Alexandra Decker

<u>alexandradecker.com</u> alexandraleerdecker@gmail.com

Education

2016-present Ph.D., University of Toronto, Canada

Psychology

Advisors: Amy Finn, Katherine Duncan

2015-16 M.A., University of Toronto, Canada

Psychology

Advisor: Donald Mabbott

2008-13 B.A., McGill University, Canada

Research Interests

Memory encoding and retrieval, sustained and selective attention, neuromodulators (acetylcholine, norepinephrine), brain development, recovery from neural injury, open science, fMRI, EEG

Awards, Scholarships and Grants

2020-21	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000), Ontario, Canada
2020	Dataquest Underrepresented Genders Scholarship
2019-20	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000), Ontario, Canada
2018-2022	Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant (\$1,147,500)
2018-2020	Brain Canada-Kids Brain Health Network Training Award (\$70,000)
2017	School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant (\$450), University of Toronto
2017	School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant (\$1,100), University of Toronto

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- **Decker A.L.**, Duncan, K*., Finn, A.S.*, Mabbott, D.J*. Income related gaps in children's cognition mediated by anterior, not posterior hippocampus. *Accepted at Nature Communications*
- **Decker A.L.**, Finn, A.S.*, Duncan, K.*, Error-related arousal impairs subsequent memory formation. Accepted *at Cognition*
- **Decker, A. L.**, & Duncan, K. (2020). Acetylcholine and the complex interdependence of memory and attention. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, *32*, 21–28. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobeha.2020.01.013
- Medeiros, C. B. de, Moxon-Emre, I., Scantlebury, N., Malkin, D., Ramaswamy, V., Decker, A., Law, N., Kumabe, T., Leonard, J., Rubin, J., Jung, S., Kim, S.-K., Gupta, N., Weiss, W., Faria, C. C., Vibhakar, R., Lafay-Cousin, L., Chan, J., Kros, J. M., ... Mabbott, D. J. (accepted). Medulloblastoma has a global impact on health related quality of life: Findings from an international cohort. *Cancer Medicine*. https://doi.org/10.1002/cam4.2701
- Sekeres, M. J., Riggs, L., **Decker, A.**, Medeiros, C. B. de, Bacopulos, A., Skocic, J., ... Frankland, P. W. (2018). Impaired recent, but preserved remote, autobiographical memory in pediatric brain tumor patients. Journal of Neuroscience, 1056–18. https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1056-18.2018

- **Decker, A. L.**, Szulc, K. U., Bouffet, E., Laughlin, S., Chakravarty, M. M., Skocic, J., ... Mabbott, D. J. (2017). Smaller hippocampal subfield volumes predict verbal associative memory in pediatric brain tumor survivors. *Hippocampus*. https://doi.org/10.1002/hipo.22758
- Oyefiade, A. A., Ameis, S., Lerch, J. P., Rockel, C., Szulc, K. U., Scantlebury, N., **Decker, A.**, Jefferson, J., Spichak, S., & Mabbott, D. J. (2018). Development of short-range white matter in healthy children and adolescents. *Human Brain Mapping*, 39(1), 204–217. https://doi.org/10.1002/hbm.23836

Manuscripts In Preparation (* denotes equal contribution)

- **Decker A.L.**, Duncan, K.*, Finn, A.S.*, (In Prep). Sustained attention shapes memory encoding more in children than adults.
- Dubois, J.*, **Decker A.L.***, Duncan, K., Finn, A.S., (In Prep). Learning more when attending less: Poor attentional states enhance peripheral learning.

Talks (* denotes equal contribution)

- **Decker, A.L.**, Duncan, K.*, Finn, A.*, (February 2020) How do attentional fluctuations influence memory encoding?. Developmental Interest Group meeting, University of Toronto, Toronto
- **Decker, A.L.**, Duncan, K.*, Finn, A.*, Mabbott, D.J.*, (March 2019) Parental income alters development of anterior, but not posterior hippocampus. Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD
- **Decker, A.L.**, Duncan, K.*, Finn, A.*, Mabbott, D.J.*, (March 2019) Socioeconomic status and the anterior hippocampus. Developmental interest group meeting, University of Toronto, Toronto
- **Decker, A.L.**, Finn, A.S.*, Duncan, K.*, (May 2018). Attentional states influence memory encoding. Research presented at the 2018 Annual Toronto Area Memory Group Meeting, Toronto, Canada
- **Decker, A.L.**, Szulc, K. U., Bouffet, E., Laughlin, S., Chakravarty, M. M., Skocic, J.,...Mabbott, D. J. (April 2017). The development of hippocampal subfields in healthy children and adolescents. 2017 Annual Neuroimaging round data blitz meeting at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada.
- **Decker, A.L.,** Szulc, K. U., de Medieros, C. B., Skocic, J., Mabbott, D. J., (May 2016). Hippocampal subfield volumes in pediatric brain tumor survivors. Research presented at the Annual Collaborative Program in Neuroscience Research Day, University of Toronto, Canada

