

CONTACT aaron.bornstein@uci.edu

<http://aaron.bornstein.org/>

PUBLICATIONS

(* = Equal contribution; + = UCI Lab member.)

Preprints

- PP5 Banavar NV+, **Bornstein AM**. Variability in Complex Constructs: Inferring risk preference and temporal discounting. *PsyArXiv*.

doi:10.31234/osf.io/zdq5v

Submitted, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review

- PP4 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM***, Hartley CA*. Developmental changes in memory structure and precision alter the use of retrieved episodes during decisions for reward.

PsyArXiv

doi:10.31234/osf.io/78zmx

Invited revision, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

- PP3 Wang W, Chierchia G, Cooley BJ, Chang T, **Bornstein AM**, Schweizer S. Social decision-making under uncertainty. *PsyArXiv*.

doi:10.31234/osf.io/z6vej

Submitted, Science Advances

- PP2 Yoo J+, **Bornstein AM**. Temporal dynamics of model-based control reveal arbitration between multiple task representations. *PsyArXiv*.

doi:10.31234/osf.io/sgcy5

Invited revision, Nature Communications Psychology

- PP1 Zhou D+, Noh SM+, Harhen NC+, Banavar NV+, Kirwan B, Yassa MA, **Bornstein AM**. A compressed code for memory discrimination. *bioRxiv*.

doi:10.1101/2025.10.12.681901

Under review, Science Advances*Peer-reviewed journal articles*

- JP27 Harhen NC, Budiono R, Hartley CA*, Bornstein AM* (accepted in principle). Structure inference in complex environments improves from childhood to adulthood. *Developmental Science*.

- JP26 Noh SM+*, Zhou D+*, Cooper KW, Guo S+, Dinh ET+, Bornstein AM (in press). Sparsity and memory constraints interact with training sequence to bias learning of associative maps. *Neuropsychologia*.

doi:10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2026.109396

- JP25 Noh SM+*, Cooper KW*, Guo S+, Zhou D+, Stark CEL, Bornstein AM (in press). Multi-step inference can be improved across the human lifespan with individualized memory interventions. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*.

- JP24 Hadj-Amar B, **Bornstein AM**, Guindani M, Vannucci M (2025). Discrete Autoregressive Switching Processes with Cumulative Shrinkage Priors for Graphical Modeling of Time

Series Data. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*.
doi:10.1080/10618600.2025.2551271

- JP23 Schetzsle B, Lee J, **Bornstein AM**, Shahbaba B, Guindani M (2025). A Bayesian Time-Varying Psychophysiological Interaction Model. *Data Science in Science*, 4(1):2519436. doi:10.1080/26941899.2025.2519436
- JP22 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2025). Reasoning goals and representational decisions in computational cognitive neuroscience: lessons from the drift diffusion model. *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 61:e7009. doi:10.1111/ejn.70098
- JP21 Banavar NV+, Noh SM+, Wahlheim CN, Cassidy BS, Kirwan CB, Stark CEL, **Bornstein AM** (2024). A response time model of the three-choice Mnemonic Similarity Task provides stable, mechanistically interpretable individual-difference measures. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 18:137928. doi:10.3389/fnhum.2024.137928
- JP20 Yoo J+, Chrastil ER, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Cognitive graphs: Representational substrates for planning. *Decision*, 11(4), 537-556. doi:10.1037/dec0000249
- JP19 Chen J, **Bornstein AM** (2024). The causal structure and computational value of narratives. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 28(8):769-781. doi:10.1016/j.tics.2024.04.003
- JP18 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Interval timing as a computational pathway from early life adversity to affective disorders. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 16(2024):92-112. doi:10.1111/tops.12701
- JP17 Noh SM+, Singla UK, Bennett IJ, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Memory precision and age differentially predict the use of decision-making strategies across the lifespan. *Scientific Reports*, 13:17014. doi:10.1038/s41598-023-44107-5
- JP16 **Bornstein AM**, Aly M, Feng SF, Turk-Browne NB, Norman KA, Cohen JD (2023). Associative memory retrieval modulates upcoming perceptual decisions. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, 23:645665. doi:10.3758/s13415-023-01092-6
doi:10.18112/openneuro.ds001614.v1.0.1
- JP15 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Overharvesting in human patch foraging reflects rational structure learning and adaptive planning. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(13):e2216524120. doi:10.1073/pnas.2216524120
- JP14 Otto AR, Devine S, Schultz E, **Bornstein AM***, Louie K* (2022). Context-dependent choice and evaluation in real-world consumer behavior. *Scientific Reports*, 12:17744. doi:10.1038/s41598-022-22416-5
doi:10.17605/OSF.IO/EC5DX
- JP13 Rmus M, Ritz H, Hunter LE, **Bornstein AM***, Shenhav A* (2022). Humans can navigate complex graph structures acquired during latent learning. *Cognition*, 225:105103. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2022.105103
- JP12 Wang S, Feng SF, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Mixing memory and desire: How decisions for reward depend on the dynamics and content of memory reinstatement. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, e1581.

