

Emily G. Liquin

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[Google Scholar Profile](#)

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2024-Present **Assistant Professor**
Department of Psychology, University of New Hampshire
- 2021-2024 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of Psychology, New York University
Advisors: Dr. Todd Gureckis & Dr. Marjorie Rhodes

EDUCATION

- 2021 **Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology**
Princeton University
Dissertation: *Imperfect inquiry: How curiosity and satisfaction guide learning*
Advisors: Dr. Tania Lombrozo & Dr. Alison Gopnik
- 2020 **M.A., Cognitive Psychology**
Princeton University
- 2016 **B.A., Cognitive Science and Psychology** (summa cum laude; departmental honors)
Northwestern University
Thesis: *Touchscreen devices and young children: Symbolic understanding, the video deficit, and increasing symbolic competence*
Advisor: Dr. David Uttal

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022-2024 NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (\$138,000)
“Investigating the cognitive mechanisms underlying children's question asking”
- 2020 Graduate Student Research Grant, Princeton Program in Cognitive Science
- 2019-2020 Graduate Fellow, Princeton Program in Cognitive Science
- 2016-2021 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2016-2018 Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study
- 2014, 2015 Summer Undergraduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2015 Fellowship for International Study, Northwestern University

HONORS & AWARDS

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| 2021 | Runner-Up, William James Prize (best student paper), Society for Philosophy and Psychology |
| 2019 | Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for Philosophy and Psychology |
| 2019 | Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for Research in Child Development |
| 2018 | Glushko Student Travel Award, Cognitive Science Society |
| 2018 | Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for Philosophy and Psychology |
| 2015 | Phi Beta Kappa, Northwestern University |

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Liquin, E. G., Rhodes, M. & Gureckis, T. M. (in press). Seeking new information with old questions: Children and adults reuse and recombine concepts from prior questions. *Open Mind*. [\[preprint\]](#)
2. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2024). Breaking down (and moving beyond) novelty as a trigger of curiosity. Commentary on Ivancovsky, Baror & Bar. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 47, e106. [\[paper\]](#)
3. Metz, S. E., Liquin, E. G., & Lombrozo, T. (2023). Distinct profiles for beliefs about religion versus science. *Cognitive Science*, 47(11), e13370. [\[paper\]](#)
4. Lombrozo, T. & Liquin, E. G. (2023). Explanation is effective because it is selective. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 32(3), 212–219. [\[paper\]](#)
5. Lewry, C., Gorucu, S., Liquin, E. G., & Lombrozo, T. (2023). Minimally counterintuitive stimuli trigger greater curiosity than merely improbable stimuli. *Cognition*, 230, 105286. [\[paper\]](#) [\[preprint\]](#)
6. Hart, Y., Kosoy, E., Liquin, E. G., Leonard, J. A., Mackey, A. P., & Gopnik, A. (2022). The development of creative search strategies. *Cognition*, 225, 105102. [\[paper\]](#) [\[preprint\]](#)
7. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2022). Motivated to learn: An account of explanatory satisfaction. *Cognitive Psychology*, 132, 101453. [\[paper\]](#)
8. Liquin, E. G. & Gopnik, A. (2022) Children are more exploratory and learn more than adults in an approach-avoid task. *Cognition*, 218, 104940. [\[paper\]](#) [\[preprint\]](#)
9. Liquin, E. G., Metz, S. E., & Lombrozo, T. (2020) Science demands explanation, religion tolerates mystery. *Cognition*, 204, 104398. [\[paper\]](#)
10. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2020) Explanation-seeking curiosity in childhood. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 35, 14-20. [\[paper\]](#)
11. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2020) A functional approach to explanation-seeking curiosity. *Cognitive Psychology*, 119, 101276. [\[paper\]](#)

12. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2018). Structure-function fit underlies the evaluation of teleological explanations. *Cognitive Psychology*, 107, 22-43. [\[paper\]](#)

PREPRINTS & UNDER REVIEW

1. Liquin, E. G. (under review). More time and effort, same curiosity: Information accessibility does not impact curiosity. [\[preprint\]](#)
2. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., Lewry, C., & Lombrozo, T. (under review). A computational approach to disentangling the triggers of curiosity in children and adults. [\[preprint\]](#)

REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. Liquin, E. G. (2025). Ease of access to information does not impact curiosity. In Ruggeri, A., Barner, D., Walker, C. & Bramley, N. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
2. Liquin, E. G., Rhodes, M, & Gureckis, T. M. (2024). Reuse and remixing in question asking across development. In L. K. Samuelson, S. Frank, M. Toneva, A. Mackey & E. Hazeltine (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1137-1144). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
3. Liquin, E. G., Luzuriaga, N., & Gureckis, T. M. (2023). Teaching and learning through pedagogical environment design. In M. Goldwater, F. Anggoro, B. Hayes, & D. Ong (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 957- 963). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
4. Liquin, E. G. & Gureckis, T. M. (2022). Where questions come from: Reusing old questions in new situations. In J. Culbertson, A. Perfors, H. Rabagliati, & V. Ramenzoni (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
5. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., & Lombrozo, T. (2021). Developmental change in what elicits curiosity. In T. Fitch, C. Lamm, H. Leder, & K. Teßmar-Raible (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1360- 1366). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
6. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., & Lombrozo, T. (2020). Quantifying curiosity: A formal approach to dissociating causes of curiosity. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 309-315). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
7. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2019). Inquiry, theory-formation, and the phenomenology of explanation. In A.K. Goel, C.M. Seifert, & C. Freksa (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 664-670). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
8. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2018). Determinants and consequences of the need for explanation. In T.T. Rogers, M. Rau, X. Zhu, & C.W. Kalish (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 696-701). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)

9. Liquin, E. G., Metz, S. E., & Lombrozo, T. (2018). Explanation and its limits: Mystery and the need for explanation in science and religion. In T.T. Rogers, M. Rau, X. Zhu, & C.W. Kalish (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2065-2070). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)
10. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2017). Explain, explore, exploit: Effects of explanation on information search. In G. Gunzelmann, A. Howes, T. Tenbrink, & E. J. Davelaar (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2598- 2603). Cognitive Science Society. [\[paper\]](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* = undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate advisee

Talks

1. Liquin, E. G. (2025, May). *Ease of access to information does not influence curiosity*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C.
2. Liquin, E. G., Rhodes, M., & Gureckis, T. M. (2024, July). *Reuse and remixing in question asking across development*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
3. Liquin, E. G., Gureckis, T. M., & Rhodes, M. (2024, June). *Overhypotheses shape question asking in children and adults*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, West Lafayette, IN.
4. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F. & Lombrozo, T. (2024, June) *How curiosity drives us towards good explanations*. Talk presented at the International Conference on Thinking, Milan, Italy.
5. Liquin, E. G., *Luzuriaga, N. & Gureckis, T. M. (2023, July). *Teaching and learning through pedagogical environment design*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sydney, Australia.
6. Liquin, E. G., *Tsai, B., Rhodes, M. & Gureckis, T. M. (2023, June). *The origins of information-seeking questions*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Pittsburgh, PA.
7. Liquin, E. G., & Gureckis, T. M. (2022, July). *Where questions come from: Reusing old questions in new situations*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, ON. [\[talk video\]](#)
8. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., & Lombrozo, T. (2021, June). *Drivers of curiosity: A computational account*. Talk presented at “Minds at Play” pre-conference workshop at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, virtual.
9. Liquin, E. G., & Lombrozo, T. (2021, June). *Explanatory satisfaction tracks epistemic success and motivates inquiry*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, virtual. Finalist for William James Prize (best student paper).

10. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., & Lombrozo, T. (2021, April). *Developmental change in the triggers of curiosity*. Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, virtual.
11. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., & Lombrozo, T. (2020, July). *Quantifying curiosity: A formal approach to dissociating causes of curiosity*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, virtual. [\[talk video\]](#)
12. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2019, July). *Inquiry, theory-formation, and the phenomenology of explanation*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, QB.
13. Liquin, E.G. & Lombrozo, T. (2019, July). *Causal structure modulates the preference for simple explanations*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Diego, CA.
14. Liquin, E. G. & Gopnik, A. (2019, March). *Learning from approach-avoid decisions: Children explore and learn more than adults*. Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
15. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2019, March). *Determinants of explanation-seeking curiosity across development*. Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
16. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2018, July). *Determinants and consequences of the need for explanation*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
17. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2018, July). *What demands an explanation? Expertise and utility drive explanation search*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI.
18. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2017, June). *Function over mechanism: Why teleological explanations are so compelling*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Baltimore, MD.

Selected Posters

1. *Klotz, M. & Liquin, E. G. (2025, July). *Learning how to learn: Evidence for an explore-exploit tradeoff in information search*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA.
2. Liquin, E. G. (2025, July). *Ease of access to information does not impact curiosity*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA.
3. *Klotz, M. & Liquin, E. G. (2025, June). *Learning how to learn: Evidence for an explore-exploit tradeoff in information search*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ithaca, NY.
4. Liquin, E. G. & *Lane, T. (2025, June). *Mapping the triggers of everyday curiosity*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ithaca, NY.

5. Liquin, E. G., Gureckis, T. M., & Rhodes, M. (2024, March). *Reuse and remixing in question asking across development*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
6. Liquin, E. G., *Tsai, B., Rhodes, M. & Gureckis, T. M. (2023, May). *Balancing creativity and reuse in human question asking*. Poster presented at the Curiosity, Creativity, and Complexity Conference, New York, NY.
7. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., Lewry, C. & Lombrozo, T. (2022, April). *A formal approach to dissociating triggers of children's curiosity*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI.
8. Liquin, E. G., Callaway, F., & Lombrozo, T. (2021, July). *Developmental change in what elicits curiosity*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, virtual.
9. Liquin, E. G., *Gorucu, S., & Lombrozo, T. (2019, October). *Developmental changes in future-oriented explanation search*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY.
10. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2019, July). *Causal structure and probability information modulate the preference for simple explanations*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, QB.
11. Liquin, E. G., Metz, S. E., & Lombrozo, T. (2018, July). *Explanation and its limits: Mystery and the need for explanation in science and religion*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
12. Liquin, E. G. & Gopnik, A. (2018, July). *Learning from approach-avoid decisions in children and adults*. Poster presented at "Understanding Exploration-Exploitation Tradeoffs" pre-conference workshop at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
13. Liquin, E. G. & Gopnik, A. (2017, October). *4- to 8-year-olds balance exploration and exploitation*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.
14. Liquin, E. G. & Lombrozo, T. (2017, July). *Explain, explore, exploit: Effects of explanation on information search*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, London, England.
15. Liquin, E. G., Sheehan, K. J., & Uttal, D. H. (2017, April). *Symbols and screens: Young children are better at using a paper map than a touchscreen map*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

INVITED TALKS

1. What triggers curiosity? (2025).
Causality in Cognition Lab, Stanford University (virtual)
2. Curiosity as an imperfect guide to learning (2025).
Invited Symposium on Curiosity and Information Search, Society for the Science of Motivation

3. How curiosity and satisfaction guide explanatory inquiry (2025).
Sociology Department Colloquium, University of New Hampshire
4. Exploring to learn and learning to explore (2025).
Developmental Psychology Current Works, Yale University
5. How curiosity and satisfaction guide explanatory inquiry (2023).
Evolution and Social Cognition Team, École normale supérieure – PSL (virtual)
6. How curiosity guides us towards good explanations (2022).
Cognitive Development Center Seminar, Central European University (virtual)
7. A formal approach to dissociating triggers of curiosity across development (2021).
Language and Cognition Lab, Stanford University (virtual)
8. The role of curiosity and satisfaction in learning from inquiry (2020).
Affective Brain Lab Seminar, University College London (virtual)
9. Developmental changes in curiosity, exploration, and learning (2020).
Developmental Psychology Brownbag, Stanford University (virtual)
10. Explanation seeking and satisfaction within the process of inquiry (2019).
Early Childhood Cognition Lab Meeting, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
11. Explanation seeking and satisfaction within the process of information search (2019).
ConCats (Concepts and Categories) Seminar, New York University
12. A functional approach to explanation-seeking curiosity (2019).
Cognitive Science Graduate Seminar, Rutgers University
13. How do children balance information and reward in exploratory decision making? (2017).
Language and Cognitive Development Lab Meeting, UC Berkeley

