

Maedbh King

· PMF FINALIST 2022 AND PH.D. CANDIDATE AT UC BERKELEY ·

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Summary

Cognitive and computational neuroscientist with leadership experience in academia and non-profit work. 6+ years experience conducting hypothesis- and data-driven research, and using machine learning and statistics to build models of brain function. Strong record of publishing in scientific journals (>350 citations), and presenting at research conferences (>10 proceedings). Passionate about using my experience as an educator and academic mentor to communicate complex ideas to non-expert audiences. Strongly believe in using data-driven solutions to formulate and recommend policy. Motivated to apply my quantitative and communication expertise to high-impact projects that serve the American public.

Education

University of California, Berkeley

PH.D. IN COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE (GPA: 3.96/4.00)

[Berkeley, California](#)

Sep. 2017 - Expected: May. 2022

- **Advisor: Richard Ivry, Ph.D.** [[Link](#)] (email: ivry@berkeley.edu)
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Data Science [[Link](#)]

Western University

M.Sc. IN NEUROSCIENCE (GPA: 4.0)

[London, Ontario](#)

Sep. 2015 - May. 2017

- **Advisor: Joern Diedrichsen, Ph.D.** [[Link](#)] (email: jdiedric@uwo.ca)

Trinity College Dublin

B.A. WITH HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND FRENCH (DOUBLE MAJOR; GPA: 4.0)

[Dublin, Ireland](#)

Sep. 2010 - May. 2014

- **Advisor: Redmond O'Connell, Ph.D.** [[Link](#)] (email: reoconne@tcd.ie)

Recognition

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

2021	Presidential Management Fellowship Finalist 2022 , U.S. Office of Personnel Management	Link
2021	Mark R. Rosenzweig Graduate Fellowship , Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley	Link
2015	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship , Irish Research Council	Link
2015	Ussher Fellowship , Trinity College Dublin	Link
2013	Biomedical Vacation Scholarship , Wellcome Trust, UK	Link
2010	Government of Ireland Scholarship (Full-Ride) , Department of Education and Skills	Link

AWARDS

2020	Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Travel Award , CCN Conference	Link
2017	Gordon Cerebellum Student Travel Award , Gordon Research Conferences	Link
2014	US Fulbright (Shortlisted) , Fulbright Program	Link
2010	Entrance Exhibition Award , Trinity College Dublin	Link

RESEARCH IMPACT

2020	The mysterious, multifaceted cerebellum , Knowable Magazine	Link
2019	Scientists map our underappreciated "little brain" , University of California, Berkeley	Link
2019	New maps of the cerebellum show how our "little brain" works , Psychology Today	Link

Research Experience

Ph.D. Thesis: Mapping cerebro-cerebellar networks of the human brain during learning

[Github \[Link\]](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER (2017-)

[University of California, Berkeley](#)

- Developed machine learning pipelines to predict cognitive function in the human cerebellum during learning, tested patients with spinocerebellar ataxia on a series of cognitive tasks to assess cerebellar deficits, and analyzed post-mortem brain data to create a transcriptomic map of the human cerebellum. Prioritized taking classes in advanced statistics and computer science to analyze high-dimensional neural data.
- Led a team of 5 to design and collect 300 experimental hours of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data (during COVID-19 pandemic).
- Co-wrote an R35 grant that received 5-year funding from the NIH. Managed an institutional review board (IRB) protocol for fMRI experiments.
- Created a widely adopted mentorship agreement for research assistants to ensure transparency and accountability in mentoring practices. Co-led a journal club for undergraduate research assistants, instructing them on the scientific method, data analysis, and statistics.
- Mentored two undergraduate students in designing and writing up honors thesis projects. One student was awarded a *Swan prize* [[link](#)] for their work, and presented at a national conference. Prioritized recruitment of students from marginalized demographics.

M.Sc. Thesis: Understanding the functional organization of the human cerebellum

[Paper \[Link\]](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER (2015-2017)

Western University

- Created a novel and highly downloaded *map* [\[link\]](#) of the human cerebellum using machine learning and advanced statistics.
- Led a team of 2 to design and collect a 26-task, 6-session fMRI and behavioral experiment, totaling 250 hours of data collection [\[link\]](#).
- Initiated a collaboration with scientists from Stanford University to use natural language processing to assign cognitive labels to the human cerebellum [\[link\]](#). Developed programming pipeline for other researchers to replicate my novel approach, and wrote supporting documentation.
- Invested in open-source science. My data, which are publicly available, have been downloaded >200 times [\[link\]](#).