doi:10.1002/wcs.1581

Featured on the cover.

Recognized as one of the top-ten most-cited papers from this journal/year.

- JP11 Rouhani N, Norman KA, Niv Y, **Bornstein AM** (2020). Reward prediction errors create event boundaries in memory. *Cognition*, 203:104269.
doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104269
- JP10 **Bornstein AM***, Pickard H* (2020). Chasing the first high: Memory sampling in drug choice. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 45(6):907-915.
doi:10.1038/s41386-019-0594-2 **Featured on the cover.**
- JP9 Kane GA, **Bornstein AM**, Shenhav A, Wilson RC, Daw ND, Cohen JD (2019). Rats exhibit similar biases in foraging and intertemporal choice tasks. *eLife*, 8:e48429.
doi:10.7554/eLife.48429
- JP8 Millner AJ, den Ouden HEM, Gershman SJ, Glenn CR, Kearns J, **Bornstein AM**, Marx BP, Keane TM, Nock MK (2019). Suicidal thoughts and behaviors are associated with an increased decision-making bias for active responses to escape aversive states. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 128(2):106-118.
doi:10.1037/abn0000395
- JP7 Hoskin AN, **Bornstein AM**, Norman KA, Cohen JD (2018). Refresh my memory: Episodic memory reinstatements intrude on working memory maintenance. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, 19:338-354.
doi:10.3758/s13415-018-00674-z
doi:10.18112/openneuro.ds001576.v1.0.0
- JP6 **Bornstein AM**, Khaw MW, Shohamy D, Daw ND (2017). Reminders of past choices bias decisions for reward in humans. *Nature Communications*, 8:15958.
doi:10.1038/ncomms15958
- JP5 **Bornstein AM**, Norman KA (2017). Reinstated episodic context guides sampling-based decisions for reward. *Nature Neuroscience*, 20:997-1003.
doi:10.1038/nn.4573
doi:10.18112/openneuro.ds001607.v1.0.1
- JP4 **Bornstein AM**, Daw ND (2013). Cortical and hippocampal correlates of deliberation during model-based decisions for rewards in humans. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 9(12):e1003387.
doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003387
- JP3 **Bornstein AM**, Daw ND (2012). Dissociating hippocampal and striatal contributions to sequential prediction learning. *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 35:1011-1023.
doi:10.1111/j.1460-9568.2011.07920.x
- JP2 **Bornstein AM**, Daw ND (2011). Multiplicity of control in the basal ganglia: computational roles of striatal subregions. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*, 21(3):374-380.
doi:10.1016/j.conb.2011.02.009
- JP1 Preston AR, **Bornstein AM**, Hutchinson JB, Gaare ME, Glover GH, Wagner AD (2010). High-resolution fMRI of content-sensitive subsequent memory responses in human medial temporal lobe. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 22:156-173.
doi:10.1162/jocn.2009.21195

