

Kathy Garcia

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EDUCATION

- 2022 - Present Johns Hopkins University
Ph.D. in Computational Cognitive Science | GPA: 4.0/4.0
M.A. in Computational Cognitive Science | 2024 | GPA: 4.0/4.0
Advisor: Leyla Isik
- 2013 - 2017 Stanford University
B.S. in Science, Technology, and Society

EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - Present **Graduate Researcher | Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab**
Johns Hopkins University
PI: Leyla Isik
Exploring computational models for dynamic and social visual perception by assessing diverse Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) against the lateral visual stream's response to naturalistic videos, and analyzing their hierarchical alignment with brain regions like the superior temporal sulcus (STS).
- 2020 - 2021 **Research Fellow | NU-IN Postbaccalaureate Research Research Program**
Northwestern University
PI: Robin Nusslock
Developed machine learning models for predicting dimensional symptoms of psychopathology from task-based fMRI using support vector regression, and clustering dimensional symptoms of psychopathology and related cognitive effects.
- 2019 - 2020 **Staff Research Associate | TMS Clinic and Research Program**
University of California, Los Angeles
PIs: Andrew Leuchter, David Krantz, Kate Marder, Reza Tadayon-Nejad
Assisted in clinical and technical procedures to facilitate doctors and researchers to provide repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) treatment, and pioneered an automated data processing algorithm to reduce patient data processing time from 20 minutes to 1 second per patient while eliminating human error.

2017 - 2018 **Data Scientist & KDB+/Q Engineer | KX Systems/First Derivatives**
 Collaborated with a team of consultants to implement kdb+/q framework for major US financial institutions, migrating an existing multi-region financial trade data capture and enrichment system involving combined static and real-time data source handling.

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **Garcia, K.**, Conwell, C., McMahon, E., Bonner, M.F., Isik, L. **Modeling Dynamic Social Vision Reveals Gaps Between Deep Learning and the Human Brain.** Talk and poster presentation at the annual meeting for the LatinX in AI Workshop at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML): July 2024
- 2024 **Garcia, K.**, Conwell, C., McMahon, E., Bonner, M.F., Isik, L. **Large-scale Deep Neural Network Benchmarking in Dynamic Social Vision.** Talk presentation at the annual meeting for the Vision Sciences Society (VSS): May 2024
- 2021 **Garcia, K.**, Anderson, Z., Chat, I. K., Damme, K., Bookheimer, S.Y., Zinbarg, R., & Craske, M., Nusslock, R. Predicting Dimensional Symptoms of Psychopathology from Task-Based fMRI using Support Vector Regression. Poster presented at the annual meeting for the Society for Neuroscience (SFN): January 2021
- 2020 **Garcia, K.** Review Discussion on MVPA Methods, Principles of fMRI Course, Evanston, IL. Oral Presentation: July 2020
- 2019 **Garcia, K.** & Pace, C. Brain and Emotions for Children, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Los Angeles, CA. Oral Presentation: 2019

HONORS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024 ICML 2024 LatinX in AI Workshop Best Oral Presentation Award
- 2024 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2024 Females of Vision et al. (FoVea) Travel and Networking Award
- 2022 Johns Hopkins University Keller Miller Fellowship
- 2020 Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience Research Fellowship
- 2017 Stanford University El Centro Latino Acknowledgement Undergraduate with Academic Honors
- 2016 Bay Area Graduate Pathways to STEM Symposium Trainee
- 2016 Stanford University Leadership Intensive Program Recipient

2013	Miguel Contreras Learning Complex Valedictorian
2013	Carnegie Mellon Celebration of Diversity Weekend Travel Awardee
2012	QuestBridge College Prep Scholar

TEACHING

Spring 2024	<p>Johns Hopkins University Role: Teaching Assistant Course: Cognitive Neuropsychology of Visual Perception Lecture Instructor: Michael McCloskey <i>Prepared and graded exams and assignments</i></p>
Fall 2023	<p>Johns Hopkins University Role: Teaching Assistant Course: Cognitive Neuroimaging Methods in High-Level Vision Lecture Instructor: Donald Li <i>Prepared and graded quizzes and assignments</i></p>
Spring 2023	<p>Johns Hopkins University Role: Teaching Assistant Course: Reading the Mind: Computational Cognitive Neuroscience of Vision Lecture Instructor: Donald Li <i>Prepared and graded quizzes and assignments</i></p>
Fall 2020	<p>Splash at Northwestern University Role: Teacher <i>Designed, programmed, and instructed an introductory course and exploration to high school students on the facets of recreating human intelligence in artificial systems through guiding principles in neuroscience, cognitive science, and artificial intelligence, with a focus on limitations, progress, and emerging methods.</i></p>

SERVICE & OUTREACH

2023 - Present	<p>Student Lead Diversity and Representation Committee (DRC) <i>Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University</i> Organized and facilitated departmental initiatives aimed at increasing representation and promoting equity for individuals from minoritized groups at every level within the department, making the department climate more welcoming and safe for everyone, especially underrepresented groups in science, and taking school-wide and university-wide action to support anti-racist groups and policies.</p>
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- 2022 - Present **Student Representative | Graduate Representative Organization (GRO)**
Johns Hopkins University
 Student representative for the Department of Cognitive Science
- 2016 - 2017 **Intern Volunteer | Youth Policy Institute**
Partnership with Stanford HAAS Center for Public Service
 Advisor: Dixon Slingerland
 Fostered STEM learning environments for children across low-income communities of Los Angeles in areas such as health & wellness and computer science by introducing many to logical online games that provide the basis for computer programming
- 2016 - 2017 **Member | Stanford Latinos Unidos**
Stanford University
 Organized community outreach programs across the university to cultivate a more inclusive, diverse, and united Latinx community on campus, through social and cultural events about the various Latin American celebrations, our rich history, literature, art, and diverse community.
- 2016 - 2017 **Co-Founder & President | Stanford Latinx Business Association**
Stanford University
 Created and facilitated a student group focused on promoting diversity in corporations by building partnerships, finding community, and providing mentorship for underrepresented minorities, with a particular focus on members of the Latinx community who are interested in business, technology, and engineering.