

HILDELITH LEYSER

Social and Sensory Brain Mechanisms Lab, Ph.D Candidate McGill University

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EDUCATION

09/2023 - 09-2028	McGill University Integrated Graduate Program in Neuroscience Ph.D (GPA: 4.0) <i>Sensory and Social Brain Mechanisms Laboratory (SSBM lab)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Multisensory integration and social cognition using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) techniques and behavioural assessment in marmosets. Supervisor: Dr. Justine Cléry	Montreal, Canada
09/2022 - 08-2023	University of London, Royal Holloway Applied Neuroscience MSc (Grade Achieved: 1st, Distinction) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on neuroscience methods, emotions, decision making, and statistics.Dissertation: "Effects of Stress on Allocentric and Egocentric Perspectives," employing eye-tracking and VR. Supervisor: Dr. Szonya Durant.	London, UK
10/2018 - 07-2021	University of Oxford, Hertford College History BA, (Grade Achieved: 2.1, Upper Second) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thesis on refugee memory and sense of belonging.. Supervisor: Dr. Rachael Kiddey	Oxford, UK
Summer Schools and Courses		
2024-2025	RIKEN Center Brain Science Brain Science Training Program	Tokyo, Japan
09/2024	International Center for Primate Brain Research Summer School	SH, China
08/2023	RIKEN Center for Brain Science Learning and Imagination Summer School	Tokyo, Japan
08/2022	University of Amsterdam Methods and Statistics in Social Sciences (Grade: A)	Remote
06-08/2022	Rhode Island School of Design Video Game Design (Grade: A), Design Principles (Grade: A)	Remote
07/2020	University of Haifa Refugee Mental Health (Grade: A)	Remote
07/2019	Georgetown University Psychology (Grade: A), Filmmaking (Grade: A)	D.C., USA
07/2018	University of Haifa Colloquial Arabic (Grade: A)	Haifa, Israel
06-08/2017	Rhode Island School of Design Design (Grade: A), Drawing Principles (Grade: A), Printmaking (Grade A)	RI, USA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

10/2024 - 10/2025	International Program Associate RIKEN Centre for Brain Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">fMRI and Two Photon Calcium Imaging Experiments with Japanese Macaques	Tokyo, Japan
08/2024- 10/2024	Research Intern International Center for Primate Brain Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">Training in Histology and Immunohistochemistry	Shanghai, China
08/2023 08/- 2024	Research Trainee Imagination and Executive Functions Lab (PI: Kentaro Miyamoto) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Behavioural and Neuroimaging Experiments with Japanese Macaques	Tokyo, Japan
06/2023 - 08/2023	Research Laboratory Internship RIKEN Centre for Brain Science Summer Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">Internship within the RIKEN CBS Imagination and Executive Functions Lab (Supervisor: Dr. Kentaro Miyamoto) and week-long intensive lecture course	Tokyo, Japan
2022 - 2023	Research Assistant Action Research Lab, (PI: Dr. Scott Glover), Royal Holloway University <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducting experiments with over 80 participants, recording and processing data using MATLAB and <i>Polhemus</i>, recruiting participants, training new assistants	London, UK
07/2016	Analytics Intern Environmental and Climate Institute, University of Oxford <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tracked and presented future climate change scenarios using emissions data	Oxford, UK
06/2016	Research Intern Oxfam Headquarters <ul style="list-style-type: none">Research and data analysis of the success of charity initiatives	Oxford, UK

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 - present	Academic Language Editorial Assistant Freelance <ul style="list-style-type: none">Editing and translating academic texts for lectures and publication	Remote
2021 - 2022	North American Language and Culture Assistant Program C.E.I.P Cervantes & Conde de Tendilla <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teaching english classes of up to 30 Spanish school students aged 5-12Individualised assistance for vocabulary and learning disabilities	Granada, Spain
07/2021 - 08/2021	Counselor & Substitute teacher Oxford Royale Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for 200 Students, taught preparatory university programmes	Oxford, UK
2020 - 2021	Students Welcome Ambassador Hertford College, University of Oxford <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hosted visiting students, organised social programmes, managed Welfare	Oxford, UK

07/2020 - 09/2020	Mediator Caritas Migrant Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychiatry and Psychotherapy translator and interpreter Administrative, bureaucratic, and pastoral, support through the asylum process 	Nicosia, Cyprus
07/2018 - 09/2018	Full-time Campaign Fellow Nevada State Democratic Party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained and recruited volunteers to make phone calls and register voters Developed data and programming skills using Votebuilder 	Las Vegas, USA

RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

2024 - 2025	RIKEN International Program Fellowship <i>Travel and Monthly Stipend to conduct doctoral research at RIKEN CBS</i>	Tokyo, Japan
2024 - 2025	Graduate Mobility Award <i>\$11,900 Awarded to Conduct Research in Japan at RIKEN CBS</i>	Montreal, Canada
2023 - 2024	McGill University Integrated Program in Neuroscience Recruitment Award <i>\$10,000 Awarded for Recruitment to Graduate Program</i>	Montreal, Canada
2023 - 2027	McGill University International Differential Fee Waiver Award <i>\$15,620 Awarded Per Annum</i>	Montreal, Canada
2023 - 2027	McGill University Integrated Program in Neuroscience Stipend Award <i>\$42,000.00 Awarded Per Annum</i>	Montreal, Canada
10/2024	Neurosphere natHACKS Award <i>\$3000 Awarded to compete in Canada's NeuroTech Hackathon</i>	Alberta, Canada
08/2024	International Center for Primate Brain Research Participation Award <i>All expenses covered for 1 month internship and week long summer school</i>	Shanghai, China
06/2024	Quebec Bioimaging Travel for Training Award <i>\$3000 Awarded to conduct Summer Research Project at RIKEN CBS</i>	Quebec, Canada
04/2024	GREAT Travel Awards McGill University <i>\$500 Awarded to attend and present research at International Conference</i>	
03/2024	COSYNE New Attendee Travel Grant <i>\$1000 Awarded for Attendance and Presentation at International COSYNE Meeting 2024</i>	Lisbon, Portugal
06/2023 - 08/2023	Financial Award, RIKEN Centre for Brain Science <i>Selected for coverage of Accommodation, and Travel Costs</i>	Tokyo, Japan
07/2023	Winner of Postgraduate Student Essay Competition <i>Selected as Best Essay with 50£ cash prize and publication on department webpage</i>	London, UK
06/2023	Women in Memory Research Award <i>Awarded for Weeklong Early Career Workshop at Ruhr University Bochum</i>	Bochum, Germany
06/2022	StoryFutures Academy <i>Selected for Virtual Production Laboratory for the National Immersive Storytelling Project</i>	Slough, UK

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & LEADERSHIP ROLES

02/2024 - Present	GSAN Neuroscience French Teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching 8 week beginner French Class to the community on a volunteer basis 	
10/2023 - Present	Clinic Volunteering Program and Research Spotlight Contributor, McGill Students for Parkinson's Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Dissemination and informant at Patient Clinic with families 	
09/2023 - Present	Senior Project Advisor, McGill Biomedical Engineering Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Development Advisor, scientific publications contributor Hands on workshop facilitator 	
09/2023 - Present	Vice President (External Relations), McGill Chapter "Care Through Tech" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising Event Organization and Partnership Coordinator Relations with Homeless Shelters and event organisation 	
2022 - 2023	Public Outreach, Organising Educational Events and Mentoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Holloway University Science Fair Virtual Reality Demonstrations for Public Organising committee & graphic designer for 'To Academia and Beyond' Event & Panel Chair for 	

2022 - 2023	MSc Neuroscience Student Representative Royal Holloway Department Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented student perspective in departmental review
2020 - 2021	Co-Founder Oxford Chapter "Europe Must Act" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee Lobbying, GrassRoots Organising to gain support and members
2020 - 2021	Captain University of Oxford 1st Team Women's Ice Hockey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised Team Fixtures, Training Program, and Socials, built a strong competitive team of mixed abilities
2019 - 2020	President of Undergraduate Historians Assembly, University of Oxford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed Student Faculty Communications during COVID, Established Online Communication and Feedback Forum, Lobbied for Inclusion and Diversity and University Committee Meetings and Athena Swan Equality Summits

PUBLICATIONS

In Revision	Leyser, H.F., & Cooper, K. (2024) <i>How do we differentiate between humans and robots? A multi-sensory perspective</i> Contribution: 50% Contribution to 2nd Volume of Conference Proceedings of 'Robot, Pray for Me!' Workshop' at Ruhr University of Bochum in March 2023
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Essays

06/2023	<i>Why Mirror Neurons are the most important finding in psychology.</i> Sole Author (Website OpEd) https://thesis.psychologyresearch.co.uk/category/student-essay-competition/
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Dissertations

08/2023	<i>High Stakes: The Effect of Depth Induced Stress on Memory Encoding Strategies, using Egocentric and Allocentric Frames of Reference</i> (Master's Thesis)
06/2021	<i>'Behind Barbed Wires: Internment and Belonging in 1940s Britain'</i> (Bachelor's Thesis)

SKILLS & COMPETENCES

Data Analysis	SPSS, R, MATLAB, Deep Learning : DeepLabCut, Topographical Data Analysis,
Programming	HTML, Css, Javascript (SheCodes accredited), Python, MATLAB, R
Software	SketchUp, Blender, Unity, Unreal, VoteBuilder
Languages	English (native), German (semi-fluent), French (proficient), Spanish (proficient), Arabic (basic), Latin, Ancient Greek

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts accepted as Oral Presentations

