

# YI-CHIA CHEN

yichiachen@g.ucla.edu | <https://ycc.vision>

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020–Present    Postdoctoral Scholar, University of California, Los Angeles (Advisor: Hongjing Lu)

2017–2019      Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University (Advisor: George Alvarez)

## EDUCATION

2017      Yale University      Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology (Advisor: Brian Scholl)

2011      National Taiwan University      B.S. in Psychology (Advisor: Su-Ling Yeh)

## PUBLICATIONS

Kramer, L. E., Chen, Y. -C., Long, B., Konkle, T., & Cohen, M. R. (preprint). Contributions of early and mid-level visual cortex to high-level object categorization. *bioRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.05.31.541514>

Chen, Y. -C., Fu, S., Feng, D., Taylor, M., Chang, J., Chi, X., & Lu, H. (under review). Prototype preference is a principle of aesthetics for real-world scene perception.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (under review). Foundations of social perception: Eye contact or ‘mind contact’?

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2024). Perceived gaze dynamics in social interactions can alter (and even reverse) the perceived temporal order of events. *Cognition*, 247:105745, 1–8.

Chen, Y. -C., Pollick, F. E., & Lu, H. (2023). Aesthetic preferences for prototypical movements in human actions. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 8:55, 1–13.

Chen, Y. -C., Pollick, F. E., Lu, H. (2022). Aesthetic preferences for causality in biological movements arise from visual processes. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 29, 1803–1811.

Chen, Y. -C., Deza, A., & Konkle, T. (2022). How big should this object be? Perceptual influences on viewing-size preferences. *Cognition*, 225:105114, 1–11.

Chen, Y. -C., Chang, A., Rosenberg, M. D., Feng, D., Scholl, B. J., & Trainor, L. J. (2022). "Taste typicality" is a foundational and multi-modal dimension of ordinary aesthetic experience. *Current Biology*, 32, 1837–1842.

Forman, I. R., Chen, Y. -C., Scholl, B. J., & Alvarez, G. A. (2021). The center cannot hold: Variations of frame width help to explain the 'inward bias' in aesthetic preferences. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 83, 2151–2158.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). 'Gaze deflection' reveals how gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the eyes. *Proceedings of the National Academy of the United States of America*, 117, 19825–19829.

Yousif, S. R., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Systematic angular biases in the representation of visual space. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 82, 3124–3143.

Chen, Y. -C., Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Looking into the future: An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. *Cognition*, 176, 209–214.

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2016). The perception of history: Seeing causal history in static shapes induces illusory motion perception. *Psychological Science*, 27, 923–930.

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2014). Seeing and liking: Biased perception of ambiguous figures consistent with the 'inward bias' in aesthetic preferences. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 21, 1444–1451.

Chen, Y. -C., & Yeh, S. -L. (2012). Look into my eyes and I will see you: Unconscious processing of human gaze. *Consciousness & Cognition*, 21, 1703–1710.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Chen, Y. -C., Pollick, F., & Lu, H. (2021). Aesthetic experience is influenced by causality in biological movements. Talk presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the *Cognitive Science Society (CogSci)*, 7/28, World Wide Web, Earth.

Deza, A., Chen, Y. -C., Long, B., & Konkle, T. (2019). Accelerated texforms: Alternative methods for generating unrecognizable object images with preserved mid-level features. Poster presented at the *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)*, 9/15, Berlin, Germany.

Huang, T. -H., Kao, C. -T, Chen, Y. -C., Yeh, S. -L., & Chen, H. H. (2012). A visibility model for quality assessment of dimmed images. Poster presented at the *International Workshop on Quality of Multimedia Experience (QoMEX)*, 7/06, Yarra Valley, Australia.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Chen, Y. -C., Fu, S., Feng, D., Taylor, M., Chang, J., Chi, X., & Lu, H. (2023). The prototype effect in aesthetic preferences for visual scenes: A computational account. Poster presented at the 2023 Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/22, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.  
[*National Eye Institute Early Career Scientist Travel Grant*]

Yun, Y., Fu, S., Chen, Y. -C., Lu, H. (2023). Force representations support social perception of moving shapes. Poster presented at the 2023 Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/24, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Chang, J., Chen, Y.-C., Lu, H. (2022). What do we see in a reflection? Seeing chirality correlates with aesthetic experience. Poster presented at the 2022 Virtual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (V-VSS)*, 6/1, World Wide Web, Earth.