Articles in conference proceedings

- CP16 Khoudary A+, **Bornstein AM***, Peters MAK* (2025). Subjective and objective cue probability interact to shape perceptual decisions. *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- CP15 Chen Y+, Harhen NC+, Stout DA, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Early life unpredictability modulates planning horizon in a structured foraging task. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.
- CP14 Harhen NC+, Hartley CA*, **Bornstein AM*** (2024). Development of structure inference contributes to age-related differences in exploration. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.
- CP13 Yoo J+, Zhou D+, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Latent cause inference as an efficient and flexible learning rule for cognitive graphs. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.
- CP12 Zhou D+, Noh SM+, Yassa MA, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Pattern separation using compressed and semantic representations of memory. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.
- CP11 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2022). Precision-weighted evidence integration predicts time-varying influence of memory on perceptual decisions. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.
- CP10 Banavar NV+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Response time modeling provides stable and mechanistically interpretable measures of individual differences in behavioral pattern separation. *Proceedings of the 20th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling*.
Selected for a talk.
- CP9 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Learning to expect change: Volatility during early experience alters reward expectations in a model of interval timing. *Proceedings of the 20th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling*.
Selected for a talk.
Selected for a best paper award.
- CP8 Banavar NV+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Decision difficulty modulates the re-use of computations across trials in non-sequential decision tasks. *Proceedings of the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM 2022)*
- CP7 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Humans adapt their foraging strategies and computations to environment complexity. *Proceedings of the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM 2022)*
- CP6 Yoo J+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Two-stage task with increased state space complexity to assess online planning. *Proceedings of the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM 2022)*
- CP5 Banavar NV+, Lee MD, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Sequential effects in non-sequential tasks. *Proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling*.
- CP4 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Structure learning as a mechanism of overharvesting. *Proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling*.
- CP3 Harhen NC+, Hartley CA, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Model-based foraging using latent-cause inference. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
doi:10.31234/osf.io/dfztu
<https://github.com/uciccnl/CogSci2021-HarhenHartleyBornstein>

- CP2 Kane GA, **Bornstein AM**, Shenhav A, Wilson RC, Daw ND, Cohen JD (2017). Mechanisms of overharvesting in patch foraging. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 637-642.
- CP1 Floares A, Jakary A, **Bornstein A**, Deicken R (2006). Neural networks and classification and regression trees are able to distinguish females with major depression from healthy controls using neuroimaging data. *Proceedings of the IEEE International Joint Conference of Neural Networks, 2006*, 4605-4611.
doi:10.1109/ijcnn.2006.247090

Accepted conference abstracts (since 2019)

- CA51 Booras A+, Chrastil ER*, **Bornstein AM*** (2025). Humans adaptively discount successor representations when navigating graph-structured spaces. *Bay Area Memory Meeting*.
- CA50 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2025). Uncertainty resolution explains dynamic effects of memory on perceptual decisions *Bay Area Memory Meeting*.
Selected for a talk.
- CA49 Zhou D+, Yassa MA*, **Bornstein AM*** (2025). A lossy compression account of mnemonic discrimination: Computational theory and multimodal evidence. *Bay Area Memory Meeting*.
Selected for a talk.
- CA48 Booras A+, Chrastil ER, **Bornstein AM** (2025). Humans adaptively discount successor representations when navigating graph-structured spaces. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA47 Guo S+*, Palsule R+*, Noh SM+*, Preston AR, **Bornstein AM** (2025). The impact of learning sequences in encouraging distinct memory representations to support associative inference in older-adults. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA46 Khoudary A+, **Bornstein AM***, Peters MAK* (2025). A philosophical toolkit for computational modeling of cognition. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA45 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2025). Precision-weighted integration explains dynamic effects of expectations on perceptual decisions. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA44 Leonard BT+, Martínez-Ortíz MA, Hartley CA, Yassa MA, **Bornstein AM** (2025). Motivational conflict resolution is shaped by early life unpredictability. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA43 Palsule R+*, Guo S+*, Noh SM+*, **Bornstein AM** (2025). Naturalistic task framing improves older adults' ability to infer and navigate complex associative networks. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA42 Yoo J+, Zhou D+, Goeschel A+, **Bornstein AM** (2025). Contingency-dependent state augmentation as a normative learning rule for non-Markovian tasks. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA41 Field M, Copeland A, Hogarth L, Pun M, Ryan F, Pickard H, **Bornstein AM**, Murphy J, Strickland J (2025). Meaning in life and value-based decision-making in alcohol use disorder. *55th EABCT Congress*.
- CA40 Zhou D*, Noh SM*, Cooper KW, Guo S, Dinh ET, **Bornstein AM** (2025). Sparse and distributed memory constraints drive representational change as a function of temporal learning sequence. *47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

