Kathy Garcia

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Education

2022 - Present — Johns Hopkins University
Ph.D. in Computational Cognitive Science | GPA: 4.0/4.0
M.A. in Computational Cognitive Science | 2024 | GPA: 4.0/4.0
Advisor: Leyla Isik

2013 - 2017 — Stanford University
B.S. in Science, Technology, and Society

Experience

2022 - Present — **Graduate Researcher | Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab**
Johns Hopkins University
PI: Leyla Isik

Exploring computational models for dynamic and social visual perception by assessing diverse Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) against the lateral visual stream's response to naturalistic videos, and analyzing their hierarchical alignment with brain regions like the superior temporal sulcus (STS).

2020 - 2021 — **Research Fellow | NU-IN Postbaccalaureate Research Research Program**
Northwestern University
PI: Robin Nusslock

Developed machine learning models for predicting dimensional symptoms of psychopathology from task-based fMRI using support vector regression, and clustering dimensional symptoms of psychopathology and related cognitive effects.

2019 - 2020 — **Staff Research Associate | TMS Clinic and Research Program**
University of California, Los Angeles
PIs: Andrew Leuchter, David Krantz, Kate Marder, Reza Tadayon-Nejad

Assisted in clinical and technical procedures to facilitate doctors and researchers to provide repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) treatment, and pioneered an automated data processing algorithm to reduce patient data processing time from 20 minutes to 1 second per patient while eliminating human error.

2017 - 2018 **Data Scientist & KDB+/Q Engineer | KX Systems/First Derivatives**

Collaborated with a team of consultants to implement kdb+/q framework for major US financial institutions, migrating an existing multi-region financial trade data capture and enrichment system involving combined static and real-time data source handling.

Presentations & Publications

2024 **Garcia, K.**, Conwell, C., McMahon, E., Bonner, M.F., Isik, L. Large-scale Deep Neural Network Benchmarking in Dynamic Social Vision. Talk presentation at the upcoming annual meeting for the Vision Sciences Society (VSS): May 2024

2021 **Garcia, K.**, Anderson, Z., Chat, I. K., Damme, K., Bookheimer, S.Y., Zinbarg, R., & Craske, M., Nusslock, R. Predicting Dimensional Symptoms of Psychopathology from Task-Based fMRI using Support Vector Regression. Poster presented at the annual meeting for the Society for Neuroscience (SFN): January 2021

2020 **Garcia, K.** Review Discussion on MVPA Methods, Principles of fMRI Course, Evanston, IL. Oral Presentation: July 2020

2019 **Garcia, K.** & Pace, C. Brain and Emotions for Children, Universidad National Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Los Angeles, CA. Oral Presentation: 2019

Honors, Awards & Scholarships

2022 Johns Hopkins University Keller Miller Fellowship

2020 Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience: (PREP) (R25) Research Fellowship

2017 Stanford University El Centro Latino Acknowledgement Undergraduate with Academic Honors

2016 Bay Area Graduate Pathways to STEM Symposium Trainee

2016 Stanford University Leadership Intensive Program Recipient

2013 Miguel Contreras Learning Complex Valedictorian

2013 Carnegie Mellon Celebration of Diversity Weekend Travel Awardee

2012 QuestBridge College Prep Scholar

Teaching

Spring 2024	Johns Hopkins University Role: Teaching Assistant Course: Cognitive Neuropsychology of Visual Perception Lecture Instructor: Michael McCloskey *Prepared and graded exams and assignments*
Fall 2023	Johns Hopkins University Role: Teaching Assistant Course: Cognitive Neuroimaging Methods in High-Level Vision Lecture Instructor: Donald Li *Prepared and graded quizzes and assignments*
Spring 2023	Johns Hopkins University Role: Teaching Assistant Course: Reading the Mind: Computational Cognitive Neuroscience of Vision Lecture Instructor: Donald Li *Prepared and graded quizzes and assignments*
Fall 2020	Splash at Northwestern University Role: Teacher *Designed, programmed, and instructed an introductory course and exploration to high school students on the facets of recreating human intelligence in artificial systems through guiding principles in neuroscience, cognitive science, and artificial intelligence, with a focus on limitations, progress, and emerging methods.*

Service & Outreach

2023 - Present	**Student Lead | Diversity and Representation Committee (DRC)** *Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University* Organized and facilitated departmental initiatives aimed at increasing representation and promoting equity for individuals from minoritized groups at every level within the department, making the department climate more welcoming and safe for everyone, especially underrepresented groups in science, and taking school-wide and university-wide action to support anti-racist groups and policies.
2022 - Present	**Student Representative | Graduate Representative Organization (GRO)** *Johns Hopkins University* Student representative for the Department of Cognitive Science
2016 - 2017	**Intern Volunteer | Youth Policy Institute** *Partnership with Stanford HAAS Center for Public Service* Advisor: Dixon Slingerland Fostered STEM learning environments for children across low-income communities of Los Angeles in areas such as health & wellness and computer science by introducing many to logical online games that provide the basis for computer programming

2016 - 2017 **Member | Stanford Latinos Unidos**
Stanford University

Organized community outreach programs across the university to cultivate a more inclusive, diverse, and united Latinx community on campus, through social and cultural events about the various Latin American celebrations, our rich history, literature, art, and diverse community.

2016 - 2017 **Co-Founder & President | Stanford Latinx Business Association**
Stanford University

Created and facilitated a student group focused on promoting diversity in corporations by building partnerships, finding community, and providing mentorship for underrepresented minorities, with a particular focus on members of the Latinx community who are interested in business, technology, and engineering.