MENTORING / TEACHING

Mentoring: Ph.D. Students

Madeline Klotz, University of New Hampshire (2024-Present)

Mentoring: Undergraduate Students

University of New Hampshire: Ella Curtis (2025-Present), Skyler Murphy (2024-Present), Zach Gabriel (2024-2025), Sydney Staples (2024-2025), Angel Eaton (2024-2025), Tucker Lane (2024-2025), Julie Fredricksen (2024-2025)

New York University: Jasmine Tepper (2023-2024), Brenda Chavez-Olguin (2024), Archisha Murthy (2023), Barron Tsai (2022-2023), Nicole Luzuriaga (2022)

Princeton University: Sera Gorucu (2019-2020)

University of California, Berkeley: Prnsni Patel (2019), Isha Shah (2019), Kaitlan Tseng (2018), Rachel Marcus (2018-2019), Sarah Yang (2018), Cortland Jell (2017-2018), Lena Gavenas (2017-2018), Alicia

Updated 8/8/2025

Lunardhi (2017), Ian Bicket (2017), Katie Reed (2017), Heather Robinson (2017), Nicole Breer (2016-2018), Daniel Petrie (2016-2017)

M.A./Ph.D. Committees:

Alexandra MacVittie (Ph.D.), Tess Reid (M.A.)

Teaching

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| Fall 2025 | <i>Advanced Seminar in Cognition: Active Learning (PSYC 914)</i> Instructor; University of New Hampshire |
| Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 | <i>Special Topics: Psychology of Curiosity (PSYC 741W)</i> Instructor; University of New Hampshire |
| Fall 2019 | <i>Developmental Psychology (PSY 254)</i> Teaching Assistant; Instructor: Dr. Casey Lew-Williams; Princeton University |
| Spring 2018, Spring 2017 | <i>Sense and Sensibility and Science (L&S 22)</i> Teaching Assistant; Instructors: Drs. Tania Lombrozo, John Campbell, and Saul Perlmutter; University of California, Berkeley |
| Fall 2017 | <i>Quantitative Analysis and Coding Knowledge Workshop</i> Guest Lecturer; University of California, Berkeley Lecture topics: Basic Statistics in R, Plotting in R with ggplot2, Intro to Online Experiments |

SERVICE

University/Department Service

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|--------------|--|
| 2024-Present | Member, Psychology Undergraduate Program Committee University of New Hampshire |
| 2022-2024 | Coordinator, ConCats (Concepts and Categories) talk series New York University |
| 2019 | Co-Coordinator, Neuroscience and Social Decision Making (NSDM) talk series Princeton University |
| 2017 | Co-Coordinator, Quantitative Analysis and Coding Knowledge (QuACK) workshops (workshop series for first-year graduate students in psychology) University of California, Berkeley |

Service to Professional Societies

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| 2025 | Program Committee (Meta-Reviewer), <i>Cognitive Science Society</i> |
| 2024-Present | Executive Committee Member, <i>Society for Philosophy and Psychology</i> |

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

Cognition

Updated 8/8/2025

Cognitive Psychology
Child Development
Cognitive Science
Journal of Cognitive Psychology
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition
Open Mind: Discoveries in Cognitive Science
PLOS ONE
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
Trends in Cognitive Sciences

Conference Reviewer

The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society
The Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Grant Reviewer

Panelist, NSF Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) Core Research
Panelist, NSF Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence

Other Service & Activities

2021-Present Editor, *Application Statement Feedback Program* (<https://www.asfp.io/>)
2024-2025 Mentor, *Cognitive Science Society Mentoring Program*
2023-2024 Mentor, *Cognitive Development Society Mentorship Program*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Psychological Science
Cognitive Development Society
Cognitive Science Society
Society for Philosophy and Psychology