Selected Projects

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Graduate Mentoring Policies

[Co-Chair \[Link\]](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Jan. 2020 - Sep. 2021

- Recognized need for formal mentor-mentee agreements in the UC Berkeley psychology department. Assembled and co-led working committee to create policy to improve lab culture and mentor-mentee relationships. Recruited panelists from diverse backgrounds.
- Authored 10-page policy document on mentorship and lab policy agreements. Advised leadership on implementation of new departmental policies during quarterly climate and equity meetings. Since Sep. 2021, 35/42 faculty have created lab policy documents.

State of the Department Initiative

[Leader \[Link\]](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Apr. 2019 - Apr. 2021

- Team leader for faculty accountability initiative. Developed survey for Berkeley Psychology state of the department annual meeting, and conducted data analytics and statistics to translate graduate student concerns into policy recommendations. Used data and statistics to highlight funding discrepancy between neuroscience and clinical psychology students, resulting in a 20% yearly increase in graduate student stipends.

Prison University Project

[Lecturer \[Link\]](#)

SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON

Jan. - May 2019

- Designed and lectured a new curriculum in General Psychology for incarcerated students. I brought human brains into the classroom to teach neuroanatomy, mirroring the UC Berkeley student experience. Provided executive board with formal analysis of organizational operations.

Ethics Protocol for MRI projects

[Manager \[Link\]](#)

COGNITION AND ACTION LAB, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Jan. 2018 -

- Drafted guidelines and maintained ethics protocol for institutional review board (IRB) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) projects. Completed human research program on "Human Research: Biomedical Research Investigators", and trained 3 research assistants on the protocol.

TECHNICAL

SUITPy: Open-source package for the visualization of cerebellum imaging data

[Developer \[Link\]](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY; WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Jan. - Sep. 2021

- Core developer of SUITPy, an open-source Python library to visualize brain data. Subsequently worked as project manager to identify best programming practices for improving core functionality, resulting in record monthly installations (4-fold increase).

Predicting COVID-19 mortality rates across the U.S. using mobility and census data

[Author \[Link\]](#)

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Sep. - Dec. 2020

- Built a statistical model predicting COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. from May - Aug. 2020 using data from the U.S. Census and Google Maps mobility reports. Increased optimization of algorithm by 20-fold. Presented findings in a poster presentation to faculty in the School of Information.

Low dimensional embedding of genetic gradients in the human cerebellum

[Author \[Link\]](#)

HELEN WILLS NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

May 2019 - Sep. 2021

- Initiated collaboration with incoming faculty at Berkeley to investigate genetic gradients in the human cerebellum. Learned new statistical tools to analyze postmortem human brain data, and developed pipelines to streamline data preprocessing, later adopted by >5 students.

Universal transform or multiple functionality? A novel perspective on the cerebellum

[Author \[Link\]](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY; WESTERN UNIVERSITY

May 2018 - Sep. 2019

- Reviewed and analyzed 30 years of research to propose new theory of cerebellar function. Co-authored subsequent paper (>70 citations).

Public Service & Outreach

COMMITTEES & POLICY

Graduate Assembly Students of Psychology

[Member and RSO Signatory](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Sep. 2018 - Mar. 2020

- Provided data analytics to improve efficiency of phone banking for Psychology "Big Give". Contacted 10-fold more donors than previous year.
- Liaison officer between Berkeley development office and external donors. Organized faculty fundraisers in Silicon Valley, fund-raising \$15,000.

European Federation of Psychology Students' Association

[Editor \[Link\]](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

Jan. 2016 - May 2016

- Spearheaded initiative to pre-register scientific results in the Journal of European Psychology Students, a first for student journals worldwide.
- Advised organization leadership on best practices for successful implementation of pre-registration and authored journal article (>3500 views).

Schulich School of Medicine Graduate Council

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Secretary

Sep. 2015 - Sep. 2016

- Provided budget evaluation of graduate student insurance plan to council. Served as student liaison officer, and oversaw a budget of \$5000

Niteline (Student Helpline)

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

Publicity Officer

Sep. 2011 - May 2014

- Provided practical program consultation to student helpline [\[link\]](#), and wrote proposal to increase the yearly budget from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

COMMUNICATION & ADMINISTRATION

Graduate Assembly Students of Psychology

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Writer/Contributor [\[Link\]](#)

Sep. 2019 - May 2021

- Created, managed, and edited Berkeley Psychology blog to spotlight graduate student research. Increased monthly viewers 5-fold.
- Co-founded and operated Twitter account for Berkeley Psychology [\[link\]](#). Increased follower count to >1500 after 2 years.
- Lead writer of Psychology newsletter [\[link\]](#) (>2000 circulation). Included profiles on graduates to strengthen ties with alumni community.

