

# Kevin W. Soo

University of Pittsburgh  
Learning Research & Development Center  
3939 O'Hara St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: 412-915-8164  
E-mail: [kevin.soo@pitt.edu](mailto:kevin.soo@pitt.edu)  
Website: [kevinsoo.github.io](http://kevinsoo.github.io)  
Blog: [kevinsoo.github.io/BetweenTwoWaves](http://kevinsoo.github.io/BetweenTwoWaves)

## Education

*University of Pittsburgh*

PhD Cognitive Psychology (expected graduation: Spring 2019)

MS Cognitive Psychology (completed Spring 2016)

*University College London*

MSc Cognitive & Decision Sciences (graduated 2011 with distinction)

*HELP University, Malaysia*

BS Psychology (graduated 2009 with first-class honors)

## Professional experience

*Graduate Student Researcher, University of Pittsburgh (2013–present)*

Researcher on various projects investigating causal cognition in humans. Designed, programmed, and ran numerous web and lab-based behavioral experiments. Extensive statistical simulation, modeling, and data analysis. Published and presented findings.

*Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh (2015–present)*

Teaching research methodology lecture sections (50-60 students), supervising undergraduate students in research projects. Designed and developed interactive web-based tutorials for teaching research methods concepts.

*Lecturer, Department of Psychology, HELP University (2012–2013)*

Designed/taught courses in research methods, cognitive psychology, and judgment and decision-making. Supervised research and teaching assistants.

*Research Assistant, Analysis of the Malaysian Electoral Roll (2012)*

Worked with Dr. Ong Kian Ming (PI), currently a Malaysian Member of Parliament, to develop analytical tools for detecting electoral fraud in the Malaysian Electoral Roll.

## Peer-reviewed publications

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (in press). Causal Induction From Time Series Data. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (in press). Switch Rates Do Not Influence Weighting of Rare Events in Decisions from Experience, but Optional Stopping Does. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*.

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (under review:a). Stop! In The Name of Rare Events: Optional Stopping in Decisions from Experience.

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (under review:b). Causal Learning From Trending Time Series.

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (2016). Causal learning with continuous variables over time. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 153-158).

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (2015). Elemental causal learning from transitions. In R. Dale, C. Jennings, P. Maglio, T. Matlock, D. Noelle, A. Warlaumont, & J. Yoshimi (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2254-2259).

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (2014). Learning causal direction from transitions with continuous and noisy variables. In P. Bello, M. Guarin, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1485-1490).

## Conference presentations

- Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (2015). *Causal learning from transitions and states*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Chicago, IL.
- Soo, K. W. & Lagnado, D. A. (2013). *Detecting and adapting to changes in causal systems*. Paper presented at the Asian Conference on Psychology & the Behavioral Sciences, Osaka, Japan.
- Soo, K. W. (2012). *Crime Perception: Non-rational judgments*. Paper presented at the Malaysian Psychology Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- \*Ho, A. S. P., \*Tan, K. C. K., \*Liew, S. J. Y., \*Goh, S. M. T., \*Goh, V. W. Y. & Soo, K. W. (2012). *Differences in counterfactual regret mechanisms and counterfactual distance on decision making*. Paper presented at the South East Asia (SEA) Psychology Conference, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.
- \*Lim, M. W. C., \*Chee, M. Y. F., \*Mok, L. L., \*Wong, T. Y. M., \*Thong, J. A. & Soo, K. W. (2012). *Investigating classification learning & inference learning in category acquisition and retention*. Paper presented at the South East Asia (SEA) Psychology Conference, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.
- Lukman, H. & Soo, K. W. (2010). *Assessment of eating disorder symptomatology in young adult female students in urban Malaysia*. Poster presented at the World Conference on Psychology, Counseling and Guidance, Antalya, Turkey.
- Lukman, H., Khor, K. L., Siew, J. L., Chua, W. L. & Soo, K. W. (2010). *Perceived body image norms in Malaysian adolescents*. Poster presented at the World Conference on Psychology, Counseling and Guidance, Antalya, Turkey.
- Soo, K. W. (2009). *Source-monitoring of words and their translations in bilingual memory*. Paper presented at the South East Asia (SEA) Psychology Conference, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

\* denotes undergraduate student advisee

## Teaching

*University of Pittsburgh*

Research Methodology (lecture and lab sections)

*HELP University*

Research Methodology, Cognitive Psychology, Thinking and Deciding, Contemporary Issues in Psychological Research (seminar), Applications of Psychology (seminar)

## Selected talks

Cognitive Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Pittsburgh

September 2017: *Does it fit? Proportionality between causes and effects*

February 2017: *Our patterns of sampling (don't) foreshadow our decisions*

March 2016: *Causal learning with continuous variables over time*

March 2015: *Elemental causal learning from transitions*

April 2014: *Causation from correlation over time*

*How (ir)rational are we?*

Keynote talk. Psychology Colloquium, HELP University (April 2012)

*Reasoning about causal changes*

Causality Workshop, Causal Cognition Group, University College London (August 2011)

<b>Honors</b>	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	
	Honorable mention, Tim Post Award for Excellence in Research (2017)	
	Arts and Sciences Fellowship (2013–2014)	
	<i>University College London</i>	
	Commonwealth Scholarship (2010–2011)	
	<i>HELP University</i>	
	Datuk Paduka Dr. Hajjah Saleha Award for top-ranked student at faculty level (2009)	
	HELP University Merit Scholarship (2006–2009)	
<b>Service</b>	Reviewer for Journal of Experimental Psychology: General (2017) and PLoS ONE (2017)	
	Statistics Consultant for Honors Students, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh	
	Program Representative, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh (2014–2015)	
<b>Professional membership</b>	Cognitive Science Society (2014–present)	
	The Psychonomic Society (2015–2016)	
<b>Skills</b>	<i>Programming languages, statistical and research methods</i>	
	Data cleaning/visualization/analysis: R, Python, SQL, Shiny web-apps, SPSS	
	Advanced stats: mixed-effects modeling, topic modelling, Bayesian and causal inference	
	Other expertise: experimental and survey design, crowdsourcing, web-scraping	
	<i>Web-based development</i>	
	Front-end: HTML, CSS, Javascript, Bootstrap, d3	
	Back-end: Python, Django, Google Cloud	
	Data collection: Amazon MTurk, Qualtrics	
<b>References</b>	Publishing: GitHub, Markdown, Jupyter notebooks	
<b>References</b>	Dr. Benjamin M. Rottman	
	University of Pittsburgh	
	726 Learning Research & Development Center	
	3939 O’Hara Street	
	Pittsburgh, PA 15260	
	+1-412-624-7493	
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:rottman@pitt.edu">rottman@pitt.edu</a>	
	Web: <a href="http://lrdc.pitt.edu/rottman">lrdc.pitt.edu/rottman</a>	
	Dr. David A. Lagnado	
	University College London	
	26 Bedford Way	
	WC1H 0AP, London	
	United Kingdom	
	++44-207-679-5385	
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:d.lagnado@ucl.ac.uk">d.lagnado@ucl.ac.uk</a>	
	Web: <a href="http://ucl.ac.uk/lagnado-lab/david_lagnado">ucl.ac.uk/lagnado-lab/david_lagnado</a>	
	Dr. Timothy Nokes-Malach	
	University of Pittsburgh	
	726 Learning Research & Development Center	
	3939 O’Hara Street	
	Pittsburgh, PA 15260	
	+1-412-624-7789	
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:nokes@pitt.edu">nokes@pitt.edu</a>	
	Website: <a href="http://lrdc.pitt.edu/nokes">lrdc.pitt.edu/nokes</a>	