06/2024	Artgame colloquium UQAM and Université Paul Valéry <i>'Jammer sa recherche à travers le jeu: regards et réflexions sur les Scientific Gamejams'</i> (Views and Reflections on Scientific Game Jams)	Montreal, CA & Montpellier, FR
05/2024	QBIN Scientific Day 2024 <i>'Integrating Movement and Decision Making: an Embodied Cross Species Approach'</i>	Montreal, CA
04/2024	British Neuroscience Association Members Meeting <i>'Embodied Foraging: Explore vs Exploit social decision making with Japanese Macaques'</i>	Online, UK
03/2024	3 Minute Thesis Competition <i>'Fight or Flight Mechanisms, Implications for Police Brutality and Beyond'</i>	Montreal, CA
08/2023	RIKEN Centre for Brain Science Summer Programme Review <i>'Monkey Business: The Role of Sociability and Hierarchy on Exploration and Exploitation Trade-offs from an Embodied Perspective.'</i>	Tokyo, Japan

Abstracts accepted as Poster Presentations

11/2024	RIKEN CBS Retreat <i>'The Social Brain in Action'</i>	Gotemba, Japan
09/2024	International Center for Primate Brain Research Summer School <i>'Multi-Agent Movement and Decision Making Dynamics'</i>	Shanghai, China

07/2024	The 47th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Neuroscience Society <i>'Embodied Decision-Making in Non-Human Primates: A Social Foraging Paradigm Using a 3D Two-Armed Bandit Task'</i>	Fukuoka, Japan
05/2024	25th Neuropsychology Day Symposium <i>'Cross Species Investigation of the Neurocognitive Dynamics of Explore/Exploit Decision-Making: Insights from Macaque and Marmoset Models'</i>	Montreal, Canada
2/2024	COSYNE 2024 <i>'Unveiling Movement Patterns as Cognitive Nodes: Exploration and Exploitation Embodied Decision-Making in Macaques'</i>	Lisbon, Portugal
1/2024	CUBEC - Canadian Undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Conference <i>'Parkinsync Design McGill Biomechanics Society'</i>	TRN, VCR, MTL, Canada
09/2023	Integrated Program in Neuroscience Retreat <i>'Social Factors in Exploration and Exploitation with Deep Learning Approaches'</i>	Montreal, Canada
07/2023	'Learning & Imagination - Neural Mechanisms in Humans & Animals' Lecture Series, RIKEN CBS <i>'Exploring multisensory integration networks at the functional, structural and microstructural level across the neurodevelopment of marmosets;</i>	Tokyo, Japan
06/2023	Generative Episodic Memory Conference 2023 <i>'High Stakes: The effect of Stress on Egocentric and Allocentric frames of reference in memory'</i>	Bochum, Germany
05/2022	'To Academia and Beyond' Event, Royal Holloway University of London <i>'Multivariate approaches to inter-relational wellbeing'</i>	London, UK
02/2023	University of Vienna VDS CoBeNe PhD Academy <i>'Depth Induced Stress & Memory Encoding Strategies, using Egocentric and Allocentric Frames of Reference'</i>	Vienna, Austria
Invited Talks		
03/2024	Health Brain Healthy Lives get together <i>'Unveiling movement patterns as cognitive nodes'</i>	Montreal, Canada
03/2024	Zatorre Lab Journal Club <i>'Rhythm and syncopation, movement as social communication'</i>	Montreal, Canada
02/2024	Integrate and Fire Seminar Series, McGill University <i>'Untangling Sex and Gender in Neuroscience'</i>	Montreal, Canada
1/2024	Non Human Primates Journal Club, McGill University <i>'Behavioural acquisition and deep learning of explore/exploit paradigms with Macaques'</i>	Montreal, Canada
11/2023	Integrate and Fire Seminar Series, McGill University <i>'Connected Brains: Why are we Social?'</i>	Montreal, Canada
Workshops & Panels		
10/2024	NatHACKS NeurAlbertaTech Awarded a place to participate in Canada's Premier NeuroTech Hackathon	Edmonton, Canada
04/2024	Indie Asylum Scientific Game Jam Awarded a place as 'Scientist' to work alongside game industry employees	Montreal, Canada
03/2024	NeuroHack: Virtual Reality Hackathon Industry Partner Prize Winner for Stroop Task VR environment (Silicio-Labs)	Montreal, Canada
03/2024	Integrate and Fire Seminar Series, McGill University Host and Chaired Discussion Panel of Speakers	Montreal, Canada
11/2023	Design for Assistive Technology, McGill University Hands on 3D Printing and Soldering Demo of Low Cost Open Source Technology Designs	Montreal, Canada
03/2023	Netzwerk für Theologie & Künstliche Intelligenz, Robots as Instruments of God? Explorations in Robotics and Theology	Bochum, Germany
02/2023	University of Vienna VDS CoBeNe PhD Academy Discussant on panel: 'Perceiving oneself and others'	Vienna, Austria
08/2021	Solutions Not Sides Bridge Builders International Peace Program Interfaith training on bringing peace to the middle east	Cambridge, UK