Posters (* denotes equal contribution)

- **Decker, A.**, Duncan, K.*, Finn, S. A.*, Attention Matters More: In Kids, Attentional State Predicts Memory Better Than in Adults. Context and Episodic Memory Symposium, Philadelphia, PA (May 2019).
- **Decker, A.**, Duncan, K.*, Finn, S. A.*, Attention Matters More: In Kids, Attentional State Predicts Memory Better Than in Adults. Biennial meeting for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD (March 2019).
- **Decker, A.**, Finn, S. A.*, Duncan, K.*, How do developmental shifts in attentional control influence memory encoding? Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference, Boston MA (April 2018).

- **Decker A.**, Skocic J, Finn A, Mabbott DJ., Age-related changes in hippocampal subfields and white matter across childhood and adolescence. Annual Meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Vancouver, BC. (June 2017).
- **Decker A.**, Skocic J, Finn A, Mabbott DJ. Age-related changes in hippocampal subfields and white matter across childhood and adolescence. 11th Annual Canadian Association for Neuroscience Meeting, Montreal, QC. (May 2017).
- **Decker, A.**, Szulc, K., Skocic, J., de Medeiros, C., Riggs, L., Bouffet, E., ... Mabbott, D. (2016). Impact of cranial radiation therapy on hippocampal subfield volumes and declarative memory in pediatric brain tumor survivors. Neuro-Oncology, 18(suppl_3), iii158–iii158. https://doi.org/10.1093/neuonc/now081.58
- **Decker A.**, Szulc K, Skocic J, de Medeiros C, Riggs L, Bouffet E, Dockstader C, Laughlin S, Mabbott D. Hippocampal subfield volume loss in children and adolescent survivors of pediatric brain tumors. Canadian Association for Neuroscience Conference, Toronto, ON (May 2016).
- **Decker A.**, Szulc K, Skocic J, de Medeiros C, Riggs L, Bouffet E, Dockstader C, Laughlin S, Mabbott D. Hippocampal subfield volume loss in children and adolescent survivors of pediatric brain tumors. Centre for Brain and Mental Health Day, Toronto, ON (April 2016).
- Oyefiade A, Ameis S, Scantlebury N, **Decker A.**, Szulc K, Mabbott DJ. Developmental characterization of sub-cortical white matter tracts. 23rd International Society for Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Medicine, Toronto, ON (June 1, 2015).
- Moxon-Emre, I., Scantlebury, N., Taylor, M.D., Bouffet, E., Malkin, D., Laughlin, S., Law, N., Kumabe, T., Leonard, J., Rubin, J., Jung, S., Kim, S., Gupta, N., Weiss, W., Faria, C., Vibhakar, R., Spiegler, B., Janzen, L., Liu, F., **Decker, A.**, Mabbott, D. Long-term outcome in subgroups of medulloblastoma. 16th International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology (ISPNO), Singapore. Neuro-Oncology 2014: 16(Suppl 1): i99-i104.

Mentees

2019	Enri Boshti (Neuroscience), University of Toronto
2018	Carissa DeMarinis (Psychology), University of Toronto
2017	Arshee Faizullah (Psychology), University of Toronto
2017	Jiin Kim (Psychology), University of Toronto

Work, Volunteer Experience and Academic Service

2019-20	University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union Census Committee Coordinator
2019-20	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Psychology (PSY100), University of Toronto
2018-19	Graduate Mentor, University of Toronto Peer Mentorship Program
2018-19	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Development (PSY210), University of Toronto
2017	International Conference of Cognitive Neuroscience Volunteer

2017	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer, Learning and Plasticity (PSY260), University of Toronto
2017	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Psychology and the Law (PSY328), University of Toronto
2016	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Human Memory (PSY372), University of Toronto
2015-16	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer, Health Psychology (PSY333), University of Toronto
2013-15	Clinical Research Project Assistant, The Hospital for Sick Children
2013	Customer Service Representative, Toronto Dominion Bank
2012	Research Assistant, Ryerson University
2011	Research Assistant, McGill University

Skills and Knowledge

Skills: Experimental Methodology, Behavioral Time Series Analysis, Multilevel Modelling, Population-

Based Statistics, Psychopy Experiment Builder

Programming Languages: R, Python

Certificates: Tae-Kwon-Do (black belt), Lifesaving Society Swim Instructor, PADI Scuba Diver

Certification

Languages: English, Intermediate Spanish