Abigail Hsiung

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EDUCATION

Duke University   2017 – 2023 (anticipated)
Ph.D. Psychology and Neuroscience, Cognitive Neuroscience   Durham, NC
GPA: 4.00

University of Maryland   2012 – 2015
B.S. Psychology, B.S. Kinesiology   College Park, MD
GPA: 3.97, *Summa Cum Laude*

EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher – Motivation and Information Search   2017 – Present
Duke University, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience   Durham, NC

» Developed and led multiple research initiatives investigating the relationship between motivational states and information seeking behaviors, specific topics include information search under curiosity and evidence accumulation towards belief formation
» Designed and implemented behavioral experiments (JavaScript/Vue.js, Python/PsychoPy), including stimulus creation, usability testing, A/B testing, eye-tracking methodologies (Tobii), deployed to over 2000 participants
» Performed advanced data manipulation (Python/Pandas) and statistical analyses (R, Python), including mixed-effects regression, computational modeling, latent variable analyses, principal component analyses, and semantic similarity analyses using NLP
» Won competitive grants ($10,000) and fellowships ($38,000/year, 3 years) for research funding from local Foundations (Charles Lafitte Foundation) and federal agencies (Department of Defense, National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship, ~4% fund rate)
» Delivered key insights through 2 first-author publications (submitted), 1 invited talk, and 8 conference presentations [example presentations and data visualizations]

Co-Founder – Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship   2020 – Present
Duke University, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience [website]   Durham, NC

» Started initiative to promote equitable access to cognitive research; created structured, collaborative internship program specializing in providing foundational skills in experimental design and Python programming to STEM students from underrepresented groups
» Secured funding ($37,000/year) from local Foundations (Charles Lafitte Foundation)
» Designed courses in Python Programming for Experimental Design using Google Collab [example lectures]
» Led program development, including creating and evaluating mission goals, assessing recruitment strategies, standardizing research goals and mentorship practices, organizing faculty and industry panels

Research Analyst – Varied Projects   2015 – 2017
National Institute of Mental Health   Bethesda, MD

» Coordinated multiple research projects, including organizing multi-visit studies, regulating data management, supporting communication between physicians and clients, deploying experimental and survey methodologies
» Conducted behavioral and neuroimaging analyses (SPSS/ANFI) examining the impact of anxiety on memory
» Presented findings to expert and non-expert audiences through 5 publications, 3 conference presentations

SKILLS

Quantitative: Computational Modeling, Experimental Design, Survey Methods, NLP Semantic Analyses
Languages/Tools: Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, R, BASH, SPSS, Qualtrics, OpenMaze