

# CLARA COLOMBATTO

Curriculum Vitae | July 2024

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claracolombatto.com

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2024 - **University of Waterloo**, Ontario, CA  
*Assistant Professor*, Department of Psychology
- 2024 - **University College London**, London, UK  
*Honorary Lecturer*, Department of Experimental Psychology
- 2022 - 2023 **University College London**, London, UK  
*Research Fellow*, Department of Experimental Psychology  
*Sponsor*: Steve Fleming
- 2021 - 2022 **Yale University**, New Haven, CT  
*Postdoctoral Associate*, Department of Psychology  
*Sponsor*: M. J. Crockett

## EDUCATION

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- 2015 - 2021 **Yale University**, New Haven, CT  
*M.S.* (2018), *M. Phil* (2018), *Ph.D.* (2021) in Cognitive Psychology  
*Advisor*: Brian Scholl
- 2011 - 2015 **Duke University**, Durham, NC  
*B.A.* in Philosophy *Magna cum laude*  
*B.S.* in Neuroscience *with High Distinction*  
*Advisors*: Scott Huettel & Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

## RESEARCH SUPPORT

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- 2023 - Microsoft Research — *Cognition, and the Economy (AICE) Program*  
PI, “Metacognition and Trust in Human-AI Collaboration”
- 2024 - 2029 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)  
*Discovery Grant*  
PI, “Perceptual Mechanisms of Mental State Representation”

2024 University of Waterloo —*Interdisciplinary Research-Infrastructure Seed Grant*  
Co-PI, “Future Training Laboratory” (PI: Evan Risko)

## HONORS & AWARDS

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2022 *James B. Grossman Dissertation Prize*  
Awarded annually to the best doctoral dissertation in Psychology at Yale

2019 *Student Travel Award*  
Object Perception, Attention, and Memory Conference

2019 *Student Travel Award*  
Vision Sciences Society

2016 *Phi Beta Kappa*  
Duke University

## FELLOWSHIPS

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2023 *Neuroscience of Consciousness Winter School Fellowship*  
CIFAR program in Brain, Mind & Consciousness

2019 *Computational Summer School Fellowship*  
Methods in Neuroscience at Dartmouth

2016 *Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellowship*  
Kavli Foundation

2014 *Neuroscience Program of Research Fellowship*  
Duke University

2013 *Bass Connections Scholarship*  
Duke University

## PUBLICATIONS (\*equal contribution; ^student trainee)

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\*Kim, J. S., \*Colombatto, C., & Crockett, M. J. (in press). Goal inference in moral narratives. *Cognition*.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2024). Perceived gaze dynamics in social interactions can alter (and even reverse) the perceived temporal order of events. *Cognition*, 247, Article 105745.

**Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (2024).** Folk psychological attributions of consciousness to large language models. *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, 2024, niae013.

Bhattacharyya, R., **Colombatto, C.**, Fleming, S., Posner, I., & Hawes, N. (2023). Investigating the role of metacognition for joint decision-making in human-robot collaboration. *AAAI 2023 Summer Symposium: Building Connections: From Human-Human to Human-AI Collaboration*.

**Colombatto, C.**, Everett, J. A. C., Senn, J., Maréchal, M. A., & Crockett, M. J. (2023). Vaccine nationalism counterintuitively erodes public trust in leaders. *Psychological Science*, 34, 1309–1321.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2022). Unconscious pupillometry: An effect of ‘attentional contagion’ in the absence of visual awareness. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151, 302–308.

**Colombatto, C.**, Uddenberg, S., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). The efficiency of demography in face perception. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 83, 3104–3117.

**Colombatto, C.**, van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Hidden intentions: Visual awareness prioritizes perceived attention even without eyes or faces. *Cognition*, 217, Article 104901, 1–7.

\*Everett, J. A. C., \***Colombatto, C.**, Awad, E. Boggio, P., Bos, B., Brady, W. J., Chawla, M., Chituc, V., Chung, D., Drupp, M. A., Goel, S., Grosskopf, B., Hjorth, F., Ji, A., Kealoha, C., Kim, J. S., Lin, Y., Ma, Y., Maréchal, M. A., Mancinelli, F., Mathys, C., Olsen, A. L., Pearce, G., Prosser, A. M. B., Reggev, N., Sabin, N., Senn, J., Shin, Y. S., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Sjøstad, H., Strick, M., Sul, S., Tummers, L., Turner, M., Yu, H., Zoh, Y., & Crockett, M. J. (2021). Moral dilemmas and trust in leaders during a global health crisis. *Nature Human Behavior*, 5, 1074–1088.

