

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
Website: kevinsoo.github.io
Blog: 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. (under review). Switch rates do not influence underweighting in decisions from experience, but optional stopping does.

Soo, K. W. & Rottman, B. M. (under review). Causal induction from time series data.

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 supervisee

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)

Honors *University of Pittsburgh*
Honorable mention, Tim Post Award for Excellence in Research (2017)
Arts and Sciences Fellowship (2013–2014)
University College London
Commonwealth Scholarship (2010–2011)
HELP University
Datuk Paduka Dr. Hajjah Saleha Award for top-ranked student at faculty level (2009)
HELP University Merit Scholarship (2006–2009)

Service Reviewer for Journal of Experimental Psychology: General (2017) and PLoS ONE (2017)
Program Representative, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh (2014–2015)

Professional membership Cognitive Science Society (2014–present)
The Psychonomic Society (2015–2016)

Skills *Programming languages, statistical and research methods*
Data cleaning/visualization/analysis: R, Python, SQL, Shiny web-apps, SPSS
Advanced stats: multi-level modeling, Bayesian inference, causal inference
Other expertise: experimental and survey design, crowdsourcing, web-scraping
Web-based development
Front-end: HTML, CSS, Javascript, Bootstrap, d3
Back-end: Python, Django, Google Cloud
Data collection: Amazon MTurk, Qualtrics
Publishing: GitHub, Markdown, Jupyter notebooks

References 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: rottman@pitt.edu
Website: lrdc.pitt.edu/rottman

Dr. David A. Lagnado
University College London
26 Bedford Way
WC1H 0AP, London
United Kingdom
++44-207-679-5385
E-mail: d.lagnado@ucl.ac.uk
Website:
ucl.ac.uk/lagnado-lab/david_lagnado

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: nokes@pitt.edu
Website: lrdc.pitt.edu/nokes