

ATA KOLDAY

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EDUCATION

- 2023 - 2024** **Johns Hopkins University**
M.A., Cognitive Science | GPA: 3.9
Specialization: Cognitive Neuropsychology, Machine Learning
Advisors: Brenda Rapp, Ph.D. & Joshua B. Ewen, M.D.
- 2019 - 2022** **University of California, Berkeley**
B.A. (High Honors), Political Science | Dept. GPA: 3.8
Specialization: Political Behavior
Advisors: Susan D. Hyde, Ph.D. & Amy Gurowitz, Ph.D.

EXPERIENCE

- Kennedy Krieger Institute** Baltimore, MD
Research Assistant | PI: Joshua Ewen, M.D. Feb 2023 - present
- Administered several behavioral and motor tests, and full electroencephalography (EEG) studies to typically developing (TD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) children aged 7-11 with minimal supervision.
 - Conducted **structural equation modeling (SEM)** analyses on a dataset containing various behavioral and motor task results across a large sample of TD and ASD children to find mediation effects of possible confounding variables across the relationship between ASD and motor imitation in creating a novel framework for altered imitation in autism.
 - Developed a causal discovery pipeline using **Bnlearn (R)** and **Scikit (Python)** to explore the causal path from an ASD diagnosis to the performance in novel gesture imitation.
- Stanford Social Neuroscience Laboratory (SSNL)** Stanford, CA
Lab Research Staff | PIs: Dr. Jamil Zaki and Luiza Santos Jul 2022 - Dec 2022
- Collaborated with Luiza Santos, a PhD Student in Psychology at Stanford University, on the creation of multiple surveys on **Qualtrics** for social-psychological research, aiming to evoke and measure the belief in cross-partisan empathy among study participants through survey stimuli and conversations on Zoom.
 - Facilitated and moderated conversations through ensuring respectful dialogue between out-partisans on Zoom, during which the participants had productive conversations on controversial political issues, such as immigration, climate change, and gun control.
 - Organized and managed the Google Drive containing sensitive participant information, and created a program to automate sending invitation emails for the study to participants in **Python**, using the **Google API**.
- The Graduate Assembly of UC Berkeley (GA)** Berkeley, CA
Project Director Assistant, GA Business Office Aug 2019 - May 2022
- Collaborated with several project directors on numerous projects that aim at fostering equity and inclusion across the graduate and professional student body, including researching catering options from services run by the LGBTQ+ or BIPOC community, reserving event spaces, and designing social media posts.
 - Performed administrative tasks for the GA Business Office, including examining and approving funding requests by registered graduate student organizations, managing the office space, ordering supplies, and maintaining office equipment.
- University of Oregon** Remote
Research Assistant | Dr. Neil O'Brian Oct 2021 - Jan 2022
- Investigated the policy areas on which a pre-determined group of journalists tend to focus by examining their published articles using the **NexisUni** database, with a particular focus on the following policy areas: *policing, abortion, minimum wage, immigration*.
 - Examined the journalists' tweets from the past year and scraped relevant information on the aforementioned policy areas using Twitter's developer tools and the **TwitterAPI** to conduct sentiment analyses and look for implicit or explicit journalistic biases.

Princeton University

Research Assistant | Dr. Neil O'Brian

Remote

Mar 2021 - Jun 2021

- Assisted Dr. O'Brian in his post-doctoral research at Princeton University, which aimed to build statistical models and gain insight on the changing public opinion on undocumented immigration in the United States from the 1950s to the present.
- Investigated the public opinion between 1950-2021 on **Roper iPoll** to find the outlook on illegal immigration, coded them on a spreadsheet based on the each survey's measurement properties, and sorted through their ASCII/SPSS files and Codebooks.

University of North Florida

Teaching Assistant | Dr. Sean Freeder

Remote

Aug 2020 - Apr 2021

- Facilitated syllabus design for three courses: Introduction to American Politics (POS 2041), The American Presidency (POS 3413), and Controversial Political Issues (POS 4033).
- Managed several administrative tasks throughout the semester, including grading weekly responses, quizzes, and discussion posts.
- Developed an attendance grader program that automates the task using Zoom's attendance files, in which the program designations were specific to Dr. Freeder's grade book formats.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Foundations of Data Science; Introduction to Computer Programming; Multivariable Calculus; Linear Algebra; The Scientific Study of Politics (*Quantitative Methods*); Data, Prediction, and Law (*Machine Learning*)

M.A., Johns Hopkins University

Probabilistic Models of the Visual Cortex; Neuroeconomics; Artificial Intelligence; Foundations of Cognitive Science; Mathematical Foundations of Neural Networks; Research Seminar in Computational Cognitive Neuroscience

SKILLS

1. Technical - Data Collection & Analysis

- Python (advanced)
- R (intermediate)
- SQL (intermediate)
- Excel
- Qualtrics
- LaTeX

2. Language

- Turkish (native)
- English (bilingual proficiency)