

Education

- **PhD student in Cognitive and Information sciences.** **2018 - present**
University of California Merced
- **MA in Interdisciplinary Humanities** **2015 - 2018**
University of California Merced
Current GPA: 4.0
- **B.Sc. in Archaeology** **2010 - 2014**
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
Total GPA: 3.85 / 4.0
- **B.A. in Literature and Linguistics** **2008 - 2012**
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
Total GPA: 3.84 / 4.0

Editorial Experience

- 2021** Writing tutor for graduate students, University of California, Merced.
- 2019** Collaborated in editing and proofreading the following academic publication:
Jennings, C. (2020). *The Attending Mind*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108164238

Teaching Assistant Experience

- 2020** Critical Reasoning, Dr. Hicks.
- 2019** Neuroscience of Consciousness, Dr. Carolyn Dicey Jennings. *In this course, I helped students write academic papers.*
- 2019** Introduction to philosophy, Dr. Johansson.
- 2018** Contemporary moral issues in philosophy, Dr. David Jennings. *In this course, I helped students write academic papers.*

- 2018** Introduction to Cognitive Science, Dr. Michael Spivey.
- 2017** Introduction to Cognitive Science, Dr. Paul Smaldino.
- 2017** History of Anthropological Thought and Practice, Dr. Annith Hundle. *In this course, I helped students write academic papers.*
- 2016** Human Origins, Dr. Heather Jarrell. *In this course, I helped students write academic papers.*
- 2016** Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology, Dr. Robin Delugan.
- 2015** Introduction to Cognitive Science, Dr. Benjamin Pageler.
- 2015** Introduction to Cognitive Science, Dr. Michael Spivey.

Reviews

- 2021** Journal reviewer for *Developmental Science*

Publications

Jennings, C. D., **Tabatabaeian, S.**, [Attention, Technology, and Creativity](#) (Part of the essay collection from the 2021 History of Science Workshop at Princeton on the theme of Attention, to be published in 2022).

Tabatabaeian, S., Holbrook, C. & Jennings, D. C. (2019). A re-examination of the interrelationships between attention, eye behavior, and creative thought. In A.K. Goel, C.M. Seifert, & C. Freksa (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (p. 3590). Montreal, QB: Cognitive Science Society.

Lobato, E. J. C., **Tabatabaeian, S.**, Fleming, M., Sulzmann, S., & Holbrook, C. (2019). Religiosity Predicts Evidentiary Standards. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550619869613>

Tabatabaeian, S., & Jennings, C. D. (2018). Toward a neurophysiological foundation for altered states of consciousness [commentary on "The cultural evolution of shamanism," by Manvir Singh. *Behavioral and brain sciences*, 41, E87. doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X17002187

Online Publications

Tabatabaeian, S. (2019, August 6). Creativity in light of darkness [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://xphiblog.com/creativity-in-light-of-darkness/>

Tabatabaeian, S. (2018). Eyes in the Dark: Using Eye-Tracking Technology to Investigate the Effects of Darkness on Human Cognition and Implications for Cave Archaeology (Master's Thesis). Available from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database. (ProQuest ID: Tabatabaeian_ucmerced_1660M_10370).

Posters and Presentations

- 2021** **Tabatabaeian, S.,** Deluna, A., Landy D., Marghetis, T. (October). *Mathematical insight within the distributed system of brain-body-blackboard*. Talk to be presented in Complexity and Cognition (CompCog), a satellite of the Conference on Complex Systems (CCS), Lyon, France.
- 2020** **Tabatabaeian, S.** (October). *The missing link: a new account of the link between creative cognition and altered states of consciousness*. Paper presented at the 6th meeting of the Society for the Neuroscience of Creativity (SfNC).
- 2018** **Tabatabaeian, S.** (April). *Potential Links between Eye-movement Trajectories and Creative Thought*. Poster presented at the tenth annual California Cognitive Science Conference (CCSC), University of California, Berkeley.
- 2017** **Tabatabaeian, S.** (December). *Effects of Darkness on Perceptual and Cognitive Processes: creativity enhancement*. Paper presented at the 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC.
- 2017** **Tabatabaeian, S.** (April). *Can Eye-movements Reveal Abstract and Divergent Thinking?* Paper presented at the Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Conference at University of California, Merced.
- 2016** Guest lecturer, "Creative Thinking in Class Environment" for Pedagogy (IH 203), University of California, Merced.
- 2016** Guest lecturer, "Introducing Cognitive Anthropology" for The History of Anthropological Thought (ANTH 100), University of California, Merced.

Research Experience

- 2021** **Conducted data analyses** using measures of information theory and system instability to investigate the dynamics of interactions with inscriptions in the lead-up to mathematical insight, in collaboration with Dr. Tyler Marghetis, UC Merced.
- 2021** **Conducted Comprehensive Review** on “attention and creative cognition,” in collaboration with Dr. Carolyn Dicey Jennings, UC Merced.
- 2020** **Designed Experiment and conducted data analyses** investigating the effects of physical threat on creative cognition, in collaboration with Dr. Colin Holbrook, Evolab, UC Merced.
- 2019** **Conducted Comprehensive Review** on “The link between neural correlates of creative cognition and altered states of consciousness,” in collaboration with of Dr. Carolyn Dicey Jennings, UC Merced.
- 2019** **Designed and Conducted Virtual Reality Experiment** investigating the effects of domain-specific threat on emotion appraisal, in collaboration with Dr. Colin Holbrook, Evolab, UC Merced.
- 2018** **Designed and Conducted Experiments** using eye-tracking method to examine the relationship between eye movement trajectories and enhanced performance in a creative idea generation task. Under the supervision of Professor Colin Holbrook, Evolab, UC Merced.
- 2017** **Designed and Conducted Experiments** using eye-tracking method to isolate the effects of ambient darkness on human perception and cognition. Under the supervision of Professor Rick Dale, Cognaction lab, UC Merced.

Honors and Awards

- 2021** Awarded Graduate Student Opportunity Program (\$45000). University of California, Merced.
- 2021** John Templeton Foundation grant (\$30,000) for “A beginner’s guide to neural mechanism,” a project that aims to provide online and open-access academic videos on

topics of neuroscience and philosophy, in collaboration with Fabrizio Calzavarini, Zina Ward, Nick Byrd, and Rafael Gerraty.

- 2021** John Templeton Foundation grant (\$8000) for “No Need to Go It Alone: Ecologically Valid Studies of Group Reasoning,” in collaboration with Daina Carafa, Nick Byrd, Austin Baker, and Trey Boone.
- 2019** Fellowship (\$1000) in the Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy (SSNAP), Duke University.
- 2014** Graduated with honor as the top student in both Archaeology and Literature and Linguistics, University of Tehran.
- 2014** Ranked 1st among the nation in the entrance exam of Archeology graduate programs.
- 2010-14** Granted the annual top student scholarship of Archeology program at University of Tehran four years in a row.
- 2009** Granted the fellowship of Iranian Young Scholars Club.
- 2008** Winner of the gold medal in the National Olympiad of Literature and Linguistics. (ranked 1st among 25,000 participants)

Skills

Programming Languages: R, Python, MATLAB

Techniques: Data Analysis, Experimental Design

Tools: Eye Tracking, Virtual Reality

Languages: French, English, Farsi