

John C. Flournoy, PhD

Research Scientist, Stats Maven

✉ jcflournoyphd@pm.me 🌐 johnflournoy.science 🐾 github.com/jflournoy 📱 @johnflournoy.science

Education

Ph.D., Psychology, University of Oregon

Dissertation: *Adolescent Social Motives: Measurement and Implications*

2018

M.S., Psychology, University of Oregon

2014

B.A., Cognitive Science, University of California, Berkeley

2005

Work Experience

Principal Research Scientist, Developer Success Lab, Pluralsight

2024–present

- Lead scientist on analysis of yearly ticket data from over 11k developers
- Drove organizational insights across multiple research projects
- Spearheaded community engagement overlay journal at dsl.pubpub.org

Research Associate, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2018–2024

- Lead analyst on intensive longitudinal fMRI neuroimaging study of mechanisms linking stress to psychopathology in adolescents
- Lead author of report on fMRI measurement reliability
- Supported co-authors on intensive longitudinal digital phenotyping analysis of stress, sleep, digital communication, and physical activity
- Lead analyst of task-based fMRI for multi-site adolescent cognitive control study (NIMH U01-MH109589, \$17.1M)
- Developed digital phenotyping data processing for NIMH R37-MH119194 (\$9M)
- Provided methodology and scientific computing support across two lab groups
- note: post-doctoral scholar from 2018–2020

Graduate Research Fellow, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

2012–2018

- Developed hierarchical Bayesian model of reinforcement learning for adolescent social motives
- Collected data from 300+ participants, including foster-care-involved adolescents
- Dissertation: *Adolescent Social Motives: Measurement and Implications*
- Developed expertise in longitudinal personality, fMRI, and cognitive task data using multilevel and structural equation modeling
- Validated new self-report and task measures, and evaluated validity and reliability of existing measures

Research Coordinator, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

2009–2012

- Coordinated Simons Foundation-funded study on sleep problems in autism using ambulatory polysomnography
- Site coordinator for clinical trial testing a novel PET marker for β -amyloid in dementia patients

