

# gregorykiar

biomedical engineer



## contact

3801 University Street  
NW 144/145  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3A 2B4, Canada

greg.kiar@mcgill.ca 


gkiar.me 

gkiar   
     

## languages

english native speaker,  
basic ASL

## programming

Python, R, AWS   
MATLAB, C++, x86,  
Ruby, LaTeX

## soft skills

leadership, teaching,  
sci. comm., design,  
problem solving

## education

- 2017 – now **PhD student** in Biomedical Engineering McGill University, Montreal, QC  
Thesis work supervised by Alan Evans and Tristan Glatard on projects pertaining to scalable, reproducible, and accessible platforms and tools for enabling computational neuroscience. All code and data have been made publicly available.
- 2014 – 2016 **M.S.E** in Biomedical Engineering Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
Thesis work was supervised by Joshua T. Vogelstein on a project entitled: GREMLIN: Graph Estimation from MR images Leading to Inference in Neuroscience. All code and data have been made publicly available.
- 2010 – 2014 **B.Eng** in Biomedical and Electrical Engineering Carleton University, Ottawa, ON  
Capstone work was supervised by Leonard MacEachern on a project entitled: Electrical muscle stimulation with concurrent EMG feedback of the upper arm for applications in stroke rehabilitation.
- 2016 **Exploring the Human Connectome** The Human Connectome Project, Boston, MA  
Development and deployment of connectome estimation pipelines.
- 2015 **Presenting Data and Information** Edward Tufte, Baltimore, MD  
Cultivate skills in effective communication with scientific figures.

## experience

### Academic Experience

#### Current Positions & Activities

- 05/17 – now **McGill Centre for Integrative Neuroscience (MCIN)** Montreal, QC  
*Software Developer*  
Responsible for the integration of distributed software services with high performance computing clouds. Provided development, training, and support towards the use of tools and services within international collaborations.
- 05/17 – now **Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM)** Minneapolis, MN  
*Open Science SIG - BrainHack Co-Chair*  
Contribute to the organization and planning of the BrainHack 101 training course, the BrainHack hackathon, as well as unconference activities related to the open science special interest group before and throughout the annual OHBM meeting.

#### Previous Positions

- 09/14 – 05/17 **Center for Imaging Science, Johns Hopkins University** Baltimore, MD  
*Research Engineer*  
Development and maintenance of an open-source pipeline for structural connectome estimation in humans and implemented statistical algorithms for quality control of data derivatives. Publicly released data products to lower the barrier to entry for neuroscience research. Chiefly responsible for grant reporting and public presence at conferences and workshops.

- 06/13 – 09/13 **Dept. of Systems and Computer Engineering, Carleton University** Ottawa, ON  
*Research Assistant with Dr. Rafik Goubran*  
 Developed wireless medical data publish-subscribe system for viewing patient vital signs remotely.
- 06/12 – 09/12 **Dept. of Systems and Computer Engineering, Carleton University** Ottawa, ON  
*Research Assistant with Dr. Andy Adler*  
 Utilized neural networks for inverse modeling of real and simulated biological systems.
- 06/11 – 09/11 **Dept. of Biology, Carleton University** Ottawa, ON  
*Research Assistant with Dr. Jeffrey Dawson*  
 Developed robotics platform for studying insect locomotion patterns and behaviour.
- 01/09 – 09/09 **CRC, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute** Ottawa, ON  
*Research Assistant with Dr. Jim Dimitroulakos*  
 Tested combination therapies of Lovastatin and Cisplatin drugs on colon and breast cancer strains.

