membership Chair & Board member, <i>Omega Psi Cognitive Science Undergraduate Society</i>

Selected Experience

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2025 Introduction to Perception @ Stanford	Stanford, CA
- Led weekly sections with ~25 undergrads and held office weekly office hours to explain concepts in Perception - Help conceptualize class projects on Random Dot Stereogram and Visual Illusions	
Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab @JHU (PI: Dr. Leyla Isik)	Baltimore, MD
Lab Manager	<i>January 2023 – August 2024</i>
- Investigated the developmental trajectory of social perception in publicly available fMRI movie data - Analyzed fMRI data using Inter-subject correlation (ISC) analysis, Region of Interest analyses and trained voxel-wise encoding models	
Undergraduate Researcher	<i>May 2022- January 2023</i>
- Annotated different linguistic and speech features in a movie stimulus, and investigated their contributions to fMRI data to 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	<i>January 2021 - December 2022</i>

- Led 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 participants with dysgraphia and compared the results to that of typical writers

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