



Steven Lee Meisler

Curriculum Vitae

Steven is a cognitive developmental neuroscientist who studies the human reading system. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 2017 and 2018, and is anticipating completing his PhD from Harvard in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology in May 2025. Steven uses fMRI, DWI, and psychocognitive evaluations to study neural bases of reading abilities, disabilities, and intervention in children. He is also broadly interested in better understanding the relationship between brain structure and function, and how these associations vary with cognitive abilities and disabilities.

Education

- 2019–2025 **PhD in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology**, *Harvard University Division of Medical Sciences*, Cambridge, MA
(anticipated) Dissertation Advisor: John Gabrieli, PhD
- 2017–2018 **MSE in Bioengineering**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA, 3.79/4
Thesis: "Evaluating the Effect of Intracranial EEG Data Cleaning on Univariate and Multivariate Classifier Performance" - Advisor: Michael Kahana, PhD
- 2013–2017 **BSE in Bioengineering**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA, 3.70/4
magna cum laude
Minors in Mathematics, Jazz Studies, and Engineering Entrepreneurship

Research Positions

- 2019–Present **PhD Candidate**, *Gabrieli Lab*, MIT Brain and Cognitive Science (PI: John Gabrieli, PhD)
- Using advanced diffusion weighted imaging models to study white matter microstructural correlates of reading in large pediatric cohorts.
 - Studying longitudinal microstructural changes in white matter associated with response to reading intervention.
 - Examining contributions of right hemispheric activity to reading improvement after intervention among dyslexic children.
- 2018–2019 **Clinical Research Coordinator**, *Laboratory for Neuroimaging of Coma and Consciousness*, Massachusetts General Hospital (PI: Brian Edlow, MD)
- Used machine learning to test if EEG and MRI biometrics in the ICU can predict recovery outcomes from traumatic brain injury.
 - Was responsible for screening patients, as well as submitting and maintaining regulatory documentation.
- 2017–2018 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Computational Memory Lab*, University of Pennsylvania (PI: Michael Kahana, PhD)
- Researched efficacy of various data preprocessing methods on classification of neural activity during memory tasks
 - Created a Python-based GUI that visualizes and annotates EEG signals for analysis in a multi-site DARPA-funded clinical study

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Skills

1 - Basic Knowledge; 5 - Expert

	Level	Skill	Comments
Computing:		Python	<i>Comfortable with data analysis, Jupyter, and Python-based software development</i>
		MATLAB	<i>Can use MATLAB if required, but I prefer Python and terminal tools</i>
		LATEX	<i>Prefer to write papers using either Overleaf or Google Docs (+Zotero)</i>
		Bash / Terminal	<i>Proficient in scripting and parallelizing jobs with HPC schedulers</i>
Methods		R	<i>It's a work in progress...</i>
		DWI	<i>Familiar with basic tensor and advanced diffusion modeling approaches, using mainly DIPY and MRTrix</i>
		fMRI	<i>Familiar with several univariate and multivariate analytical approaches</i>
		EEG Time Series Analysis	<i>Master's thesis heavily employed ML-based analysis of continuous time-frequency decomposition</i>

Other Skills

Study Coordination	EPIC, RedCap, IRB	Open Science	GitHub, BIDS-apps
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Articles

1. Zhao, C., Tapera, T. M., Bagautdinova, J., Bourque, J., Covitz, S., Gur, R. E., Gur, R. C., Larsen, B., Mehta, K., **Meisler, S. L.**, ModelArray: a memory-efficient R package for statistical analysis of fixel data. *Under Review*.
2. Marks, R. A., Pollack, C., **Meisler, S.**, D'Mello, A., Centanni, T., Romeo, R. R., Wade, K., Matejko, A. A., Ansari, D., Gabrieli, J., Neurocognitive risk factors for co-occurring math difficulties in dyslexia: Differences in executive function and visuospatial processing. *Under Review*.
3. D'Mello, A. M., Frosch, I. R., **Meisler, S. L.**, Grotzinger, H., Perrachione, T. K., Gabrieli, J. D., Diminished repetition suppression reveals selective and systems-level face processing differences in ASD. *Journal of Neuroscience*. ISSN: 0270-6474 (2023).
4. **Meisler, S. L.**, Gabrieli, J. D., Fiber-specific structural properties relate to reading skills in children and adolescents. *eLife* **11** (eds Forstmann, B. U., Behrens, T. E. & Manning, K. Y.) e82088. ISSN: 2050-084X (2022).
5. Richie-Halford, A., Cieslak, M., Ai, L., Caffarra, S., Covitz, S., Franco, A. R., Karipidis, I. I., Kruper, J., Milham, M., Avelar-Pereira, B., **others**, An analysis-ready and quality controlled resource for pediatric brain white-matter research. *Scientific data* **9**, 1–27 (2022).
6. **Meisler, S. L.**, Gabrieli, J. D., A large-scale investigation of white matter microstructural associations with reading ability. *NeuroImage* **249**, 118909. ISSN: 1053-8119 (2022).

