

Benjamin Zinszer

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Rochester Center for Brain Imaging
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Employment

present Postdoctoral Associate, Rochester Baby Lab
Dept. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester
2014-16 Postdoctoral Associate, Raizada Lab, University of Rochester
Dept. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester

Education

2014 Ph.D., Psychology, Pennsylvania State University
2014 M.A.S., Applied Statistics, Pennsylvania State University
2012 M.S., Psychology, Pennsylvania State University
2008 B.A., Psychology, Wheaton College (IL)

Fellowships & Honors

2013-14 Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellow
2013 Multi-modal Neuroimaging Training Program (@ Carnegie Mellon & Univ. Pittsburgh)
2012 NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellow to Beijing, China
2012 Confucius Institute Scholarship (for research on Chinese-English bilingualism)
2012 Mu Sigma Rho, Statistics Honor Society, Charter member Penn State chapter
2011 Center for Language Science PIRE Graduate Fellow to Beijing, China
2009-12 University Graduate Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University

Teaching Experience

Language and the Brain (BCS 265, *scheduled Spring 2017*), University of Rochester
Psychology of Language (PSYCH/LING 457), Penn State University
Introductory Statistics (PSYCH 200), Penn State University World Campus
Basic Research Methods in Psychology (PSYCH 301W; Lab instructor), Penn State University

Papers Published

Wu, R., Pruitt, Z., **Zinszer, B. D.**, & Cheung, O. S. (2016) Increased experience amplifies the activation of task-irrelevant category representations. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, in press.
Zinszer, B. D., Anderson, A. J., Kang, O., Wheatley, T., & Raizada, R.D.S. (2016). Semantic structural alignment of neural representational spaces enables translation between English and Chinese words. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 28(11), 1749-1759. doi:10.1162/jocn_a_01000.
Karuza, E., Li, P., Weiss, D. J., Bulgarelli, F., **Zinszer, B. D.**, & Aslin, R. (2016). Sampling over non-uniform distributions: A neural efficiency account of the primacy effect in statistical learning. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 28(10), 1484-1500. doi:10.1162/jocn_a_00990.
Fang, S., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Malt, B.C., & Li, P. (2016). Bilingual object naming: A connectionist model. *Frontiers in Psychology: Cognitive Science*. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00644
Anderson, A. J., **Zinszer, B. D.**, & Raizada, R. (2015). Representational similarity encoding for fMRI: Pattern-based synthesis to predict brain activity using stimulus-model-similarities. *Neuroimage*, 128, 44-53. doi:10.1016/j.neuroimage.2015.12.035
Zinszer, B. D., Chen, P., Wu, H., Shu, H., & Li, P. (2015). Second language experience modulates neural specialization for L1 lexical tones. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 33, 50-66. doi:10.1016/j.jneuroling.2014.09.005
Zinszer, B. D., Malt, B., Ameel, E., Li, P. (2014). Native-likeness in second language lexical

categorization reflects individual language history and linguistic community norms. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5(01203). doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01203.

Zou, L., Abutalebi, J., **Zinszer, B.**, Yan, X., Shu, H., Peng, D., Ding, G. (2012). Second language experience modulates functional brain network for the native language production in bimodal bilinguals. *Neuroimage*, 62(3), 1367-75.

Papers Under Review / Revision

Emberson, L., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Raizada, R. D. S., & Aslin, R. (2016). Decoding the infant mind: Multivoxel pattern analysis (MVPA) using fNIRS.

Weiss, D. J., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Poeppel, T. J., & Aslin, R. N. Stay or switch: The impact of consistency on statistical learning of multiple inputs.

Zinszer, B. D., Rolotti, S. V., Li, F. Li, P. Bayesian word learning in multiple language environments.

Papers in Preparation

Zinszer, B. D., Bayet, L., Emberson, L. E., & Aslin, R. N. Decoding semantic representations from fNIRS signals.

Zinszer, B. D., Wang, R., & Li, P. Bilinguals' native language production shows on-line influence from L2 lexical semantics: evidence from the anterior cingulate and pars triangularis.

Zinszer, B. D., Wang, R., & Li, P. Ventral stream activity in picture naming revisited through richer object naming norms.

Refereed Conference Papers

Zinszer, B. D., Anderson, A. J., Raizada, R.D.S. (2016). Chinese and English speakers' neural representations of word meaning offer a different picture of cross-language semantics than corpus and behavioral measures. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Zinszer, B. D., Anderson, A. J., Kang, O., Wheatley, T., & Raizada, R.D.S. (2015). You say potato, I say tudou: How speakers of different languages can share the same concept. *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Fang, S., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Malt, B.C., & Li, P. (2015). A computational model of object naming convergence in the bilingual lexicon. *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Zinszer, B. D. & Weiss, D. J. (2013). When to hold and when to fold: Detecting structural changes in statistical learning. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Zinszer, B. D. & Li, P. (2010). A SOM model of first language lexical attrition. In S. Ohlsson & R. Catrambone (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Refereed Presentations

McGee, B., Ecchiveri, C., **Zinszer, B.**, & Wu, R. Prior knowledge of category size impacts search. Poster to be presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society annual meeting, March 2017, San Francisco, CA.