## Teaching Experience

- ongoing **McGill University, OHBM, Brain Intensive, others** Montreal, QC  
*Neuroinformatics Instructor*  
 Regularly teach a series of workshop introducing neuroscientists and trainees to methods in neuroinformatics. Developed and publicly released all course content on GitHub under the "Brainhack101" moniker and several videos on YouTube under the "BrainIntensive" profile.
- 09/14 – 05/17 **Dept. of Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University** Baltimore, MD  
*Teaching Assistant*  
 Responsible for instruction, evaluation, and content design for: Freshman Modeling and Design for BME (2014, 2015), Systems and Controls (2015), Statistical Connectomics (2015), The Art of Data Science (2016), NeuroData Design (2016). Spent more than 500 hours working with students.
- 01/{15, 16, 17} **Dept. of Computer Science, Johns Hopkins University** Baltimore, MD  
*Instructor*  
 Responsible for instruction, evaluation, and content design for intensive 3-week project-based course on an introduction to connectomics research across multiple scales and experimental modalities. Spent more than 300 hours planning, designing course content, and working with students.
- 09/12 – 05/14 **Student Academic Success Center, Carleton University** Ottawa, ON  
*Facilitator for Peer-Assisted Study Sessions*  
 Instructed and demonstrated mastery of principles in electromagnetism and power engineering. Spent more than 300 hours working with students.
- 08/13 – 05/14 **Student Academic Success Center, Carleton University** Ottawa, ON  
*Facilitator Team Leader*  
 Provided training, mentoring, and coaching to student instructors in a variety of disciplines. Spent more than 100 hours training and working with facilitators.
- 01/13 – 06/14 **Dept. of Systems and Computer Engineering, Carleton University** Ottawa, ON  
*Teaching Assistant*  
 Instructed introductory level C++ programming. Led lab sessions and instructional workshops. Spent more than 300 hours working with students.

## memberships & extracurriculars

2018 – now	<b>Canadian Open Neuroscience Platform Training Committee</b> Trainee Representative	Montreal, QC
2017 – now	<b>Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives Trainee Committee</b> President (Neuroinformatics)	Montreal, QC
2017 – now	<b>OHBM Open Science SIG</b> Hackathon Chair & Committee Member	Minneapolis, MN
2017 – now	<b>INCF SIG on Brain Imaging Data Structure (BIDS)</b> Member	Stockholm, Sweden
2014 – 2017	<b>NeuroData</b> Chief Neurocartographer	Baltimore, MD
2015 – 2017	<b>College Prep Program</b> College Mentor, SAT Coach, & Essay Reviewer	Baltimore, MD
2014 – 2016	<b>Thread</b> Grandparent (i.e. supervisor) & Family Member (i.e. mentor)	Baltimore, MD
2013 – 2014	<b>Carleton University Biomedical Engineering Society</b> President	Ottawa, ON
2013 – 2014	<b>PASS Talks</b> Co-Founder and Vice President	Ottawa, ON
12/12, 12/13	<b>Operation Red Nose Ottawa</b> Navigator and Driver	Ottawa, ON
2010 – 2011	<b>Carleton University Student Emergency Response Team</b> Emergency First Responder	Ottawa, ON

## awards

2018	<b>Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS D)</b>	NSERC, Ottawa, ON
2017	<b>Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives Doctoral Fellowship</b>	McGill University, Montreal, QC
2017	<b>CRN Coding Sprint Project Award</b>	Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
2017	<b>OHBM BrainHack Travel Award</b>	OHBM, Minneapolis, MN
2014 – 2016	<b>Full-tuition Master's Degree Fellowship</b>	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
2014	<b>Graduated with Distinction</b>	Carleton University, Ottawa, ON
2014	<b>Greatest Social Impact Paper</b>	Professional Engineering Ontario (PEO), Ottawa, ON
2014	<b>SEED Fund</b>	Carleton University Engineering Alumni, Ottawa, ON
2014	<b>IEEE Papers Showcase Local Winner</b>	IEEE Ottawa-Carleton Chapter, Ottawa, ON
2014	<b>Carleton Electronics Project Competition Champion</b>	Carleton University, Ottawa, ON
2013	<b>Engineering '65 and '66 Scholarship</b>	Carleton University, Ottawa, ON
2012 – 2014	<b>Dean's Honour List</b>	Carleton University, Ottawa, ON
2012	<b>Clarence C. Gibson Scholarship</b>	Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

## interests

**professional:** reproducibility, accessibility, cloud computing, neuroscience, pipeline engineering, big data, data analysis, software design, machine learning, statistics. **personal:** guitar, hockey, soccer, cooking, design, animals, hiking, paddling.

