

Jiachuan Wang

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SUMMARY:

I have broad interests in computational and cognitive neuroscience, with a focus on understanding the mechanisms underlying animal learning and memory, and the overarching goal of building models of the mind. Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. at the National University of Singapore, where I develop biologically plausible models of spatial learning and associative memory. During my undergraduate studies at Zhejiang University and the University of Edinburgh, I contributed to fMRI research on human cognition and the monkey connectome.

EDUCATION:

National University of Singapore

Ph.D. student in Medicine

Neuroscience track and Biostatistics, Bioinformatics & Epidemiology track

Singapore

Aug. 2023 – Present

Zhejiang University

B.S. in Bioinformatics

Hangzhou, China

Sep. 2019 – Jun. 2023

The University of Edinburgh

B.S. (Hons) in Biomedical Informatics

Edinburgh, UK

Sep. 2019 – May. 2023

GRANTS & AWARDS:

NUS Research Scholarship

National University of Singapore

Aug. 2023 – Present

Outstanding Graduates of Zhejiang University

Zhejiang University

May. 2023

Zhejiang University Scholarship

Zhejiang University

Dec. 2022

Academic Scholarship (¥40,000)

ZJU-UoE Institute

Dec. 2022

2021 Student Research Training Program Funding (¥1,200)

Zhejiang University

Mar. 2021 – May. 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

The N.1 Institute for Health, National University of Singapore

Graduate Researcher;

Advisors: Andrew Tan, Camilo Libedinsky, Shih-Cheng Yen; Collaborator:

Jai Polepalli

Singapore

Sep. 2023 – Present

Computational models of biologically plausible synaptic plasticity in neural networks

- Implemented spatial learning models based on spike response model and temporal difference error-modulated STDP rule.
- Developed a representation learning model with Hebbian learning in the entorhinal cortex-to-dentate gyrus pathway, replicating the pattern separation behavior.

Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences, The University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, UK

Rotated student; Advisor: Gediminas Lukšys

Mar. 2022 – Aug. 2023

Multi-voxel pattern analysis of human emotion and memory guided by Neurosynth (Final year project)

- Performed brain mapping on emotional dimensions and memory retrieval performance in a picture task.
- Conducted a comparison of decoding capability using brain region information obtained from real fMRI data and a meta-analysis database.

Computational model-based analysis of spatial navigation strategies under stress and uncertainty using place and border cells

- Conducted behavioral analysis, performance assessment, and parameter estimation of a spatial navigation reinforcement learning model in the Morris Water Maze.

School of Brain Science and Brain Medicine, Zhejiang University

Hangzhou, China

Rotated student; Advisor: Zhiping Wang

Jan. 2022 – Sep. 2022

Jun. 2020 – Aug. 2020

The role of protein quality control (PQC) regulator UBE4B on the neurodevelopment of mammalian hippocampus

- Interpreted label-free quantification data and performed enrichment analysis. One publication.

Interdisciplinary Institute of Neuroscience and Technology, Zhejiang University

Hangzhou, China

Rotated student; Advisor: Anna Wang Roe

Apr. 2021 – Oct. 2021

Visualization software development of functional magnetic resonance data analysis results

- Developed a web-based fMRI data viewer, running on the public server of Zhejiang University.
- Assisted in animal preparations and recorded 5 infrared neural stimulation-fMRI experiments on the amygdala of juvenile monkeys.

SERVICE:

National University of Singapore

Graduate teaching assistant

- Beginning Artificial Intelligence Through Neuroscience *Fall 2024*
- LSM4213 Systems Neurobiology *Fall 2024*

Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA)

Programme Representative (Biomedical Informatics)

2021 – 2022

ASSOCIATIONS:

- ALBA Network

TALKS & POSTERS:

- **Wang, J.**, Shetru Jagadeesh, V., Kumar, M. G., Libedinsky, C., Yen, S.-C., Tan, A. Y.-Y. and Polepall, J. S. A biologically plausible reinforcement learning model for the causal relationship between hippocampal Hebbian plasticity and pattern separation in memory. Poster presentation delivered at the **NeuroFrontiers: Bridging Molecules, Minds, and AI Systems Symposium**, Singapore, January, 2025.

- Qiu, Y., Wang, S., **Wang, J.**, Zhu, W., Cheng, Y., Aydemir, B., Gerstner, W., Sandi, C. and Luksys, G. Computational model-based analysis of spatial navigation strategies under stress and uncertainty using place, distance and border cells. PS03-27AM-195. Poster presentation delivered at the **Federation of European Neuroscience Societies** Forum 2024, Vienna, Austria, June, 2024.

- Wang, S., **Wang, J.**, Zhu, W., Cheng, Y., Aydemir, B., Qiu, Y., Gerstner, W., Sandi, C. and Luksys, G. Computational model-based analysis of spatial navigation strategies under stress and uncertainty using place, distance and border cells. Program No. 235.23. 2023 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. Poster presentation delivered at the **Society for Neuroscience** meeting, Washington, D.C., November, 2023.

- Wang, S., Qiu, Y., Cheng, Y., **Wang, J.**, Zhu, W., Aydemir, B., Gerstner, W., Sandi, C. and Luksys, G. Computational model-based analysis of spatial navigation strategies under stress and uncertainty using place, distance and border cells. Poster presentation delivered at the 50th Meeting of the **European Brain and Behaviour Society**, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August, 2023.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Kong, X., Shu, X., **Wang, J.**, Liu, D., Ni, Y., Zhao, W., Wang, L., Gao, Z., Chen, J., Yang, B., Guo, X. and Wang, Z. (2022) Fine-tuning of mTOR signaling by the UBE4B-KLHL22 E3 ubiquitin ligase cascade in brain development. *Development*. doi: 10.1242/dev.201286.
- Zhang, L., Ma, X., Wu, Z., Liu, J., Gu, C., Zhu, Z., **Wang, J.**, Shu, W., Li, K., Hu, J. and Lv, X. (2022) Prevalence of ground glass nodules in preschool children: a cross-sectional study. *Translational pediatrics*. doi: 10.21037/tp-22-465.

SKILLS:

- **Languages:** Mandarin (native), English
- **Programming Languages:** Python, R, PostgreSQL, Bash. Basics of: C/C++, Java.
- **Applications:** ITK-SNAP, COPASI, IGV, PyMOL, Git, \LaTeX