Chen, Y. -C., Pollick, F. E., & Lu, H. (2022). What makes an elegant walk: Aesthetic preferences for prototypical movements in human walking actions. Talk given at the 2022 Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/16, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Fu, S., Chen, Y. -C., Colombatto, C., Lu, H. (2022). Visual impressions of social avoidance from moving shapes. Poster presented at the 2022 Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/14, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Chen, Y. -C., Pollick, F. E., & Lu, H. (2021). Aesthetic experience is influenced by causality in biological movements. Poster presented at the 2021 Virtual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (V-VSS)*, 5/24, World Wide Web, Earth.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Gazing to look vs. gazing to think: Gaze cueing is modulated by the perception of others' external vs. internal attention. Poster presented at the 2021 Virtual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (V-VSS)*, 5/23, World Wide Web, Earth.

Chen, Y. -C., Deza, A., & Konkle, T. (2020). How big should this object be? Perceptual influences on viewing-size preferences. Poster presented at the 2020 Virtual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (V-VSS)*, 6/19-24, World Wide Web, Earth.  
[*Postdoc Travel Award*]

Chen, Y. -C., Deza, A., & Konkle, T. (2020). How big should this object be? Perceptual influences on viewing-size preferences. Talk given at the 6th *Visual Properties Driving Visual Preference (VPDVP)* Workshop, 6/12, World Wide Web, Earth.

Chen, Y. -C., Chang, A., Rosenberg, M. D., Scholl, B. J., & Trainor, L. J. (2019). Are you the sort of person who would like this? Quantifying the typicality of aesthetic taste across seeing and hearing. Talk given at the 2019 Annual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/20, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Yousif, S. R., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Systematic biases in the representation of visual space. Poster presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/20, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Chen, Y. -C., Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Looking into the future: An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/23, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Yousif, S., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). The origin of spatial biases: Memory, perception, or action? Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/23, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the gaze: Investigations of 'gaze deflection'. Talk given at the 2018 Annual Meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/19, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). Gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the gaze: Investigations of 'gaze deflection'. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *European Conference on Visual Perception (EVP)*, 8/29, Berlin, Germany.

Chen, Y. -C., Raila, H., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). Sad minds seeking happy stimuli: Trait happiness predicts how quickly happy faces reach visual awareness. Poster presented at the annual meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/23, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Raila, H., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). Unhappy people quickly promote happy faces into awareness. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the *Society for Affective Science (SAS)*, 4/29, Boston, MA, USA.

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2015). Seeing history: The perception of causal history induces illusory motion perception in static shapes. Talk presented at the *Asia-Pacific Conference on Vision (APCV)*, 7/11, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.  
[Student Travel Award]

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2015). The perception of history: Seeing causal history in static shapes is powerful enough to induce illusory motion perception. Poster presented at the annual meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/19, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2014). Aesthetic influences on visual awareness?: An 'inward bias' in inattention blindness. Talk presented at the *Asia-Pacific Conference on Vision (APCV)*, 7/21, Takamatsu, Japan.  
[Student Travel Award]

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2014). Seeing and liking from the outside in: Consistent inward biases in visual perception and aesthetic preferences. Poster presented at the annual meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/17, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.  
[Best Student Poster Award]

Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2013). Seeing and liking: Biased perception of ambiguous figures based on aesthetic preferences for how objects should face within a frame. Poster presented at the annual meeting of *Vision Sciences Society (VSS)*, 5/10, Naples, FL, USA.

Chen, Y. -C., & Yeh, S. -L. (2011). Dissociating attention and audiovisual integration in the sound-facilitatory effect on metacontrast masking. Poster presented at the *International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF)*, 10/19, Fukuoka, Japan.  
[*Fee Exemption Award*]

Chen, Y. -C., & Yeh, S. -L. (2011). Orienting or intention? Unconscious processing of human gaze. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC)*, 6/12, Kyoto, Japan.  
[*Travel Award*]

## HONORS

*National Eye Institute Early Career Scientist Travel Grant (2023)*  
Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, Florida

*Postdoc Travel Award (2020)*  
Vision Sciences Society, World Wide Web, Earth

*Student Travel Award (2015)*  
Asia-Pacific Conference on Vision, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

*Best Student Poster Award (2014)*  
Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, Florida

*Student Travel Award (2014)*  
Asia-Pacific Conference on Vision, Takamatsu, Japan

*Studying Abroad Scholarship (2012)*  
Taiwan Ministry of Education, Taiwan

*Fee Exemption Award (2011)*  
International Multisensory Research Forum, Fukuoka, Japan

*Fa-yu Zheng Memorial Scholarship Fund (2011)*  
Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University

*Bachelor Thesis Award of College of Science (2011)*  
College of Science, National Taiwan University

