

INES AITSAHALIA

PHD CANDIDATE

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EDUCATION

2022-Present (est. 2027)	Columbia University , Center for Theoretical Neuroscience PhD in Neurobiology and Behavior MA in Neurobiology and Behavior
2018-2022	Princeton University BA in Neuroscience, Cognitive Science <i>Graduated with Honors and John Brinster, Class of 1943, Senior Thesis Prize</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-Present	Iigaya Lab & Stachenfeld Lab Columbia University PhD Candidate
2023	Miller Lab , Center for Theoretical Neuroscience at Columbia University PhD Student Researcher (Rotation)
2022	Horga Lab , Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute PhD Student Researcher (Rotation)
2022	Iigaya Lab , Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute PhD Student Researcher (Rotation)
2020-2022	Niv Lab , Princeton University Undergraduate Research Assistant Summer Research Intern

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Sparse Cognitive Graphs: Linking dopamine to cognitive map through reinforcement learning A. Gungi, P. Sepulveda, I. Aitsahalia , K. Iigaya	2025, in prep
Anticipatory value computation as a new transdiagnostic target P. Sepulveda, I. Aitsahalia , K. Kumar, T. Atkin, K. Iigaya	2024, PsyArXiv
"A multi-level latent cause framework for the study of delusions" I. Aitsahalia , G. Horga, K. Iigaya	2025 poster at CPC

Building Deterministic Causal Graphs Using Reinforcement Learning in Cognitive Tasks with Evolutionary Bias

I. Aitsahalia, A. Gungi, P. Sepulveda, K. Iigaya

2024, conference paper CCN

Book Chapter: Computational Psychiatry and Eating Disorders

P. Sepulveda*, I. Aitsahalia*, S. Dong*, K. Iigaya (*denotes co-first authors)

2023, in prep

“Unified anticipation model can explain information-seeking around negative outcomes”

I. Aitsahalia, P. Sepulveda, V. Fisher, S. Dong, K. Iigaya

2024

poster at CPC

“Common cause inference as a generative model of delusions”

M. Schafer, A. Velikovsky, I. Aitsahalia, K. Iigaya, G. Horga

2024

poster at CPC

“Bridging reinforcement learning and causal inference: Emergence of grid cells in abstract tasks”

A. Gungi, P. Sepulveda, I. Aitsahalia, M. Schaffer, K. Iigaya

2024

poster at COSYNE

“Information seeking around aversive outcome anticipation”

I. Aitsahalia, P. Sepulveda, S. Dong, R. Chen, Y. Chai, K. Iigaya

2023

poster at SfN

“Computation of Anticipatory Value as a New Transdiagnostic Target”

I. Aitsahalia, P. Sepulveda, K. Kumar, K. Iigaya

2023

poster at CPC

“Alterations in Perceptual Learning Drive Speech Hallucinations in Medication-Free Patients with Schizophrenia”

J. Buck, I. Aitsahalia, D. Serrano, G. Horga

2023

poster at CPC

“Why do some beliefs and behaviors resist updating?”

S. Pisupati, I. Aitsahalia, S.N. Quinard, I.M. Berwian, A.J. Langdon, Y. Niv

2023

poster at Computational Psychiatry Conference (CPC)

“Latent-cause inference under varying beliefs about randomness captures individual differences in fear extinction”

I. Aitsahalia, S. Pisupati, S.N. Quinard, I.M. Berwian, Y. Niv

2022

poster at SfN

“Over- and under-segmentation of latent causes lead to different types of extinction failures”

I. Aitsahalia, S. Pisupati, S.N. Quinard, I.M. Berwian, Y. Niv

2021

poster at Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

TEACHING & SERVICE

2025	Committee on Rigor, Neurobiology and Behavior Columbia University
2024	Preventing and Managing PTSD, certification
2023, 2024, 2025	Course Instructor, Math Tools for Theoretical Neuroscience Columbia University
2023-2024	Course Instructor, Mind/Brain Disorders Barnard College
2023, 2025	Teaching Assistant, Analysis for Neuroscientists Columbia University
2023-2024	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Cognitive Science Barnard College
2022-Present	Women on Two Floors Affinity group for women in computational neuroscience at Columbia
2021-2022	Subcommittee on Inclusive Teaching Princeton University
2022-Present	Dragonfly Mental Health
2021-2022	Empowering Diversity and Promoting Scientific Equity at PNI Princeton Neuroscience Institute

AWARDS

2024-2025	Lead Teaching Fellow , Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning
2022-Present	NSF Graduate Research Fellow , Cognitive Science
2022	Knox Studentship , Cambridge University <i>Offer declined</i>
2022	Rhodes Scholarship semifinalist , Oxford University
2022	John Brinster, Class of 1943, Senior Thesis Prize , Princeton University
2022	Lewis Center Class Day Award , Princeton University
2021	Nancy J. Newman, MD '78 & Valerie Biousse, MD Research Fund for Neuroscience , Princeton University
2021	Program in Cognitive Science Summer Research Award , Princeton University