

## Avital Sternin

Psychology Department, University of Western Ontario  
Brain and Mind Institute  
London, Ontario, N6A 5B7, Canada  
Email: asternin@uwo.ca

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### Education

- 2016.06 – present      **Ph.D. student in Psychology – Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience**
- The University of Western Ontario
  - Supervisors: Dr. Jessica A. Grahm and Dr. Adrian M. Owen
- 2014.09 – 2016.06      **M.Sc. Psychology – Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience**
- The University of Western Ontario
  - Supervisors: Dr. Jessica A. Grahm and Dr. Adrian M. Owen
  - Project: Differentiating music perception and imagination using EEG
- 2009.09 – 2014.04      **B.Sc. Neuroscience (Honours)**
- Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario – Supervisor: Dr. Sidney Segalowitz
  - Project: Electrophysiological evidence of altered visual processing in adults suffering from blocked pattern vision during infancy (4<sup>th</sup> year honour's thesis)

### Awards

- 2016.09-2017.08      **Ontario Graduate Scholarship** - \$15000
- 2015.09-2016.08      **Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's Program** - \$17500
- Awarded by the National Science and Engineering Research Council
- 2015.09-2016.08      **Ontario Graduate Scholarship** - \$15000
- Declined
- 2014.09-2015.08      **Western Graduate Research Scholarship** - \$12865
- 2013.05-2013.08      **Undergraduate Student Research Award** - \$6000
- Awarded by the National Science and Engineering Research Council
- 2013      **Writing Award – Department of Psychology** - \$100
- 2013      **Dean's Award for Good Writing – Faculty of Social Sciences** - \$100
- 2010-2014      **Dean's Honours List**
- 2010      **Brock University Scientifically Yours Award** - \$500
- 2010      **Brock University Scholars Award** - \$8000

### Publications

- 2016.07      Segalowitz, S. J., **Sternin, A.**, Lewis, T. L., Dywan, J., & Maurer, D. Electrophysiological Evidence of Altered Visual Processing in Adults who Experienced Visual Deprivation During Infancy  
*In preparation for submission to Developmental Psychobiology*
- 2016.05      Stober, S., **Sternin, A.**, Owen, A.M., Grahm, J.A. (2016). Deep Feature Learning for EEG Recordings. In: *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR'16)*. 2016. (under review, preprint available at <http://arxiv.org/abs/1511.04306>).
- 2015.10      Stober, S., **Sternin, A.**, Owen, A.M., Grahm, J.A. (2015). Towards Music Imagery Information Retrieval: Introducing the OpenMIIR Dataset of EEG Recordings from Music Perception and Imagination. *Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference. Malaga, Spain.*

- 2015.06 **Sternin, A.**, Stober, S., Owen, A.M., Grahm, J.A. Tempo Estimation from the EEG signal during perception and imagination of music. *Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on Brain-Computer Music Interfacing*. Plymouth, UK.
- 2014.09 **Sternin, A.**, Segalowitz, S. J., Lewis, T. L., Dywan, J., & Maurer, D. (2014). Electrophysiological evidence of altered visual processing in adults with blocked pattern vision during infancy. *Psychophysiology*, 51, S34-S35.

### Conference Presentations – oral

- 2015.09 **Fifth Annual Cognitive Based Music Informatics Research** (Toronto, ON)
- Stober, S.\*, **Sternin, A.**, Owen, A.M., Grahm, J.A.
  - Similarity and feature learning for EEG recordings of music perception and imagination
  - *Awarded the Best Paper Award*
- 2015.06 **First International Workshop on Brain-Computer Music Interfacing** (Plymouth, UK)
- **Sternin, A.\***, Stober, S., Owen, A.M., Grahm, J.A.
  - Tempo Estimation from the EEG signal during perception and imagination of music

### Conference Presentations – posters

- 2015.09 **Inaugural Brain and Mind Symposium** (London, ON)
- Classifying Perception and Imagination of rhythms and speech from EEG
- 2015.08 **Society for Music Perception and Cognition 2015** (Nashville, TN)
- Classifying Perception and Imagination of Music from EEG
- 2015.02 **Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** (Niagara Falls, ON)
- Differentiating Music Perception and Imagination Using EEG-processing
- 2014.09 **Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR) 54<sup>th</sup> annual meeting** (Atlanta, GA)
- Electrophysiological evidence of altered visual processing in adults with blocked pattern vision during infancy
- 2014.05 **Compute Ontario Research Day 2014** (Perimeter Institute – Waterloo, ON)
- Electrophysiological evidence of altered visual processing in adults with blocked pattern vision during infancy
- 2014.05 **Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)** (London, ON)
- Electrophysiological evidence of altered visual processing in adults with blocked pattern vision during infancy