**Colombatto, C.**, Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Gaze deflection reveals how gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the eyes. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117, 19825–19829.

**Colombatto, C.**, van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Gazing without eyes: A ‘stare-in-the-crowd’ induced by simple geometric shapes. *Perception*, 49, 782–792.

**Colombatto, C.**, van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Intentionally distracting: Working memory is disrupted by the perception of other agents attending to you — even without eye-gaze cues. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 26, 951–957.

Chen, Y. -C., **Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Looking into the future: An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. *Cognition*, 176, 209–214.

**Colombatto, C., & McCarthy, G. (2017).** The effects of face inversion and face race on the P100 ERP. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 29, 664–676.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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**Colombatto, C., Capozzi, F., Fratino, V., & Ristic, J. (under revision).** A perceptual advantage for social groups.

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C., & Ristic, J. (under revision).** Search advantage for facing social groups reflects optimal interactive group size.

**Colombatto, C., Conway, P., De Brigard, F., Hofmann, W., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Stanley, M. L., Yu, H., & Crockett, M. J. (under review).** Motivated abstraction of personal transgressions in moral narratives.

**Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (under review).** Attending to attention: Reverse correlation reveals how we perceive attentiveness in other people's faces.

**Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (under review).** Foundations of social perception: Eye contact or 'mind contact'?

**Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (under review).** Illusions of confidence in artificial systems.

**Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (under review).** Perceiving others' metacognition: A new dimension in person impressions.

## WORKING PAPERS

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<sup>^</sup>Yan, C., <sup>^</sup>Farquharson, E., <sup>^</sup>Patient, C., Fleming, S. M., & **Colombatto, C. (in preparation).** Attributions of consciousness to AI: Predictors and consequences.

**Colombatto, C., Crockett, M. J., & Scholl, B. J. (in preparation).** 'Perceptual ageism': Distinct trajectories of first impressions from faces across their lifespan.

**Colombatto, C., & Crockett, M. J. (in preparation).** Immoral behavior generates higher disagreement in collective moral impressions.

\*Everett, J. A. C., \***Colombatto, C., ...**, & Crockett, M. J. (in preparation). Moral dilemmas: from theory to practice.

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2024     Microsoft Research, Collaborative Intelligence group
- 2024     Croatian Consciousness & Computation Conference
- 2024     Animal Consciousness Conference
- 2024     Western University, Mind and Brain Institute
- 2024     Georgia Institute of Technology, Rahnev Lab
- 2024     University of Central Lancashire, Perception and Cognition Neuroscience Group
- 2023     Université Libre de Bruxelles, Center for Research in Cognition & Neurosciences
- 2023     LSE-UCL Workshop on Attributions of Consciousness to AI
- 2023     Oxford Robotics Institute
- 2023     UCL-PSL Summer School on Consciousness and Metacognition
- 2023     Birkbeck, University of London, Department of Psychology
- 2022     University of Waterloo, Department of Psychology
- 2022     University of Bristol, Robotics Laboratory
- 2021     McGill University, Laboratory for Attention & Social Cognition
- 2021     UCLA, Computational Vision and Learning Laboratory
- 2021     University College London, Consciousness Club
- 2020     New School for Social Research, Perception Laboratory

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Yan, L., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2024). Unveiling the dynamics of pupil responses to gaze signals. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2024). Hindered individuation of people in facing relative to non-facing social groups. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Conference*, Ottawa, ON, Canada.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2024). Attending to attention: Reverse correlation reveals how we perceive attentiveness in other people's faces. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment, Niagara Falls ON, Canada.

Ristic, J., Yan, L., & **Colombatto, C.** (2023). Social perceptual grouping is sensitive to group size. Talk given at the *European Conference on Visual Perception*, Paphos, Cyprus.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Fleming, S. M. (2023). Illusions of confidence in artificial systems. Poster presented at the *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*, Oxford, UK.

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2023). Perceptual grouping of social interactions is sensitive to group size. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Toronto, Canada.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Fleming, S. M. (2023). Inferring metacognition in humans and machines. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Association of Scientific Studies of Consciousness*, New York, NY.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Fleming, S. M. (2023). Illusions of confidence in the advice of artificial systems. Talk given at the Perceptual Metacognition Satellite of the *Association of Scientific Studies of Consciousness*, New York, NY.

Ristic, J., **Colombatto, C.**, & Yan, L. (2023). From dyads to crowds: Perceptual unity of group interactions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 23(9), 5336, <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.23.9.5336>.]

