

Kei Yoshida

Virtual Environment Navigation Lab ([VENLab](#))
Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

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EDUCATION

- 2020-Present **Brown University**, Providence, RI, USA
Ph.D. in Cognitive Science (Perception and Action)
- Dissertation: “*Pedestrian interactions at local and global levels in human crowds*” (Advisor: Dr. Willam H. Warren)
- 2023-Present **Brown University**, Providence, RI, USA
M.S. in Computer Science
- 2016-2020 **Coe College**, Cedar Rapids, IA, USA
B.A. in Computer Science and Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa
- Thesis: “*Perceptual-motor recalibration in naturalistic and virtual environments*” (Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Chihak)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present **Dissertation Research:** “*Pedestrian interactions at local and global levels in human crowds*” (Advisor: Dr. Willam H. Warren)
Department of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences, Brown University
- Designed and conducted a behavioral experiment investigating the effects of covert and explicit leaders in walking crowds.
 - Analyzing the data and simulating pedestrian trajectories using existing models of pedestrian behavior, using Python and Julia.
- 2020-2022 **Ph.D. First-Year Project:** “*Reconstruction of interaction networks in walking crowds*” (Advisor: Dr. Willam H. Warren)
Department of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences, Brown University
- Analyzed behavioral data to reconstruct the structure and dynamics of leadership interaction networks in human crowds.
 - Applied a series of mathematical and statistical measure, such as Time-Dependent Delayed Correlation (TDDC) and network theory, using MATLAB and Python.
- 2024 **Visiting Research Scholar** (Collaborator: Dr. Mario di Bernardo)
Scuola Superiore Meridionale & University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy
- Conducted independent research on crowd dynamics, and collaborated with an interdisciplinary team of mathematicians and engineers to exchange knowledge on experimental psychology and modeling methods.
 - Provided experimental data for analysis and received valuable feedback on research methodology.

- 2019-2020 **Senior Honors Thesis:** “*Perceptual-motor recalibration in naturalistic and virtual environments*” (Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Chihak)
Department of Psychology, Coe College
- Designed series of experiments systematically investigating recalibration effects in rotational locomotion in naturalistic and virtual environments.
 - Developed a virtual environment in Unity, using C#.
- 2018-2019 **Research Project:** *Simple models of movement coordination account for limited portions of pedestrian road-crossing behavior in virtual environments* (Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Chihak)
Department of Psychology, Coe College
- Assisted in series of experiments investigating movement-coordination strategies used for gap-interception within a virtual environment created in Unity.
- 2018 **Research Project,** Dept. of Psychology, Coe College
Research Project: *How roadway design affects cyclist-motorist interactions* (Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Chihak)
Department of Psychology, Coe College
- Collected and analyzed data for experiment exploring the effects of roadway designs on behaviors of motorists.
 - Created the program designed to work on a device used to collect a variety of data using Arduino software and hardware, using C++.

SKILLS

Programming & Software

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| Languages: | Python, MATLAB, C++, C#, Julia, Bash, SQL, HTML/CSS, C, JavaScript, R |
| Scientific & Data Software: | VS Code, Visual Studio, Jupyter Notebooks, SPSS Statistics Software, Paraview, RStudio |
| Operating Systems: | macOS, Windows, Linux |
| Game Engines: | Unity |
| Version Control: | Git, GitHub |

Tools & Equipment

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| Virtual Reality | HTC Vive, Vive Controllers, SteamVR |
| Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): | DJI Mavic 3 Pro (FAA Part 107 Certified) |

Languages

Proficient in English & Japanese

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Journal Articles, Conference Proceedings, & Published Thesis

- Yoshida, K.**, Taylor, H., & Warren, W. H. (2025). The influence of explicit and covert leaders on human crowd motion. *EPJ Web of Conferences*, 334, 04010.
<https://doi.org/10.1051/epjconf/202533404010>
- Yoshida, K.**, di Bernardo, M., & Warren, W. H. (2025). *Visual influence networks in walking crowds*. bioRxiv. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.01.29.635594>
- Warren, W. H., Falandays, J. B., **Yoshida, K.**, Wirth, T. D., & Free, B. A. (2024). Human crowds as social networks: Collective dynamics of consensus and polarization. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 19(2), 522–537.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17456916231186406>
- Yoshida, K.** (2020). *Perceptual-motor recalibration in naturalistic and virtual environments*. [Undergraduate thesis, Coe College]. Coe College Stewart Memorial Library.
<https://coecollege.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1258120465>