### Relevant Experience

- 2016.03 **Inspiring Young Women in STEM Conference – Western Women in Neuroscience**
- Executive committee member
  - Liaised with local industry partners and organized the conference Industry Expo
- 2016.02 **Lead Organizer of an Undergraduate Outreach Symposium at Western University**
- Organized Graduate students to give mentorship talks during *Bring an Undergrad to Grad School Day* 2016
- 2014-2016 **Western Undergraduate Psychology Journal – Graduate Student Editorial Board Member**
- Review articles before publication in the journal
- 2015.07 **Program Support Team – Society for Music Perception and Cognition 2015**
- Responsible for grouping submitted abstracts based on topic into conference sessions.
- 2015 **Radio Interview for Zeit Online ([www.zeit.de](http://www.zeit.de))**
- Journalist: Max Rauner
  - Interview to be part of a German online science blog

## Teaching Experience

- 2014.09 – present **Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Western Ontario**
- Psychology Research Methods (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
  - Nominated for a Graduate Student Teaching Award (2015)

## Extracurricular and Volunteer Activities

- 2015.09-present **Alzheimer Society London and Middlesex**
- Volunteer with the iPod project
  - Create personalized playlists for clients.
- 2016.01 – 2016.03 **Western Graduate Management Consulting Association  
Mini-MBA Seminar Series in Business & Consulting**
- Winner of the business case competition
- 2015.11 **Research Demonstrations**
- Institution: Canadian Association for Girls in Science
  - Organized research demonstrations to be engaging and interesting for young girls aged 8-12 to encourage them to be interested in the sciences.
- 2014 & 2015 **Take Your Kids to Work Day**
- Institution: The University of Western Ontario
  - Planned and executed activities for local high school students visiting The Brain and Mind Institute.
- 2015.05 – present **Executive member of Psychology Graduate Students Association**
- Institution: The University of Western Ontario
  - Responsible for creating social events for the Psychology graduate students throughout the 2015/2016 school year.
  - Work with four other graduate students to ensure the success of all events.
- 2015.05 **Member of the Graduate Student Teaching Awards Committee**
- Institution: The University of Western Ontario
  - Part of the committee that read through 1000 Teaching Award nominations to choose 20 award winners
- 2015.05 **TD Discovery Days in Health Sciences**
- Institution: The University of Western Ontario, Brain and Mind Institute
  - Ran activities for high school students to get them excited about research to do with music and the brain.
- 2015.02 – present **Brain and Mind Institute tour organizer**
- Institution: The University of Western Ontario
  - Organize and lead tours for potential students on Psychology and Neuroscience recruitment days, as outreach to students in local enrichment programs, and for visiting researchers.
- 2013.09 – 2014.04 **Student Senator on the University Senate**
- Institution: Brock University
  - As a student representative on the university senate it was my responsibility to bring the opinions and the needs of the students to the attention of the governing academic body at Brock.
- 2013.09 – 2014.04 **Student Representative on the Student Appeals Board**
- Institution: Brock University
  - As a student representative on the senate student appeals board it was my responsibility to hear the appeals and provide a student's perspective to the rest of the board members so the most appropriate decision would be made.

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| 2013.09-2014.04   | <b>Representative on Brock University Students' Union Academic Affairs Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institution: Brock University</li><li>• Designed Brock University's first student-led teaching awards</li><li>• Reviewed nominations and voted on which professors, teachers and teaching assistants should receive awards.</li></ul>   |
| 2012.06 – 2012.08 | <b>Volunteer in the Child and Adolescent Neuropsychology Lab</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supervisor: Dr. Tara McAuley</li><li>• Institution: University of Waterloo</li><li>• Developed online questionnaires for use in current and future studies.</li><li>• Learned to digitally organize data collected by graduate students.</li></ul>  |
| 2011.07 – 2013.04 | <b>Volunteer in the Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Lab</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supervisors: Dr. Sid Segalowitz and James Desjardins</li><li>• Institution: Brock University</li><li>• Assisted in the development of an objective data analysis program for a specific research project.</li><li>• Assisted in the development of an objective data analysis program for future research projects. Today, this program is used in the analysis of all data in the lab.</li></ul> |