

Karen Sasmita

Ph.D. Candidate | Cognitive scientist

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Education

Cornell University

Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychology

2018-2023 (anticipated)
Ithaca, NY

Melbourne University

B.Sc Psychology

2009-2014
Melbourne, AU

Research experience

Graduate researcher

Cornell University

2018-present
Ithaca, NY

- Develop and lead 5 research initiatives investigating how people allocate attention over time to process and remember events.
- Design and implement in-lab and online mixed methods experiments (written in JavaScript, Python, and MATLAB), including stimulus design and usability testing (n = 274).
- Perform advanced data manipulation (Python) and statistical analyses (R) on behavior and fMRI (6.21GB) data, including mixed effect models, bootstrap analysis, and semantic similarity analysis using NLP.
- Manage teams of freshmen to senior undergraduate research assistants (~2-6 per semester), including training on data collection and data management, organizing weekly meetings, and delegating tasks.
- Deliver key research insights through [1 published paper](#), 6 invited talks, and 2 conference posters [[example presentation](#)].

Research assistant

Duke-NUS Medical School

2015-2018
Singapore

- Managed the operations (including data collection and analyses) of 5 research initiatives investigating how reward modulates cognitive effort allocation using combinations of behavior, pupillometry, and fMRI methodologies [[publications: 1,2,3,4](#)].
- Coordinated logistics and managed personnel for multiple survey-based, lived-in, and imaging (EEG & fMRI; n = 516) studies involving multiple research labs and local Singapore high schools [[publications: 1,2](#)].

Honors student researcher

Melbourne University

2013-2014
Melbourne, AU

- Collaborated with a senior graduate student on an EEG study investigating how monetary incentives modulate belief updating and decision making [[publication](#)].

Teaching and Outreach

Course instructor

Cornell University

2021-2022
Ithaca, NY

- Developed [course materials](#) (e.g., syllabus, worksheets, lesson plans, and assignments) and delivered 80+ instructional hours to 2 classes of 17 freshmen (average satisfaction rating = 4.63/5).

Workshop leader

Cornell University

2018-present
Ithaca, NY

- Developed and delivered 1 - 3 day workshops on neuroanatomy and sleep health to 9th-10th grade girls and students (n = 10-24 per class).

Skills

Quantitative: Experimental design, Statistical analyses, Data visualization, Text analysis (NLP).

Programming: Python (numpy, pandas), R (tidyr, ggplot, lme, emmeans), JavaScript, HTML/CSS (basic).