

Cristina Bañuelos

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Mellon College of Science, B.S. Neuroscience with a Concentration in Cognitive Neuroscience

August 2015 - May 2019 Graduated with University and College Honors, and Departmental Awards

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Stanford Summer Session, Intracellular Trafficking and Neurodegeneration

June 2017 - August 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Bañuelos, C., & Verstynen, T. (2019). How structural brain network topologies associate with cognitive abilities in a value-based decision-making task. *bioRxiv*, 743245. [[pdf](#)]

Bañuelos, C., Akpovi, E.E., Okungbowa-Ikponmwosa, J., Wright, V., Lopes, A.S. (2018). Statement on Cultural and Structural Competency, Third Revision. Student National Medical Association, Health Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee. [[pdf](#)]

PRESENTATIONS

How structural brain network topologies associate with cognitive abilities in a value-based decision-making task

Cristina Bañuelos, Timothy Verstynen, *Ph.D*

Oral Presentation, Department of Biological Sciences Honors Thesis, May 2019

Structural brain network topologies associate with aspects of value-based decision-making

Cristina Bañuelos, Alexis Porter, Kirk I. Erickson, *Ph.D.*, Timothy Verstynen, *Ph.D.*,

Poster Presentation, Meeting of the Minds, May 2019

**Awarded the First Place Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Award, and*

**Awarded the First Place Psychology Department Poster Competition Award*

Unconscious Thought Affects Racial Judgments on Criminal Cases

Cristina Bañuelos, Manuel Casasnovas, Cecilia Mastrogiacomio

Poster Presentation, Psychology Department Research Methods Competition, April 2019

**Awarded the First Place Research Methods Competition: Social Psychology Award*

Structural brain network topologies associate with aspects of value-based decision-making

Cristina Bañuelos, Alexis Porter, Kirk I. Erickson, *Ph.D.*, Timothy Verstynen, *Ph.D.*,

Poster Presentation, Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference, March 2019

Association between change in microscopic white matter pathways and cardiorespiratory fitness in response to a behavioral weight loss intervention

Porter AG, **Bañuelos, C**, Leckie, RL, Erickson, KI, Rogers, RJ, Jakicic JM, Verstynen, TD

Poster Presentation, Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference, March 2019

Structural brain network topologies associate with aspects of value-based decision-making

Cristina Bañuelos, Alexis Porter, Kirk I. Erickson, Ph.D., Timothy Verstynen, Ph.D,

Poster Presentation, NEURON Conference, February 2019

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Cognitive Axon Lab, Carnegie Mellon University

Lab Manager

May 2019 - Present

- Full-time position responsible for overseeing and writing grants, IRB submissions, appropriate storage and organization of lab data, lab finances, lab website, data collection, and subject payments
- Lead my own project on further understanding obesity and addiction as impairments in value-based decision-making and learning by using cognitive and neural models and data science methods
- Collaborate with other projects by assisting with fMRI data collection and fMRI data preprocessing
- Beginning a lab project to turn all projects collected within the last 5 years to be BIDS compliant

Undergraduate Researcher

May 2018 - May 2019

- Through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship I was awarded a \$3500 scholarship for full-time research throughout the summer to work towards my own research thesis proposal
- Lead my own project on how graph-theoretic structural topology measures associate with aspects of value-based decision-making by using data science methods and techniques
- Worked on a project investigating the integrity of white matter pathways in overweight participants who have undergone exercise and/or diet interventions

Research Assistant

August 2016 - May 2018

- Began on project investigating involvement of brain systems in selecting motor actions and their integration in decision making
- Extensively trained to use neuroimaging techniques such as fMRI, conduct literature reviews, run studies, maintain accurate records, and analyzed data collected and attain a better understanding of the brain mechanisms involved

Stanford Psychophysiology Laboratory, Stanford University

Head Research Assistant

June 2017 - August 2017

- Extensively trained to run studies using EEG, and trained new assistants in the EEG study protocol, cap placement, and EEG software usage for running participants
- Promoted to head research assistant on emotion regulation study, performed extensive data analysis on behavioral data for over 50 participants, and made decisions on the future study directions and experimental designs

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP), West Penn Hospital, Allegheny Health Network

Intern

August 2018 - Present

- Work 10 hours per week during the fall semester, and 5 hours per week during the spring semester
- Oversee daily operations of HELP, screen and enroll patients into the program, orient patients and families to the program and assign appropriate intervention protocols, and collect data and use database to conduct a research project on HELP progress
- Currently conducting new research project on HELP aimed to determine whether our interventions benefit high risk patients who have had extended hospital stays
- Project will be tentatively submitted for publication through a peer-reviewed journal

