John C. Flournoy, PhD

Research Scientist, Stats Maven

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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 Uoi-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/jcv2.70001
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- 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(0). 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
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- Grisanzio, K. A., Flournoy, J. C., Mair, P., & Somerville, L. H. (2023). Shifting qualities of negative affective experience through adolescence: Agerelated change and associations with functional outcomes. *Emotion*, 23(1), 278–288. https://doi.org/10.1037/em00001079
- 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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- Rodman, A. M., Vidal Bustamante, C. M., Dennison, M. J., Flournoy, J. C., Coppersmith, D. D. L., Nook, E. C., Worthington, S., Mair, P., & McLaughlin, K. A. (2021). A Year in the Social Life of a Teenager: Within-Persons Fluctuations in Stress, Phone Communication, and Anxiety and Depression. Clinical Psychological Science, 2167702621991804. https://doi.org/10.1177/2167702621991804
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