

Drew M Altschul

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts
M.S. Neuroscience, 2010

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts
B.S. Brain and Cognitive Sciences, 2008

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, New York, NY
Lab Manager, with Prof. Herbert S. Terrace

June 2010 - present

Manage all aspects of short and long term lab activities, including the design and implementation of research, writing articles, protocols, and presentations, animal handling and management, data analysis, recruiting students and volunteers, and coordinating their duties and projects in the lab.

Cognitive Ethology Research Group/Baboon Research Unit, Cape Town, South Africa
Field Assistant, with Dr. Rahel Noser

September 2009 - April 2010

Worked with a multinational research group to collect data from free ranging baboons surrounding Cape Town in order construct solutions to problems with baboon-human conflict in the region. Everyday work included design and execution of playback experiments, recording animal vocalizations, GPS tracking of foraging patterns, and behavioral and population scanning of entire troops.

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Rotation Student

August 2008 - May 2009

Practiced behavioral, systems, and cellular neurobiology techniques, developed novel experiments and methods, analyzed behavioral and physiological data.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant, with Prof. Earl Miller

May 2006 - May 2008

Work included animal handling, behavioral training, task design and data analysis, MRI analysis, electrode array construction and subsequent recording.

Willamette University, Salem, OR
Research Assistant, with Dr. Jeff Willemsen

May 2003 - August 2003

Interned in an organic chemistry research lab, where I performed chemical syntheses of various compounds in the cyclophane family of organic molecules.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Teaching Assistant for Animal Behavior

September 2007 - January 2008

Served as the students' individual gateway to understanding course material. Duties included grading assignments, writing assignments and quizzes, advising students on term paper topics and research, and being accessible to students.

SKILLS

- Programming/Scripting Languages: proficient with Python, R, C, REALbasic, Scheme, and L^AT_EX, familiar with Java, JavaScript, HTML, XML, PHP, Basic, MySQL and Pascal
- Computer Applications: MATLAB, LabVIEW, SPSS, Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office or equivalent
- Operating Systems: Windows, Linux/Unix, Mac OS X
- IT: multipurpose server administration, computer hardware assembly and upkeep
- Electrical Engineering: analog, digital, and power electronics circuit design, soldering, and wiring
- Audio Engineering: recording, editing, and analysis in the studio and field for use in scientific, musical, and audiobook projects
- Over-the-Air Radio Engineering: 3 years experience in live broadcasting
- Animal Handling: 2 years handling and behavioral training of rhesus macaques, plus additional exposure to rats, ferrets, and wild primates. Responsibilities have included training the animals in complex visual and motor tasks and transporting them to and from housing on a daily basis
- Graphic Design: iPhone app icon and layout design, website design consultation

PUBLICATIONS

Jensen, G., Altschul, D., Danly, E., Terrace, H.S. (2013) Rhesus macaques use a common representation space to solve distinct problems. *PLoS One*.

Jensen, G., Altschul, D., Terrace, H. (2013). Monkeys would rather see and do: preference for agentic control in rhesus macaques. *Experimental Brain Research*, 1-14.

Avdagic, E., Jensen, G., Altschul, D., Terrace, H. (2013) Rapid Cognitive Flexibility of Rhesus Macaques Performing Psychophysical TaskSwitching. *Manuscript submitted for publication*.

Morgan, V., Altschul, D.M., Terrace H.S., (2013) Strategic and graduated metacognitive judgments by monkeys. *Manuscript submitted for publication*.