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7. Edlow, B. L., Barra, M. E., Zhou, D. W., Foulkes, A. S., Snider, S. B., Threlkeld, Z. D., Chakravarty, S., Kirsch, J. E., Chan, S.-t., **Meisler, S. L.**, Bleck, T. P., Fins, J. J., Giacino, J. T., R. H. L., Solt, K., Brown, E. N., Bodien, Y. G., Personalized connectome mapping to guide targeted therapy and promote recovery of consciousness in the intensive care unit. *Neurocritical care* **33**, 364–375 (2020).
8. **Meisler, S. L.**, Kahana, M. J., Ezzyat, Y., Does data cleaning improve brain state classification? *Journal of neuroscience methods* **328**, 108421 (2019).

Invited Talks

1. **Meisler, S. L.**, Gabrieli, J. D., *Fiber-Specific Properties Relate to Reading Ability.*.. Penn Lifespan Informatics and Neuroimaging Center Lab Meeting. 2022.
2. D'Mello, A., Frosch, I. R., **Meisler, S. L.**, Grotzinger, H., Perrachione, T. K., Gabrieli, J. D., *Evidence for domain-specific neural adaptation reductions in autism spectrum disorder.* Society for Neuroscience. 2021.
3. **Meisler, S. L.**, Bodien, Y., Zhou, D., Edlow. B., *Comparing Brain Responses to Music and Language Stimuli to Classify Consciousness.* American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference. 2019.

Posters

1. **Meisler, S. L.**, Gabrieli, J. D., *Fiber-Specific Properties Relate to Reading Ability.* Organization for Human Brain Mapping. 2022.
2. **Meisler, S. L.**, Gabrieli, J. D., *A Large-Scale Investigation of White Matter Microstructural Associations with Reading Ability.* Cognitive Neuroscience Society. 2022.
3. **Meisler, S. L.**, Ozernov-Palchik, O., Farah, R., Beach, S. D., Horowitz-Kraus, T., Gabrieli, J. D., *Musical Training is Associated with Better Reading and Differences in Resting State Functional Connectivity in Adults.* Cognitive Neuroscience Society. 2020.
4. **Meisler, S. L.**, Bodien, Y., Zhou, D., Edlow. B., *Comparing Brain Responses to Music and Language Stimuli to Classify Consciousness.* Society for Music Perception and Cognition. 2019.
5. **Meisler, S. L.**, Liu, Q., Horwitz, B., *Examining Neural Audiovisual Object Processing through Large-Scale Neural Modeling.* NIH Summer Poster Day. 2016.
6. Leitman, D. I., Edgar, C., Gamez, K., **Meisler, S. L.**, Berman, J., Roberts, T. P., *Amygdala Centrality To Dual Pathway Processing Of Affective Prosodic Communication Part 2: Structural Connectivity.* Society of Biological Psychiatry. 2016.

Funding

External

8/2019 – **Training in Speech and Hearing Sciences,**
 8/2022 Funding Agency: NIH, NIDCD (type: T32; DC000038), Role: Trainee

Honors & Awards

- 8/2022 **Patrick J. McGovern Student Travel Award**, MIT
- 3/2022 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching**, Harvard University
- 3/2020 **Mind Brain Behavior Graduate Student Award**, Harvard University
- 3/2019 **University Fellowship (declined)**, The Ohio State University
- 2017 ***magna cum laude***, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 – 2017 **Dean's List**, University of Pennsylvania

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— Verified Peer Reviews

- Brain Structure & Function

— Professional & Service Affiliations

- 2021–Present Member, Organization for Human Brain Mapping
2019–Present Volunteer, Virtual Bedside Concerts, Mass General Brigham
2019–Present Member, Cognitive Neuroscience Society
2019–2021 Co-Chair, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, Arts & Neuroscience Cognition Task-Force
2018–2019 Member, Society for Music Perception & Cognition

— Teaching Experience

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

- Falls 2021+2022 How Music Works: Engineering the Acoustical World
2020 Undergraduate Mentoring Certification, Faculty of Arts & Science, Division of Science

Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania

- Fall 2017 Differential Equations & Linear Algebra
Fall 2016 Bioengineering Signals & Systems
& 2017

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