Conference Presentations & Posters (Selected)

- Yoshida, K.**, Feldmann, S., & Warren, W.H. (2025, September 11). *Simulating and Quantifying the Influence of Covert and Explicit Leaders on Human Crowd Motion* [Conference session]. Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics 2025, Prague, Czech.
- Yoshida, K.**, Taylor, H., & Warren, W.H. (2024, December 4). *The Influence of Explicit and Covert Leaders on Human Crowd Motion* [Conference session]. Traffic and Granular Flow 2024, Lyon, France.
- Yoshida, K.**, Taylor, H., & Warren, W. H. (2024). Can covert and explicit “leaders” steer and split real human crowds? *Journal of Vision*, 24(10), 1325–1325.
<https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.24.10.1325> (Poster presented for the Annual Meeting of the Vision Science Society, 2024, in St. Pete Beach, FL, USA).
- Yoshida, K.**, & Warren, W. H. (2023, June 28). *Structural analysis and topological manipulation of visual influence networks in walking crowds* [Conference session]. Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics 2023, Eindhoven, Netherlands.
- Yoshida, K.**, & Chihak, B. (2020, November 21). *The transfer of perceptual-motor recalibration between virtual and naturalistic environments* [Poster presentation]. 61st Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, held virtually.
- Chihak, B., **Yoshida, K.**, & Bordwell, J. (2019, November 15). *Simple models of movement coordination account for limited portions of pedestrian road-crossing behavior in virtual environments* [Poster presentation]. 60th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Yoshida, K.**, Shrestha, A., & Chihak, B. (2018, November 10). *How roadway design affects cyclist-motorist interactions* [Poster presentation]. 2018 Tri-State Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Loras College, Dubuque, IA, USA.

SCHOLARSHIP, AWARDS, & HONORS

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| 2023-Present | Open Graduate Education Program , Brown University (two academic years of fellowship funding; equivalent to \$228,345.50) |
| 2025 | The Peter D. Eimas Graduate Research Award (\$1,000) Department of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences, Brown University |
| 2020-2021 | Kenneth R. and Pamela L. Galner Graduate Fellowship, Brown University (one academic year of fellowship funding; equivalent to \$91,241) |
| 2020 | Richard H. Bahwell Prize in Psychology (\$1,000), Coe College |
| 2020 | Phi Beta Kappa, National honor society |
| 2018 | Psi Chi, International honor society in Psychology |

Other Honors & Membership

Scientific Societies: Vision Science Society (2021-2024), Psychonomic Society (2019-2021)

Honor Societies: Coe College Strata (2019), Mortar Board (2019), Alpha Lambda Delta (2017)

RELEVANT COURSES

Brown University (2020-Present)

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| Cognitive Science | Core Concepts in Cognitive and Psychological Sciences I & II, Perception and Action, Perceiving and Acting in 3D |
| Computer Science & Quantitative Courses | Data Science, Interdisciplinary Scientific Visualization, Computer Vision, Deep Learning, Statistical Inference, Human-Computer Interaction Seminar, Computer Systems, Applied Regression Analysis, Information Theory |

Coe College (2016-2020)

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| Psychology | Research Methods, Statistical Methods and Data Analysis, Sensation and Perception, Memory & Cognition, Social Psychology, Introduction to Biopsychology, Organizational Psychology, Personality, Abnormal Psychology |
| Computer Science | Principles of Computer Graphics, Data Structures & Algorithms, Programming Languages, Interactive System Design, Object Oriented Programming, Software Engineering, Foundations of Computer Science & Advanced Mathematics |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-Present **Teaching Assistant**

Brown University: Social Psychology, Learning and Conditioning, & Mind, Brain, and Behavior

Coe College: Statistical Methods and Data Analysis

2017-2020 **Tutor**, Coe College

Computer Science: Computer Science I & II, Data Structures and Algorithms

Psychology: Introductory Psychology, Research Methods, Statistical Methods and Data Analysis, Memory and Cognition, Organizational Psychology, Personality

SERVICE ROLES

2020-Present Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) Committee Member
Hiring and Recruitment Subcommittee Chair (2024-2025),
Department of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences, Brown University

2023-2024 International Graduate Peer Mentor, Brown University

2021-2022 Graduate Student Representative,
Department of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences, Brown University

2021, 2024 International Student Orientation Mentor, Brown University

2016-2020 International Club Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary),
Coe College

2018-2020 Diversity Inclusion Collaboration Team, Coe College

2017 International Students Orientation Leader, Coe College