## reviewed for

1. Frontiers in Neuroinformatics

## publications

### pre-prints

1. A High-Throughput Pipeline Identifies Robust Connectomes But Troublesome Variability  
**G. Kiar**, E. W. Bridgeford, W. R. Gray Roncal, V. Chandrashekhar, D. Mhembere, S. Ryman, X. N. Zuo, D. S. Marguiles, R. C. Craddock, C. E. Priebe, R. Jung, V. D. Calhoun, B. Caffo, R. Burns, M. P. Milham, J. T. Vogelstein  
*bioRxiv* (2018). Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.
2. Boutiques: a flexible framework for automated application integration in computing platforms  
T. Glatard, **G. Kiar**, T. Aumentado-Armstrong, N. Beck, P. Bellec, R. Bernard, A. Bonnet, S. Camarasu-Pop, F. Cervenansky, S. Das, R. Ferreira da Silva, G. Flandin, P. Girard, K. J. Gorgolewski, C. R. G. Guttman, V. Hayot-Sasson, P.-O. Quirion, P. Rioux, M.-E. Rousseau, A. C. Evans  
*ArXiv e-prints* (Nov. 2017).

### articles in peer-reviewed journals

1. BIDS apps: Improving ease of use, accessibility, and reproducibility of neuroimaging data analysis methods  
K.J. Gorgolewski, F. Alfaro-Almagro, T. Auer, P. Bellec, M. Capotă, M. M. Chakravarty, N. W. Churchill, A. L. Cohen, R. C. Craddock, G. A. Devenyi, A. Eklund, O. Esteban, G. Flandin, J. S. Guntupalli, M. Jenkinson, A. Keshavan, **G. Kiar**, P. R. Raamana, D. Raffelt, C. J. Steele, P. O. Quirion, R. E. Smith, S. Strother, G. Varoquaux, T. Yarkoni, Y. Wang, R. A. Poldrack  
13.3 (2017) e1005209. Public Library of Science.
2. Science In the Cloud (SIC): A use case in MRI Connectomics  
**G. Kiar**, K. J. Gorgolewski, D. Kleissas, W. R. Gray Roncal, B. Litt, B. Wandell, R. A. Poldrack, M. Wiener, R. J. Vogelstein, R. Burns, J. T. Vogelstein  
*GigaScience* gix013 (Mar. 2017).
3. Grand Challenges for Global Brain Sciences  
J. T. Vogelstein, K. Amunts, A. Andreou, D. Angelaki, G. Ascoli, C. Bargmann, R. Burns, C. Cali, F. Chance, M. Chun, G. Church, H. Cline, T. Coleman, S. de La Rochefoucauld, W. Denk, A. Belen Elogoyhen, R. E. Cummings, A. Evans, K. Harris, M. Hausser, S. Hill, S. Inverso, C. Jackson, V. Jain, R. Kass, B. Kasthuri, **G. Kiar**, K. Kording, S. Koushika, J. Krakauer, S. Landis, J. Layton, Q. Luo, A. Marblestone, D. Markowitz, J. McArthur, B. Mensh, M. Milham, P. Mitra, P. Neskovic, M. Nicoletis, R. O'Brien, A. Oliva, G. Orban, H. Peng, A. Picchini-Schaffer, M. Picciotto, J.-B. Poline, M.-m. Poo, A. Pouget, S. Raghavachari, J. Roskams, T. Sejnowski, F. Sommer, N. Spruston, L. Swanson, A. Toga, R. J. Vogelstein, R. Yuste, A. Zador, R. Haganir, M. Miller  
*ArXiv e-prints* (Aug. 2016).
4. To the Cloud! A Grassroots Proposal to Accelerate Brain Science Discovery