Zinszer, B. D., Bayet, L., Emberson, L., & Aslin, R. Decoding semantic representations from fNIRS signals. Poster presented at the Society for Functional Near-infrared Spectroscopy, October 13-16, 2016.

Emberson, L., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Raizada, R.D.S., & Aslin, R. Decoding the infant mind: Multichannel pattern analysis (MCPA) using fNIRS. Poster presented at the Society for Functional Near-infrared Spectroscopy, October 13-16, 2016.

Zinszer, B. D., Emberson, L., Raizada, R. D. S., & Aslin, R. Decoding the infant mind: Multichannel

pattern analysis (MCPA) using fNIRS. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, April 4, 2016.

- Zinszer, B. D.**, Anderson, A. J., Kang, O., Wheatley, T., & Raizada, R.D.S. Chinese and English speakers share representations for word-elicited concepts, but semantic models struggle to capture this similarity. Poster presented at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, October 16, 2015.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Wang, R., & Li, P. Bilingual categorization reveals cross-language lexical semantic competition in naming. Talk presented at the 10th International Symposium on Bilingualism, May 2015.
- Zhang, T., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Wang, R., & Li, P. Bilinguals' anterior cingulate and *pars triangularis* reflect both native and second language norms during native language production. Poster presented at the 22nd annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, March 2015.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Poepsel, T., Aslin, R., & Weiss, D. J. When to hold and when to fold: Detecting structural changes in statistical learning. Poster presented at the 39th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, November 7, 2014.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Malt, B., Ameel, E., & Li, P. What is a cup? Effects of immersion, language, and learner variables on lexical category convergence. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society 54th Annual Meeting, November 26, 2013.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Holt, T., Han, W., Shu, H., & Li, P. Age of L2 onset modulates left MTG specialization for L1 lexical tones. Society for the Neurobiology of Language, November 6, 2013.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Weiss, D. J. When to hold and when to fold: Detecting structural changes in statistical learning. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, August 3, 2013.
- Rolotti, S. V., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Carlson, E. A. & Li, P. Bayesian Word Learning in Multiple Languages. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, August 3, 2013.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Malt, B., Ameel, E., & Li, P. Effects of immersion, language, and learner variables on lexical category convergence. Talk presented at the 9th International Symposium of Bilingualism, June 13, 2013.
- Weiss, D.J., Poepsel, T., & **Zinszer, B.** Know when to hold 'em: Detecting structural changes in statistical learning. Talk presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C., May 23-26, 2013.
- Rolotti, S. V., **Zinszer, B. D.**, & Li, P. Bayesian Inference for Bilingual Word Learning. Poster presented at The Society for Computers in Psychology, November 14, 2012.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Predictors of native-like categorization in Chinese learners of English. Talk presented at Second Language Research Forum, October 21, 2012.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Bilingual categorization behavior: internally or externally emergent? Talk presented at the 8th International Symposium of Bilingualism, June 15-18, 2011.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Cross-Language Lexical Interaction in Object Naming. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society 51st Annual Meeting, November 20, 2010.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Modeling age of onset in first language lexical attrition. Talk presented at Society for Computers in Psychology 40th Annual Meeting, November 18, 2010.
- Zinszer, B.** & Li, P. A SOM model of first language lexical attrition. Talk presented at the 32nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Portland, Oregon, August, 2010.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Phinney, R. E. Effects of mask-to-target energy ratio on cyclopean metacontrast masking. Poster presented Vision Sciences Society 9th Annual Meeting, May 13-18 2009.

Computational & Technical Experience

Matlab (incl. SPM8, SOM Toolbox, HomER/HomER2); Python; Statistical computing (R/R-Studio, SPSS); Functional near-infrared spectroscopy (Hitachi ETG-4000, Techon CW6); Multi-voxel pattern analysis for fMRI & fNIRS; Effective connectivity modeling of functional neuroimaging data

Reviewer

Behavior Research Methods, Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, Brain & Language, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Journal of Neurolinguistics, The Modern Language Journal, Neuropsychologia

Professional Service

- Brain Awareness Week presenter for 2nd-3rd grade children (Rochester, NY, USA), Spring 2016
- Brain & Language workshop instructor on MVPA methods, Jiangsu Normal University (Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, China), Summer 2015
- Statistical consultant to Guangwai Brain and Language Lab, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (Guangzhou, China), Summer & Fall 2013
- Statistical Consulting Center consultant (Penn State Univ.), Spring 2013
- Delegate to The 2nd Young Scientist Forum, US-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (Beijing, China), Summer 2012
- Judge for Pennsylvania Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (State College, PA), 2011