Volunteer

September 2017 - July 2018

- Worked 4 hours per week during the school year, and 8 hours per week over the summer
- Extensively trained to detect, prevent, and treat delirium, as well as other cognitive impairments such as dementia in elderly patients by administering interventions
- Was continuously available to assist nurses in tasks such as taking vital signs, restocking rooms, answering call lights, and assisting nurses with personal care, medication, promoting patient satisfaction, safety, and education

StuCo: Spanish for Healthcare Professionals (Medical Spanish), Carnegie Mellon University

Instructor, Course Designer

January 2018 - May 2019

- Designed a 3 unit University-accredited course on Spanish medical terminology and health disparities affecting the U.S. Latino population
- Held weekly 1 hour lectures, graded midterm exams, final exams, and weekly homework that I designed for a class of 25 students
- In the process of developing a full 9 unit course taught in the Department of Hispanic Studies with the guidance of Hispanic Studies and Health Professions Program professors

Biological Foundations of Behavior, Carnegie Mellon University

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

January 2018 - May 2018

- Worked 9 hours per week during the school year
- Created questions for the exams, graded exams and finals given in the course, held office hours by appointment, answered questions on material, proctored exams and in class activities

Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP), University of California, Los Angeles, (Now named Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP))

Scholar

June 2016 - July 2016

- Volunteered as a Spanish Translator for families and individuals at the Wilmington Health Fair
- Created a fully functional project addressing health disparities of victims of human trafficking
- Participated in Problem Based Learning classes and Stem Cell Treatment Grand Rounds

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Health Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee, Student National Medical Association *Committee Member*

May 2018 - May 2019

- Advocate for legislative and policy developments affecting medical education and health care through the development and writing of health policy statements by staying up-to-date on the latest developments in policy and legislation affecting medical education and health care
- Co-authored statement on Cultural and Structural Competency published by the SNMA

Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS), Carnegie Mellon University *President*

May 2017 - May 2018

- Diligently supervised the entire organization, ensuring the achievement of all goals, created agenda for 11-person Executive Board meetings, oversaw all committees and executive board members activities, as well as the financial status of chapter
- Professionally executed duty of liaison with national and campus contacts to publicize organization and work towards mission
- Created the organizations first [website](#) that showcases events, people, and mission

Treasurer

May 2016 - May 2017

- Managed all monetary funds of the organization by maintaining and creating a yearly budget
- Managed all funding proposals and grants in JFC process, and proposed allocation of funds

Freshmen Representative

September 2015 - May 2016

- Responsible for publicizing events, finding new members, and engaging Freshmen class members

Spanish And Latin Student Association (SALSA), Carnegie Mellon University *Vice President*

May 2016 - May 2017

- Oversaw planning of large-scale events with the President, ensured that meetings stayed on track with the set agendas

Co-Dance Coordinator

May 2016 - May 2019

- Coordinated rehearsals and dance routine for the SALSA Ballet Folklorico dance group that performed annually at Carnegie Mellon's Noche Latina

Coaching Minority Progress & Academic Success in Science (CoMPASS), Carnegie Mellon University *Mentor*

May 2016 - May 2019

- Mentored 2 freshmen every year to improve the retention rate and success of minorities in science

Neuroscience Student Advisory Council & Nu Rho Psi Honor Society, Carnegie Mellon Univ. *Service and Outreach Chair*

May 2016 - May 2017, May 2018 - May 2019

- Organized and oversaw all service events and projects as well as all outreach events within CMU and the Pittsburgh area, such as fundraisers, bake sales, courses for young children, and tabling with interactive neuroscience activities for outreach events

HONORS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Spring 2019	Department of Biological Sciences Honors Thesis Oral Presentation
Spring 2019	Department of Biological Sciences Departmental Award for Academic Excellence
Spring 2019	Mellon College of Science College Honors
Spring 2019	Carnegie Mellon University Honors
Spring 2019	First Place Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Award (\$800)
Spring 2019	First Place Psychology Department Poster Competition Award (\$150)
Spring 2019	First Place Research Methods Competition: Social Psychology Award
Spring 2019	Senior Leadership Recognition Award
Spring 2019	Carnegie Mellon Nu Rho Psi Travel Award (\$200)
Spring 2019	Mellon College of Science Dean's Travel Award (\$500)
Fall 2018	Andrew Carnegie Society Scholar Award (\$1,500)
Spring 2018	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (\$3,500)
Fall 2017	Mortar Board Honors Society
Fall 2017	Nu Rho Psi Honor Society
Fall 2017	Psi Chi Honor Society
2017-2019	Wadsworth Carnegie Mellon Scholarship (\$7,000)
2017-2019	Latinos in Technology Scholarship (\$12,000)
2017-2019	Mellon College of Science Dean's List High Honors
Spring 2016	Mellon College of Science Dean's List
2015-2019	Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship (\$6,000)
2015-2019	10,000 Degrees Scholarship (\$14,000)
2015-2016	PG&E PSA Scholarship (\$1,000)