J. T. Vogelstein, B. Mensh, M. Häusser, N. Spruston, A. C. Evans, K. Kording, K. Amunts, C. Ebell, J. Muller, M. Telefont, S. Hill, S. P. Koushika, C. Cali, P. A. Valdés-Sosa, P. B. Littlewood, C. Koch, S. Saalfeld, A. Kepecs, H. Peng, Y. O. Halchenko, **G. Kiar**, M. M. Poo, J. B. Poline, M. P. Milham, A. P. Schaffer, R. Gidron, H. Okano, V. D. Calhoun, M. Chun, D. M. Kleissas, R. J. Vogelstein, E. Perlman, R. Burns, R. Hugarir, M. I. Miller

*Neuron* 92.3 (Nov. 2016) pp. 622–627. Elsevier, requested article.

## proceedings in international peer-reviewed conferences

1. Organization for Human Brain Mapping Open Science Hackathons: Accessible and Inclusive Neuroinformatics

E. DuPre\*, **G. Kiar**\*, R. C. Craddock, K. J. Gorgolewski, F. Hoffstaedter, A. Keshavan, J. B. Poline, M. Visconti di Oleggio Castello, K. Whitaker, P. Bellec

*2nd Workshop on Hacking and Making at Time-Bounded events* (Jan. 2018). Computer Human Interaction.

2. Electric localization of weakly electric fish using neural networks

**G. Kiar**, Y. Mamatjan, J. Jun, L. Maler, A. Adler

*Journal of Physics: Conference Series* vol. 434 (May 2013).

## book chapters

1. The Montreal Neurological Institute Ecosystem: Enabling Reproducible Neuroscience from Collection to Analysis in the Web

**G. Kiar**, C. Makowski, J. B. Poline, S. Das, A. C. Evans

(Nov. 2017) pp. 51–56. Society for Neuroscience.

## invited talks & organized workshops

1. A Data Driven Approach for Tackling Big Data Connectomics

*Feindel Brain Imaging Lecture* (Feb. 2018).

2. Coding for Neuroners: An Introduction to Neuroscience Informatics

*Graduate Student Association for Neuroscience* (Jan. 2018).

3. BigNeuro 2017: Analyzing brain data from nano to macroscale

*Neural Information Processing Systems Workshop* (Dec. 2017).

4. Brain Hacking 101

*Organization for Human Brain Mapping Open Science Room* (June 2017).

5. Brainhack101 & Exploratory Data Analysis

*Online Intensive for Brain Science: Computation and Imaging* (Sept. 2017).

6. CloudControl: Integrating Quality Control and Pipeline Deployment in the Cloud

*Organization for Human Brain Mapping Open Science Room* (June 2017).

7. Enabling Accessible and Scalable Neuroscience

*Healthy Brains For Healthy Lives* (Nov. 2017).

8. NeuroStorm: Accelerating Brain Science Discovery in the Cloud

*Johns Hopkins University* (June 2017).

9. Open Science Session Chair

*Organization for Human Brain Mapping Open Science Room* (June 2017).

10. Platforms for high performance computing in neuroscience  
*Neuroinformatics in the Age of Big Data: Working with the Right Data and Tools* (Nov. 2017).
11. Science in the Cloud (SIC): A use-case in MRI Connectomics  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping Open Science Room* (June 2017).

