Huiwen Alex Yang

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Education

University of California, Berkeley — *Berkeley, CA, USA*
PhD in Psychology, with a Designated Emphasis in Cognitive Science — *2023 - 2028 (expected)*
- Advisor: Dr. Celeste Kidd

University of California, Berkeley — *Berkeley, CA, USA*
BA in Computer Science, Physics, Psychology — *2017 - 2021*
- Distinction in general scholarship

Publications

Published

Yang, H.A.*, Liu, Q.*, Thompson, B. (2025). Human-level cross-sensory mappings from language alone. In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

Fang, Y., **Yang, H.A.**, Christie, S. (2025). Early experiences in shaping children's explore-exploit decisions: evidence from the rural-urban gap. In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

Yang, H.A., Martí, L., Baer, C., Granera, A., Palmeri, H., Kidd, C. (2024). Emergence of certainty representations for guiding concept learning. In *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

Yang, H.A., Thompson, B., Kidd, C. (2024). Children Spontaneously Discover Efficient Sorting Algorithms in a Seriation Task. In *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

Yang, H.A., Piantadosi, S., Kidd, C. (2023). Children's Estimation of Peripheral Information Drives Improvements in Approximate Number Sense. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

Ji, C., Shen, H., Xiong, Z., Chen, F., Zhang, M., **Yang, H.** (2023). Prototypical Model with Novel Information-theoretic Loss Function for Generalized Zero Shot Learning. In *the 15th Asian Conference on Machine Learning.*

In Prep

Yang, H.A., Thompson, B., Kidd, C. Children spontaneously discover efficient solutions to a difficult sorting task.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2024	Graduate Division Conference Travel Grant, UC Berkeley	*$ 1,500*
2024	Departmental Award, UC Berkeley Graduate Diversity Program	*$ 500*
2023	Departmental Award, UC Berkeley Graduate Diversity Program	*$ 500*
2023	Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study, UC Berkeley	*$ 34,000*

Presentations

Conference Presentations

Yang, H.A., Martí, L., Baer, C., Granera, A., Palmeri, H., Kidd, C. (2024). Emergence of certainty representations for guiding language learning. Oral presentation: the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Yang, H.A., Martí, L., Baer, C., Granera, A., Palmeri, H., Kidd, C. (2023). Emergence of certainty representations for guiding language learning. Oral presentation: ProtoLang Conference, Rome, Italy.

Invited Talks

Yang, H.A. (2025). Behavioral experiments and computational models: essential tools for advancing cognitive science. Guest Lecture: Psych 147: Methods in Cognitive Development, University of California, Berkeley.

Yang, H.A. (2024). Computational models in cognitive developmental research. Guest Lecture: Psych 147: Methods in Cognitive Development, University of California, Berkeley.

Posters

Conference Posters

Yang, H.A.*, Liu, Q.*, Thompson, B. (2025). Human-level cross-sensory mappings from language alone. Poster: the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, USA.

Fang, Y., **Yang, H.A.**, Christie, S. (2025). Early experiences in shaping children's explore-exploit decisions: evidence from the rural-urban gap. Poster: the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, USA.

Sheperd, S., **Yang, H.A.**, Kidd, C. (2025). Bright shiny garbage: Video content shown to low-income children is characterized by higher flicker. Poster: the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, USA.

Yang, H.A., Thompson, B., Kidd, C. (2024, 2025). Children Spontaneously Discover Efficient Sorting Algorithms in a Seriation Task. Poster: the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Poster: 15th annual Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), Budapest, Hungary.

Yang, H.A.*, Liu, Q.*, Thompson, B. (2024). Why Banana is like a Cloudy Day: Cross-domain mappings in Human and Large Language Models. Poster: the 5th International Conference on Analogy, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Yang, H.A., Piantadosi, S., Kidd, C. (2023). Children's Estimation of Peripheral Information Drives Improvements in Approximate Number Sense. Poster: the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sydney, Australia.

Teaching Experience

Spring 2024 Psych 147: Methods of Cognitive Development, Teaching Assistant

Additional Training

2023 Workshop on Computational Cognitive Models of Learning and Development, Harvard University

Research Experience

University of California, Berkeley - Dept of Psychology - Kidd Lab *Berkeley, CA, USA*

Advisor: Dr. Celeste Kidd and Dr. Steven Piantadosi *July 2021 – August 2023*

- Research focus: Approximate number system, Attention and gaze, Algorithm acquisition, Certainty, Cognitive loads, Perceptions/bias

Tsinghua University - Dept of Statistics - Deng's Lab *Beijing, China*

Advisor: Dr. Ke Deng *June 2019 – August 2019*

- Research focus: Statistic machine learning, Image classification, Neural network, Generalized zero-shot learning, Imbalanced dataset

ICSI (International Computer Science Institute) *Berkeley, CA, USA*

Advisors: Dr. Stella Yu *November 2019– March 2020*

- Research focus: Image reconstruction and classification, Dictionary learning, Sparse coding, Point set dataset

Work Experience

Overeality Labs *Mountainview, CA, USA*

Founding Team Member, VP of Product & Assistant Tech Lead *June 2021 – May 2022*

- Co-founded an NFT incubator that promotes DAO-selected NFTs to bring crypto culture into the Metaverse
- Led the product team that consists of 4 product designers and 9 programmers that designed and implemented the Web3 platform, Marketplace and various Web2 components
- Worked with solidity engineers and constructed a layer 1 blockchain
- Coordinated with the marketing team and the cryptography research team on designing features that best suit the needs of our product
- Acquired 130000 users in 6 months and raised 5 million dollars during the seed round

Alibaba Group *Beijing, China*

Frontend Software Engineer Intern *December 2018 – January 2019*

- Developed a web-based data visualization platform using React and Node.js
- Helped the frontend developing team track their project progress, control their product pipelines and communicate with other software engineering teams