**Colombatto, C.**, Guo, Y. Y. L., Scholl, B. J., & Ristic, J. (2022). Pupil size modulates gaze cueing. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, online.

McCrackin, S. D., **Colombatto, C.**, Fratino, V., Scholl, B. J., & Ristic, J. (2022). Pupil dilation widens the perceived cone of direct gaze. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, online.

Ristic, J., **Colombatto, C.**, & Fratino, V. (2022). Perceptual grouping of social interactions: From dyads to triads. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, online.

Crockett, M. J., **Colombatto, C.**, & Chawla, M. (2022). Immoral behavior generates higher disagreement in collective moral impressions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Milan, Italy.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Crockett, M. J. (2022). Motivated obfuscation of moral transgressions in natural language. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Milan, Italy.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2022). Attending to attention: Reverse correlation reveals how we perceive attentiveness in other people's faces. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 3339, <https://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2783984>.]

Fu, S., Chen, Y. -C., **Colombatto, C.**, & Lu, H. (2022). Visual impressions of social avoidance from moving shapes. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 3693, <https://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2784196>.]

Fratino, V., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2022). From dyads to triads: Perceptual unity of social groups. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Crockett, M. J. (2022). Linguistic obfuscation of reality in narratives of moral transgressions. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, San Francisco, CA.

Fratino, V., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2022). Two is company, three is a crowd: Perceptual unity of dyads and small groups. Talk given at the annual *Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology Summit*, online.

**Colombatto, C.**, Kim, J. S., Rodriguez, D., & Crockett, M. J. (2021). I see where you are going: Perception of persuasion goals in moral narratives influences character impressions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Cognitive Sciences Society*, online.

Crockett, M. J., Kim, J. S., & **Colombatto, C.** (2021). Competing goals in the construction and perception of moral narratives. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, online.

**Colombatto, C.**, Chen, Y. -C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). From eyes to minds: Perceiving perception, and attending to attention? Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, online.

**Colombatto, C.**, Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Gazing to look vs. gazing to think: Gaze cueing is modulated by the perception of others' external vs. internal attention.

Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 21(9), 2800, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2777666>.]

Lopez-Brau, M., **Colombatto, C.**, Jara-Ettinger, J., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Attentional prioritization for historical traces of agency. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 21(9), 2748, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2777716>.]

**Colombatto, C.**, Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Observed gaze dynamics in social interactions alter the perceived temporal order of events. Talk given at the annual *Object Perception, Attention, & Memory* meeting, online.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Eyes vs. minds: A Janus-like manipulation reveals that perceived intentionality boosts gaze cueing. Poster accepted at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Unconscious attentional contagion: Faster breakthrough into awareness for faces with dilated pupils. Poster presented at the annual *Object Perception, Attention, & Memory* meeting, Montréal, Québec, CA.

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Unconscious pupillometry: Faces with dilated pupils gain preferential access to visual awareness. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 19(10), 218, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2750796>.]

Uddenberg, S., **Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2019). The speed of demography in face perception. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 19(10), 229d, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2750849>.]

**Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Illusions of morality: Visual impressions of causality override overt judgment in moral decision making. Talk given at the annual *European Conference on Visual Perception*, Trieste, Italy.

Chen, Y. -C., **Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Looking into the future: An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 1333, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2700313>.]

**Colombatto, C.**, Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the gaze: Investigations of ‘gaze deflection’. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 197, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2699191>.]



**Colombatto, C.,** Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). Gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the gaze: Investigations of ‘gaze deflection’. Poster presented at the annual *European Conference on Visual Perception*, Berlin, Germany.

**Colombatto, C.,** van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). ‘Mind contact’: Might eye-gaze effects actually reflect more general phenomena of perceived attention and intention? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 17(10), 60, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2650946>.]

**Colombatto, C.,** McCarthy, G. (2017). Face processing at 100 ms: the effects of race and configuration. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, San Francisco, CA.

**Colombatto, C.** (2014). I'll do what you think we should do: Pronouns and the construction of the tutoring community. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Southeastern Writing Center Association*, Greenville, NC.