- CA39 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2025). A principled model of uncertainty resolution explains dynamic effects of expectations in perceptual decision making. *Society for Philosophy and Neuroscience 2025*.
- Selected for a talk.**
- CA38 Kapogianis T, **Bornstein AM**, Chrastil ER (2024). Size and community structure affect abstract graph learning. *45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- CA37 Azimihashemi M+, Banavar NV+, Guo S+, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Does alcohol dependence differentially influence episodic and semantic contributions to recognition priming in older adults? *SRNDNA Summer Symposium 2024*.
- CA36 Yamamoto A+, Guo S+, Nadkarni M+, Rouhani N, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Alcohol Prediction Errors in Individuals With Varying Levels of Alcohol Use. *SRNDNA Summer Symposium 2024*.
- CA35 Dinh ET+, Zhou D+, Guo S+, Noh SM+, Cooper KW, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Autoencoder models of human graph learning reveal that sparse and dense representations differentially support planning and recall *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA34 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM***, Hartley CA* (2024). Reinstated episodes and context differentially guide decision making across development. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA33 Chen Y+, Harhen NC+, Stout DA, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Early-life unpredictability modulates planning horizon in a structured foraging task. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA32 Yoo J+, **Bornstein AM** (2024). Goal-directed control evolves in tandem with multiple task representations. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA31 Khoudary A+, **Bornstein AM***, Peters MAK* (2024). Reasoning goals and representational decisions in computational cognitive neuroscience: a case study from bounded evidence accumulation. *Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf VII*.
- CA30 Martínez-Ortiz MA, Leonard B+, Yassa MA, **Bornstein AM**, Hartley CA (2024). Exploring the relationship between Early Life Adversity (ELA) dimensions and the development of decision-making strategies under motivational conflict. *The Flux Society Congress for Integrative Developmental Neuroscience*.
- CA29 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2024). Explaining dynamic effects of memory on perceptual decisions. *Learning and Memory 2024*.
- CA28 Khoudary A, **Bornstein AM***, Peters MAK* (2023). Characterizing dynamic effects of memory on perceptual evidence accumulation. *RIKEN CBS Summer Program*
- CA27 Chen Y+, Yoo J+, Harhen NC+, Noh SM+, Stout DA*, **Bornstein AM*** (2023). Adult and early-life adversity influences on memory-guided planning. *UCI Conte Center annual symposium*.
- CA26 Harhen NC+, Noh SM+, Stough-Lacking S+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Suboptimal or locally rational? Foraging as a window onto the universal mechanisms of decisions under uncertainty. *Healing the Brain: Bridging the Gap in Low-and Middle-Income Countries*.
- CA25 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Temporal representation optimization provides a computational link between early life adversity and anhedonia. *Computational Psychiatry 2023*.
- CA24 Banavar NV+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Decomposing behavioral pattern separation: A model-based analysis. *Learning and Memory 2023*.

