

CIARA WILLETT

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh	Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology, Data Science minor	SU22
	M.S. in Cognitive Psychology	2020
Seton Hall University	M.S. in Experimental Psychology	2017
St. Mary's College of Maryland	B.A. in Psychology, Educational Studies minor	2014

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Managing, Querying, & Preserving Data	HCI for Technology Executives
Data Visualization	Decision Science and Policy
Mixed Effects Models	Skill Acquisition in Human Cognition
Machine Learning	Human Cognition and Memory
Applied Regression Analysis	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – present	UX Researcher & Design Lead, CliMate Conducted focus groups with target market and designed a pitch deck in preparation for the Big Idea Blitz Competition.
2022 – present	Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh Law School Conducted focus groups with 1L law students. Responsible for database management, statistical analyses, and generating reports/deliverables.
2019, 2022	Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh Primary instructor for a Research Methods in Psychology course. Designed course content / materials, including an RShiny app to illustrate controlling for third variables.
2020 - 2021	Graduate Student Researcher, University of Pittsburgh Designed tutorials to improve students' understanding of why correlation does not imply causation and how to apply this concept to media articles.
2017 - 2019	Graduate Student Researcher, University of Pittsburgh Conducted a series of smartphone studies to examine how people learn about causal relationships over time. Programmed and maintained a smartphone application, oversaw data collection/recruitment, and did extensive data analysis.
2015 - 2017	Teaching Assistant, Seton Hall University Teaching assistant for an Introduction to Psychology course.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022	Runner-up (CliMate app) at Big Idea Blitz Competition, University of Pittsburgh
2021	LRDC Graduate Student Council Award (\$250 award towards research)
2020	Runner-up, Tim Post Award for Excellence in Research
2014	St. Mary's Scholar Award for Academic Performance
2014	Showcase Project Award for Undergraduate Honor's Thesis

PUBLICATIONS

- Willett, C. L., & Rottman, B. M. (2021). The accuracy of causal learning over long timeframes: An ecological momentary experiment approach. *Cognitive Science*, 45(7), e12985.
- Willett, C. L., & Rottman, B. M. (2020). Causal learning with two causes over weeks. In S. Denison, M. Mack, & Y. Xu, & B. C. Armstrong (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Willett, C. L., & Rottman, B. M. (2019). The Accuracy of Causal Learning over 24 Days. In A. Goel, C. Seifert, & C. Freska (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Manuscripts under review

- Willett, C., & Rottman, B. M. Learning about confounding causes over long timeframes.

Manuscripts in preparation

- Willett, C., & Rottman, B. M. Primacy and recency effects in causal learning over time.
- Willett, C., & Goedert, K. M. Do outcome density effects result from a heuristic process?

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Alessim N. J., Willett, C., Benevento, A., DeModnam A., Fortney, A., Heuer, T., Laplaski, K., Murphy, K. M., Patel, H., Regan, D., Goedert, K. M. (March, 2020). Investigating Heuristics in Causal Learning. Poster at the 91st annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Willett, C., Goedert, K. M., Austin, A., Mangus, L., & Yurekli, A. (March, 2017). Does cognitive demand influence outcome density's influence on causal judgments? Poster presented at the 88th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Czarnowski, D., Willett, C., Barbosa, J., Simmons, A., Gichie, D., Ball, M., & Goedert, K. M. (March, 2017). Grip strength asymmetries and causal judgment. Poster presented at the 88th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Ellison, J. N., Ngo, C. T., Osak, J. E., Willett, C., Simmons, A. M., & Lloyd, M. E. (March, 2017). Context effects depend on the type of context. Poster presented at the 88th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Rehder, B., Goedert, K. M., Willett, C., Blattner, R. (August, 2016). Modular versus integrated causal learning. Poster presented at the 38th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- Willett, C., Blattner, R., Rehder, B., Goedert, K. M., Cieslak, D., Cormier, O., Watson, C., O'Connor, K., Barbosa, J. (March, 2016). Retrospective inhibition in sequential causal learning supports sparse-and-strong priors. Poster presented at the 87th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, New York, NY.
- Osak, J., Willett, C., Ngo, C. T., Lloyd, M. (March, 2016). Context effects in meaningful environments: The semantic nature of familiarity. Poster presented at the 87th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, New York, NY.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Willett, C., Guerin, S., Keogh, F., Dodd, P. (2014). Exploring the nature of respite care in intellectual disability. *Frontline: The Irish voice for intellectual disability*, 96, 19-22.

INVITED TALKS

CAMeL, University of Pittsburgh

upcoming Bayes Factors & how to incorporate them in your research

Cognitive Psychology Lunch Talk Series, University of Pittsburgh

2020 Primacy and recency effects in a longitudinal causal learning study

2020 Learning about confounded causes over time

2019 Learning about single-cause effect relations over time

Experimental Psychology Lunch Talk Series, Seton Hall University

2017 Cognitive demand and the outcome density effect

MENTORSHIP

2021 – present Qualitative coding with 3 teams of undergraduate research assistants.

2021 – present Undergraduate thesis committee member (Danielle Nebril).

2019 Peer mentor for first-year graduate students.

2019 Undergraduate thesis committee member (Joanna Ye).

2017 – 2020 Trained and supervised 30+ undergraduate students collecting data.

2017 Developed a curriculum for teaching students how to analyze data in R.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

2019 – present Psychology Equity, Inclusion, and Community (PEIC) Committee

2019 – present Graduate Student Organization, Psychology Representative

2018 – 2021 Volunteer at Planned Parenthood for Western Pennsylvania

2019 Cognitive Program Communications Committee Member

2018 Cognitive Psychology Program Student Representative

2016 Student Representative for Guest Speakers at Seton Hall University

2016 Volunteer at TeenTech Workshop for Women in STEM

SKILLS

Data Analysis R, tidyverse, Python, SQL, neo4j, SPSS

UX Research Prototyping, Contextual Inquiry, Usability Testing, Survey Design,
Journey Mapping, Affinity Diagramming

Design Sketch, Photoshop

Web Development Python, Javascript, JQuery, Django, Google Cloud, Twilio, GitHub

Data Collection Amazon Mechanical Turk, E-Prime, Qualtrics

Miscellaneous Tobii Studio eye tracking software

REFERENCES

Dr. Benjamin M. Rottman
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Pittsburgh, PA, 15260
412-624-7493, rottman@pitt.edu

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South Orange, NJ, 07079
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