Russell, V. & **Colombatto, C.** (2013). We deliver!: The multi-modal medium is the message. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Southeastern Writing Center Association*, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

## TEACHING

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### University of Waterloo

2024	Honors Seminar in Cognition: Social Perception
2024	Undergraduate Reading Course: Metacognition
2024	Graduate Reading Course: Supporting Memory and Metamemory
2024	Special Topics in Cognition and Perception: Social Perception

### University College London

2023	Guest Lecturer, Neuroscience MSc (Tali Sharot)
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### Yale University

2020	Teaching Fellow, The Modern Unconscious (John Bargh)
2018	Teaching Fellow, Decision-Making (Dave Rand)
2017	Teaching Fellow, Cognitive Neuroscience (Steve Chang)
2017	Teaching Fellow, Social Psychology (John Bargh)
2016	Teaching Fellow, Intro to Cognitive Science (Brian Scholl)
2016 - 2018	Writing Fellow, Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning

**Duke University**

2015	Teaching Assistant, Calculus and Functions II (Lewis Blake)
2015	Teaching Assistant, Calculus and Functions II (Emily Braley)
2014	Teaching Assistant, Calculus and Functions I (Rann Bar-On)
2014	Teaching Assistant, Writing Literacy (Vicki Russell)
2013	Teaching Assistant, Freshmen Writing (Jesse Summers)
2013	Teaching Assistant, Freshmen Writing (Lindsay Smith)
2012	Peer Tutor, Academic Resource Center

**STUDENT ADVISING**

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**Master's Students**

2024 -	Claire Yan (University College London)
2024 -	Shakthi Senthil Kumar (University of Waterloo)
2024 -	Yuanze Huang (University of Waterloo)

**Research Staff**

2024 -	Brian Wu
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**Undergraduate Students**

2024 -	Irsa Duka, University of Waterloo 2024
2024 -	Fikir Mekonnen, Yale College 2025
2024 -	Audrey Hempel, Yale College 2025
2024 -	Amy Delia Younesi, University of Waterloo 2025
2024 -	Aarifah Panchbhaya, University of Waterloo 2024
2024 -	Daniela Pasqualini, University of Waterloo 2024
2023 - 2024	Claire Yan, University College London 2024
2023 - 2024	Eliza Farquharson, University College London 2024
2023 - 2024	Charlotte Patient, University College London 2024
2021 - 2022	Maria Canon, Yale College 2022
2021 - 2022	Victoria Frattino, McGill University 2022 (After McGill: PhD student at Concordia University)
2021 - 2022	Yang Yi Lin Guo, McGill University 2022 (After McGill: PhD student at University of British Columbia)
2019 - 2022	Conor Downey, Yale College 2022 (After Yale: PhD student at MIT)
2019 - 2021	Joanna Zukin, Yale College 2021
2019 - 2020	Rui Zhe Goh, Yale-NUS College 2020 (After Yale: PhD student at Johns Hopkins)
2018 - 2019	Lan Luo, Yale College 2020 (After Yale: PhD student at Columbia Business School)
2018 - 2019	Daniel Do, Yale College 2019

(After Yale: COO at Cortex College Consulting)  
 2015 - 2016 Audrey Luo, Yale College 2017  
 (After Yale: MD/PhD student at U of Pennsylvania School of Medicine)

### **PhD Committees**

2024 - April Pereira (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 - Seth Winward (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 - Adrian Berk Safati (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 Keith Rebello (University of Waterloo Electrical Engineering)

### **Master's Committees**

2024 Hamza Tariq (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 Julianna Salvatierra (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 Amie Durston (University of Waterloo)

### **Undergraduate Committees**

2024 Matthew Yeung (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 Lucas Robert Betts (University of Waterloo)  
 2024 Caroline Simpson (University of Waterloo)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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2023 - Editorial Board Reviewer, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance  
 2023 Co-organizer, LSE-UCL Workshop on Attributions of Consciousness to AI  
 2022 - 2023 Co-organizer, UCL-PSL Consciousness & Metacognition Summer School  
 2021 - 2023 Reviewer, Application Statement Feedback Program

### **University and Departmental Committees**

2024 - 2025 Executive Committee, Cognition Area representative  
 2024 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

### **Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Journals**

Acta Psychologica  
 American Psychologist  
 Biological Psychology  
 Cognition  
 Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience  
 Cognitive Science  
 Computers in Human Behavior Reports  
 Developmental Science  
 Emotion

Frontiers in Neuroscience  
Frontiers in Psychology  
iScience  
JEP: General  
JEP: Human Perception and Performance  
Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience  
Journal of Vision  
Open Mind  
PCI Registered Reports  
Plos One  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences  
Psychophysiology  
Scientific Reports  
Social Neuroscience  
The Journal of Pain  
Visual Cognition

**Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Conferences**

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience  
Cognitive Science Society  
Society for Philosophy and Psychology

**Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Grant Agencies**

National Science Foundation