*Travel Award (2011)*

Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Kyoto, Japan

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

### External Presentations

- 2023/05/04 Smart vision: Seeing beauty, causality, and social intention. (talk)  
Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2022/01/25 Smart vision: Seeing beauty, causality, and intention. (talk)  
The Causality in Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.
- 2020/11/03 Aesthetic experiences: Why do we like what we like? (guest lecture)  
Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2020/03/24 Why do we like what we like? Visual perception & individual differences in aesthetic experiences. (talk)  
The Perception & Cognition Lab, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- 2019/11/22 Why do we like what we like? Visual perception & individual differences in aesthetic experiences. (talk)  
Department of Psychology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
- 2019/11/07 Why do we like what we like? Visual perception & individual differences in aesthetic experiences. (talk)  
Department of Psychology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2019/11/07 Why do we like what we like? Visual perception & individual differences in aesthetic experiences. (talk)  
Department of Psychology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2019/07/26 Exploring (and explaining?) aesthetic experiences from the perspective of visual perception and individual differences. (talk)  
Department of Psychology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2019/06/18 Exploring (and explaining?) aesthetic experiences from the perspective of visual perception and individual differences. (talk)  
The Pelli Lab, Department of Psychology, New York University, New York, NY.
- 2018/02/13 What do we see?: Visual aesthetics and causal history. (talk)  
The Visual Attention Lab, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

- 2017/01/08 Exploring (and explaining?) aesthetic experiences from the perspective of visual perception and individual differences. (talk)  
Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2015/09/13 Seeing history. (talk)  
*The Office of Naval Research Conference on Understanding Scenes and Events.*, Lake Arrowhead, CA.

### Internal Workshops

- 2023/02/17 Web Experiment.  
The Computational Vision and Learning Lab, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2023/02/10 Personal Website.  
The Computational Vision and Learning Lab, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2020/04/27 Web Experiment.  
Department of Psychology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019/10/30 Web Development.  
The Vision Sciences Lab, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

### Public Outreach

- 2017/10/28 Looking into the future: How we take pictures and how we look at the world. (Short talk)  
Taiwanese Student Association, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Assistantship

- |             |  |                             |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 2014 Spring | Statistics (Professor Gregory Samanez-Larkin)              | Psychology, Yale University |
| 2014 Fall   | Introduction to Psychology (Professor Marvin Chun)         | Psychology, Yale University |
| 2013 Spring | Introduction to Cognitive Science (Professor Brian Scholl) | Psychology, Yale University |

### Ad Hoc Teaching

- |                       |                                 |                                |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2021 Summer–2021 Fall | Cognitive Science Journal Club* | Psychology, UCLA               |
| 2020 Summer–2020 Fall | Cognitive Science Journal Club* | Psychology & Statistics, UCLA  |
| 2018 Fall–2019 Spring | Cognitive Science Journal Club* | Psychology, Harvard University |

\*Select reading materials and lead weekly discussions for 2-15 undergraduates and graduate students to provide an overview of the key literature in cognitive science.

## MENTORSHIP

### Undergraduate Students

2023	Oscar Su	Cognitive Science	UCLA
2022	Chaerin Noh	Cognitive Science	UCLA
2021	Setareh Khoylow	Cognitive Science	UCLA
2021	Anika Vaishampayan	Cognitive Science	UCLA
2021	Jeff Chang	Cognitive Science	UCLA
2021	Jaclyn Chiu	Economics & Statistics	UCLA
2021	Xiaoyang Chi	Cognitive Science & Mathematics	UCLA
2020	Moriah Taylor	Psychology	UCLA
2020	Yiling Sophie Yun	Cognitive Science & Statistics	UCLA
2018	Fenil Doshi	Psychology	Harvard University
2018	Ningcong Tong	Psychology	Harvard University
2018	Isabella Forman	Psychology	Harvard University
2016	Daniel Matyas	Cognitive Science	Yale University
2016	Evaline Xie	Cognitive Science	Yale University
2015	Selena Anjur-Dietrich	Cognitive Science	Yale University

## PEER REVIEW

### Conference Ad Hoc Reviewer

Annual Meeting of Cognitive Science Society

### Journal Ad Hoc Reviewer

Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics  
 Cognition  
 Consciousness and Cognition  
 Empirical Studies of the Arts  
 Frontiers in Psychology  
 i-Perception  
 Journal of Experimental Psychology: General  
 Journal of Neuroscience  
 Journal of Vision  
 Perception  
 Philosophical Transactions B  
 Review of Philosophy and Psychology



Scandinavian Journal of Psychology  
Scientific Reports  
Thinking Skills and Creativity  
Transactions on Applied Perception  
Visual Cognition

## REFERENCES

Hongjing Lu, Professor	UCLA	<a href="mailto:hongjing@ucla.edu">hongjing@ucla.edu</a>
George A. Alvarez, Professor	Harvard University	<a href="mailto:alvarez@wjh.harvard.edu">alvarez@wjh.harvard.edu</a>
Brian J. Scholl, Professor	Yale University	<a href="mailto:brian.scholl@yale.edu">brian.scholl@yale.edu</a>