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Newsletter Ed. April 2019



# EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019-20 APPLICATIONS ARE HERE!

Want to be a part of CSSA's Executive Board next year? Here's your chance to apply for the positions that are available on the board and join the team that plans, manages and executes CSSA's year-round academic, professional and social events.

**APPLY NOW** 

Learn more about available positions



Exec. Board 2018-19

## **COMING UP THIS QUARTER:**

Week 4:

APRIL 25th (Thu) Movie Night: Inception

@CSB 180 6.30-9pm (snacks provided)



What's new in the Cog-Sci world?

The scientific reason why it's hard to be more spontaneous

While many make it their New Year's resolution to be more spontaneous, it's a difficult thing to achieve. However, a new study has proven that some people are genetically more spontaneous than others.

To test this, researchers used magnetic resonance imaging to investigate the brains of people who performed the anti-saccade task, which measures cognitive control. People who are better at the task are said to have greater cognitive control; This means for instance, although it's a natural

#### Week 5:

MAY 1st (Wed)
Board Game Night
(with snacks & midterm supplies)

@Bear room 5-7pm



#### Week 6:

MAY 9th (Thurs)

Resume & LinkedIn Workshop

@Revelle College Room 6.30pm



#### Week 7:

MAY 16th (Thurs)

**Honors Thesis Workshop**<a href="mailto:asserted-norm">asserted-norm</a> 5-6.30pm

Week 8:

MAY 20th (Mon)

**Study Jam** 

@CSB 180 5.30-7pm

inclination to look at a flashing stimulus, people with greater cognitive control would be able to resist doing so out of sheer will.

Researchers found that those with greater cognitive control had stronger prefrontal lobes, which are critical in complex decision making. With this, they concluded that the "the brain operates by competition at least as much as by cooperation," which indicates that though some are hardwired to be less spontaneous than others, they can make up for it through hard work and perseverance.

Learn more

### New app to aid in Alzheimer's diagnosis

Researchers are using data from an app called Sea Hero Quest to help identify individuals at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. In Sea Hero Quest, players make their way through mazes of islands and icebergs which researchers can analyze as a spatial navigation task. In the study, players who are genetically at risk for developing Alzheimer's can be systematically distinguished from all players. This game provides a unique platform for researchers to collect vital data because the global reach of the game allows researchers to quickly gather from 3 million players which would otherwise equate to over 1,700 years' worth of lab-based research. Their work is significant because subtle spatial navigation and awareness



MAY 26th (Sun)
CSSA Banquet for Executive and
Extended Boards:
Announcement of next year's
board, awards and senior send off!
@Dolores Huerta Room (OSC)
4:30-6:30pm

deficits can precede the dementia and Alzheimer's memory-based symptoms by many years. Apps like Sea Hero Quest highlight the power of large-scale citizen science projects and applying big data methods in helping improve early detection of diseases like Alzheimer's.

Read full article



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