## posters at international conferences

1. A Principled Approach to Statistical Connectomics and Mega-Analysis  
E. Bridgeford, **G. Kiar**, V. Chandrashekhar, C. Shen, C. E. Gray Roncal, B. Caffo, J. Vogelstein  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
2. Creativity is Unrelated to Intelligence and Personality: A Machine Learning Study  
A. Doyle, **G. Kiar**, P. Toussaint, P. Lemaître, A. C. Evans  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
3. Clowdr: a micro-service model for scalable, reproducible, and accessible neuroinformatics  
**G. Kiar**, T. Glatard, S. T. Brown, A. C. Evans  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
4. An Extensible Application Programming Interface for Querying Distributed Neuroscience Datasets  
**G. Kiar**, T. Glatard, J. B. Poline  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
5. Numerical error propagation in the HCP structural pre-processing pipelines  
A. Salari, L. Scaria, **G. Kiar**, T. Glatard  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
6. Exploring whole-brain structural connectivity and cognitive performance in typical development  
N. Al-Sharif, **G. Kiar**, B. Khundrakpam, A. C. Evans  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
7. PIVT: A Platform Independent Visualization Tool  
A. Taheri, J. Lurie, R. Abou-Haidar, S. T. Brown, S. Das, A. Doyle, N. Khalili-Mahani, **G. Kiar**, P. Kostopoulos, C. Lepage, L. Lewis, C. Makowski, C. Rogers, P. Toussaint, A. C. Evans  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
8. Heterogeneous tau-PET signal in the hippocampus resolves discrepancies between imaging and pathology  
J. Vogel, R. Ossenkoppele, **G. Kiar**, O. Hansson, A. C. Evans  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
9. Pybids: Python tools for manipulation and analysis of BIDS datasets  
T. Yarkoni, A. de la Vega, E. DuPre, O. Esteban, Y. Halchenko, M. Hanke, V. Hayot-Sasson, A. Ivanov, **G. Kiar**, C. Markiewicz, Q. McNamara, D. Petrov, J. B. Poline, R. Poldrack, K. J. Gorgolewski  
*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2018).
10. BIDS apps: Improving ease of use, accessibility, and reproducibility of neuroimaging data analysis methods  
K. J. Gorgolewski, F. Alfaro-Almagro, T. Auer, P. Bellec, M. Capotă, M. M. Chakravarty, N. W. Churchill, A. L. Cohen, R. C. Craddock, G. A. Devenyi, A. Eklund, O. Esteban, G. Flandin, J. S. Guntupalli, M. Jenkinson, A. Keshavan, **G. Kiar**, P. R. Raamana, D. Raffelt, C. J. Steele, P. O. Quirion, R. E. Smith, S. Strother, G. Varoquaux, T. Yarkoni, Y. Wang, R. A. Poldrack

*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2017).

11. MR Graph with Rich attribUTES DataBase (Mr. GruteDB)

**G. Kiar**, W. R. Gray Roncal, D. Mhembe, E. W. Bridgeford, S. Wang, C. E. Priebe, R. Burns, J. T. Vogelstein

*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2016).

12. Community Connectomics via Cloud Computing Utilizing m2g: a Reference Pipeline

**G. Kiar**, W. R. Gray Roncal, D. Mhembe, E. W. Bridgeford, D. Clark, M. P. Milham, R. C. Craddock, R. Burns, J. T. Vogelstein

*Organization for Human Brain Mapping* (June 2015).

13. The Open Connectome Project & NeuroData: Enabling Data Driven Neuroscience at Scale

Joshua T. Vogelstein, et al.

*Society for Neuroscience* (Oct. 2015).

## published code

1. Clowdr: Accessible pipeline deployment and sharing

**G. Kiar**

(Mar. 2018).

2. Boutiques: A descriptive command-line framework

T. Glatard, **G. Kiar**, T. Aumentado-Armstrong, N. Beck, R. Ferreira da Silva, M. E. Rousseau

*Zenodo* (Sept. 2017).

3. Example use case of SIC with the ndmg pipeline (SIC:ndmg)

**G. Kiar**, K. J. Gorgolewski, D. Kleissas, W. R. Gray Roncal, B. Litt, B. Wandell, R. A. Poldrack, M. Wiener, R. J. Vogelstein, R. Burns, J. T. Vogelstein

(2017). GigaScience Database.

4. ndmg: NeuroData's MRI Graphs pipeline

**G. Kiar**, W. R. Gray Roncal, D. Mhembe, E. W. Bridgeford, R. Burns, J. T. Vogelstein

*Zenodo* (Aug. 2016).