Publications

- Rakesh, D., Flournoy, J. C., & McLaughlin, K. A. (n.d.). Associations between socioeconomic status and mental health trajectories during early adolescence: Findings from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development study. *JCPP Advances*, n/a(n/a), e70001. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcav.70001>
- Chen, Y. Y., Rosenbaum, G. M., Fan, H., Flournoy, J. C., Li, T., Cegarra, L., Youssoufian, D. A., Grad-Freilich, M. J., Kordyban, L. E., Mair, P., & Somerville, L. H. (2025). Social Contexts Requiring Adjudication between Self- and Peer-Interest Differentially Alter Risk Preferences Across Adolescence. *Open Mind*, 9, 540–558. https://doi.org/10.1162/ompi_a_00201
- Flournoy, J. C., Lee, C. S., Wu, M., & Hicks, C. M. (2025). No silver bullets: Why understanding software cycle time is messy, not magic. *Empirical Software Engineering*, 30(6), 174. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10664-025-10735-w>
- Guazzelli Williamson, V., Barendse, M. E. A., Chavez, S. J., Flournoy, J. C., Cheng, T. W., Cosme, D., Byrne, M. L., Allen, N. B., & Pfeifer, J. H. (2025). A longitudinal neuroimaging study of adolescent girls' mentalizing and perspective-taking tendencies. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 72, 101526. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2025.101526>
- Chen, Y. Y., Rosenbaum, G. M., Fan, H., Li, T., Flournoy, J., Mair, P., & Somerville, L. (2024). How beliefs around peers' risk preferences get incorporated into adolescents' decision making. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46(o). Retrieved January 28, 2025, from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6c42379z>
- Curtis, M., Flournoy, J. C., Kandala, S., Sanders, A. F. P., Harms, M. P., Omary, A., Somerville, L. H., & Barch, D. M. (2024). Disentangling the unique contributions of age, pubertal stage, and pubertal hormones to brain structure in childhood and adolescence. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 70, 101473. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2024.101473>
- Flournoy, J. C., Bryce, N. V., Dennison, M. J., Rodman, A. M., McNeilly, E. A., Lurie, L. A., Bitran, D., Reid-Russell, A., Vidal Bustamante, C. M., Madhyastha, T., & McLaughlin, K. A. (2024). A precision neuroscience approach to estimating reliability of neural responses during emotion processing: Implications for task-fMRI. *NeuroImage*, 285, 120503. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2023.120503>
- Heffer, T., Flournoy, J. C., Baum, G. L., & Somerville, L. H. (2024). Examining the Association between Punishment and Reward Sensitivity and Response Inhibition to Previously-Incentivized Cues across Development. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 53(6), 1341–1354. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-024-01966-z>
- Rith-Najarian, L. R., Gong-Guy, E., Flournoy, J. C., & Chavira, D. A. (2024). Randomized controlled trial of a web-based program for preventing anxiety and depression in university students. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 92(1), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ccp0000843>
- Xu, B., Dall'Aglio, L., Flournoy, J., Bortsova, G., Tervo-Clemmens, B., Collins, P., de Bruijne, M., Luciana, M., Marquand, A., Wang, H., Tiemeier, H., & Muetzel, R. L. (2024). Limited generalizability of multivariate brain-based dimensions of child psychiatric symptoms. *Communications Psychology*, 2(1), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44271-024-00063-y>
- Byrne, M. L., Vijayakumar, N., Chavez, S. J., Flournoy, J. C., Cheng, T. W., Mills, K. L., Barendse, M. E. A., Mobasser, A., Flannery, J. E., Nelson, B. W., Wang, W., Shirtcliff, E. A., Allen, N. B., & Pfeifer, J. H. (2023). Associations between multi-method latent factors of puberty and brain structure in adolescent girls. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 60, 101228. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2023.101228>
- Grisanzio, K. A., Flournoy, J. C., Mair, P., & Somerville, L. H. (2023). Shifting qualities of negative affective experience through adolescence: Age-related change and associations with functional outcomes. *Emotion*, 23(1), 278–288. <https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0001079>
- McCormick, E. M., Byrne, M. L., Flournoy, J. C., Mills, K. L., & Pfeifer, J. H. (2023). The Hitchhiker's guide to longitudinal models: A primer on model selection for repeated-measures methods. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 63, 101281. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2023.101281>
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- Xu, B., Dall'Aglio, L., Flournoy, J., Bortsova, G., Tervo-Clemmens, B., Collins, P., Bruijne, M. de, Luciana, M., Marquand, A., Wang, H., Tiemeier, H., & Muetzel, R. L. (2023, March 20). *Multivariate brain-based dimensions of child psychiatric problems: Degrees of generalizability*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.03.12.23287158>
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- Baum, G. L., Flournoy, J. C., Glasser, M. F., Harms, M. P., Mair, P., Sanders, A. F. P., Barch, D. M., Buckner, R. L., Bookheimer, S., Dapretto, M., Smith, S., Thomas, K. M., Yacoub, E., Essen, D. C. V., & Somerville, L. H. (2022). Graded Variation in T1w/T2w Ratio during Adolescence: Measurement, Caveats, and Implications for Development of Cortical Myelin. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 42(29), 5681–5694. <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2380-21.2022>
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- Nook, E. C., Flournoy, J. C., Rodman, A. M., Mair, P., & McLaughlin, K. A. (2021). High Emotion Differentiation Buffers Against Internalizing Symptoms Following Exposure to Stressful Life Events in Adolescence: An Intensive Longitudinal Study. *Clinical Psychological Science*, 2167702620979786. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2167702620979786>
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- Vidal Bustamante, C. M., Rodman, A. M., Dennison, M. J., Flournoy, J. C., Mair, P., & McLaughlin, K. A. (2020). Within-person fluctuations in stressful life events, sleep, and anxiety and depression symptoms during adolescence: A multiwave prospective study. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 61(10), 1116–1125. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13234>
- Vijayakumar, N., Flournoy, J. C., Mills, K. L., Cheng, T. W., Mobasser, A., Flannery, J. E., Allen, N. B., & Pfeifer, J. H. (2020). Getting to know me better: An fMRI study of intimate and superficial self-disclosure to friends during adolescence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 118(5), 885–899. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspa0000182>
- Byrne, M. L., Chavez, S., Vijayakumar, N., Cheng, T. W., Flournoy, J., Barendse, M., Shirtcliff, E. A., Allen, N., & Pfeifer, J. (2019). Multi-method confirmatory factor analyses of puberty in early adolescent girls. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/pue6f>
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- Thalmayer, A. G., Saucier, G., Flournoy, J. C., & Srivastava, S. (2019). Ethics-Relevant Values as Antecedents of Personality Change: Longitudinal Findings from the Life and Time Study (M. B. Donnellan & M. B. Donnellan, Eds.). *Collabra: Psychology*, 5(52). <https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.244>
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- Flournoy, J. C., Pfeifer, J. H., Moore, W. E., Tackman, A. M., Masten, C. L., Mazziotta, J. C., Iacoboni, M., & Dapretto, M. (2016). Neural Reactivity to Emotional Faces May Mediate the Relationship Between Childhood Empathy and Adolescent Prosocial Behavior. *Child Development*, 87(6), 1691–1702. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12630>
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