- CA23 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Temporal representation adaptation as a computational link between early life unpredictability and anhedonia. *Learning and Memory 2023*.
- CA22 Khoudary A+, Peters MAK*, **Bornstein AM*** (2023). Characterizing dynamic effects of memory on perceptual decisions. *Learning and Memory 2023*.
- CA21 Noh SM+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Memory encoding ability interacts with training interventions to improve memory-guided inference decisions *Learning and Memory 2023*.
- CA20 Yoo J+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Humans build configural representations for planning in complex environments *Learning and Memory 2023*.
- CA19 Stout DM, Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM**, Vinograd M, Spadoni A, Simmons AN, Yassa MA, Davis EP, Glynn LM, Baram TZ, Baker DG, Risbrough VB (2023). Unpredictable early-life experiences moderate the effect of anhedonia and PTSD symptoms on neural measures of reward learning in adulthood. *Anxiety and Depression Association of America*.
- CA18 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2023). Interval timing as a computational framework for examining the pathway from early life unpredictability to affective disorders. *UCI Conte Center annual symposium*.
- Best abstract award.**
- Selected for a short talk.**
- CA17 Khoudary A+, **Bornstein AM***, Peters MAK* (2023). Perceptual decisions result from dynamic precision-weighted integration of memory and visual information. *Association of Scientific Studies of Consciousness*.
- Selected for a talk.**
- CA16 Kapogianis T, **Bornstein AM**, Chrastil ER (2022). Graph Metrics and Non-Spatial Navigational Learning. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA15 Harhen NC+, Hartley CA*, **Bornstein AM*** (2022). Memory-guided decision-making develops alongside model-based planning. *The Flux Society Congress for Integrative Developmental Neuroscience*.
- CA14 Harhen NC+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Representation learning & adaptation in human foraging. *CNLM annual meeting*.
- Selected for a short talk.**
- CA13 Yoo J+, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Task complexity and experience modulate the use of online planning. *CNLM annual meeting*.
- CA12 Noh SM+, Stark CEL, **Bornstein AM** (2022). Mnemonic Discrimination Ability Predicts Optimal Training Condition for Memory-Guided Inference Decisions. *Annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society*.
- Selected for a short talk.**
- CA11 Yoo J+, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Task complexity and experience dictate the use of online, versus offline, planning in humans. *Annual meeting of the Society for Neuroeconomics*.
- CA10 Noh SM+, Kerr T, Bennett IA*, **Bornstein AM*** (2021). Age-related differences in memory-guided decisions are driven by a trade-off between multiple decision systems. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*.
- CA9 Noh SM+, Kerr T, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Pattern Separation Predicts Which Memories Are Sampled During Decisions for Reward *Psychonomics*.

- CA8 Noh SM+, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Pattern separation mediates the types of memories sampled during decisions for reward. *CNLM annual meeting*.
- CA7 Banavar NV+, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Deliberative evaluation in intertemporal choice is shaped by experiment structure. *Annual meeting of the Society for Neuroeconomics Selected for a short talk.*
- CA6 Devine SM, Otto AR, **Bornstein AM***, Louie K* (2021). Context-dependent choice and evaluation in real-world consumer behavior *Mathematical Psychology*
- CA5 Harhen NC+, Yassa MA, Baram TZ, **Bornstein AM** (2021). Exploring a latent cause model of substance use disorder symptoms. *Biological Psychiatry*
doi:10.1016/j.biopsych.2021.02.479
- CA4 Cooper KW+, Li L, Agostinelli F, Saraf M, Elias GA, Baldi P, **Bornstein AM**, Shahbaba B, Fortin N (2021). Theta-associated nonspatial sequence coding in hippocampus. *Society for Neuroscience Global Connectome*.
- CA3 Harhen NC+, Hartley CA, **Bornstein AM** (2020). Foraging behavior adjusts to multiple scales of context. *Annual meeting of the Society for Neuroeconomics Selected for a talk.*
- CA2 Vlasceanu M, Morais MJ, Zhao Z, **Bornstein AM**, Norman KA, Coman AC (2020). Self-Other Similarity Modulates the Socially-Triggered Context-Based Prediction Error Effect on Memory. *41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
- CA1 Rouhani N, Norman KA, Niv Y, **Bornstein AM** (2019). Reward prediction errors create event boundaries in memory *Psychonomics*