Journal of European Psychology Students

EUROPEAN UNION

Editor/Contributor [\[Link\]](#)

Jan. 2014 - May 2016

- Managed peer review process for 30 papers including paper submission, reviewer recruitment, copy editing, and publication.
- Contributor to popular psychology and neuroscience blog post, aimed at engaging aspiring psychology students (>500 monthly views).

EDUCATION & STEM OUTREACH

Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Team Member [\[Link\]](#)

Jan. 2018 - Jan. 2020

- Co-developed and deployed neuroscience curriculum, "Know Your Brain", that has been presented to students in >20 Bay Area public schools.

Inspiring Young Women in STEM Inaugural Conference

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Organizing Member [\[Link\]](#)

May 2016

- Co-organized first conference to encourage female students in STEM (>150 attendees), recruited keynote speakers, and evaluated research.

Western Women Neuroscientists in Schools

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Team Leader [\[Link\]](#)

Oct. 2015 - May 2017

- Developed curriculum to explore neuroscience misinformation ("Myths and the Brain"). Presented to >2000 high-schoolers in Ontario schools.

Mentorship

Honors Thesis Students

SHANNON LEE; SIENNA BRUINSMA

Cognitive Science; Psychology

Sep. 2019 - May 2021

- Shannon Lee [\[link\]](#) tested 50 participants (during COVID-19 pandemic) and wrote her thesis on eye-tracking models that inform social learning.
- Sienna Bruinsma [\[link\]](#) tested 25 patients with ataxia (during COVID-19 pandemic) and wrote her thesis on cerebellar function in language.

Undergraduate Research Assistants

ZANIB NAAEM; YILING KAO

Psychology; Computer Science

Jan. - May 2021; Sep. 2019 - May 2020

- Zanib Naaem tested 30 college-aged students on a multi-session eye-tracking and behavioral learning project (during COVID-19 pandemic).
- Yiling Kao tested 50 participants and used machine learning to study speech envelopes, now works at Microsoft as software engineer.

Ph.D. Rotation Students

AMANDA LeBEL; JACOB ZIONTZ; MARK GORENSTEIN

Neuroscience

Sep.-Dec. 2020; Jan.- May 2020;

Sep.-Dec. 2018

- Amanda LeBel developed encoding models using speech features to study cerebellar activity. Supervised during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Jacob Ziontz [\[link\]](#) wrote fMRI preprocessing scripts using high performance computing. Supervised during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mark Gorenstein did a meta-analysis of models for understanding brain connectivity. Presented findings at departmental lab meeting.

Teaching

General Psychology

MOUNT TAMALPAIS COLLEGE

Lecturer [\[Link\]](#)

Sep. - Dec. 2019

- Designed and lectured course on general psychology to incarcerated students. Topics included "the brain and nervous system", "classical conditioning", and "mood disorders". Devised trauma-informed learning objectives, catering to students with diverse educational needs.

Biological Psychology, PSYCH 110; Cognitive Neuroscience, PSYCH 127

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Instructor [\[Link\]](#)

Aug. - Dec. 2018; Aug. - Dec. 2017

- Instructed weekly seminars for 120+ students on topics including "memory and learning" and "ethics of artificial intelligence", under the supervision of UC Berkeley professors. Evaluated and supervised student research and wrote professional references for promising students.

- Instructed undergraduate students in a statistics and data science laboratory using the programming language "R". Topics included "central limits theorem", "hypothesis testing" and "conditional probability". Wrote and administered exams and evaluated student work.

Selected Publications & Presentations

PAPERS

Evaluating brain parcellations using the distance controlled boundary coefficient

[bioRxiv \[Link\]](#)

D ZHI, M KING, J DIEDRICHSEN

2021

Transcriptomic Gradients Of The Human Cerebellum

[bioRxiv \[Link\]](#)

M KING, Z ZHEN, RB IVRY, KS WEINER

2020

Functional boundaries in the human cerebellum revealed by a multi-domain task battery

[Nature Neuroscience \[Link\]](#)

M KING, CR HERNANDEZ-CASTILLO, RA POLDRACK, RB IVRY, J DIEDRICHSEN

2019

Universal transform or multiple functionality? Understanding the contribution of the human cerebellum across task domains

[Neuron \[Link\]](#)

J DIEDRICHSEN, M KING, C HERNANDEZ-CASTILLO, M SERENO, RB IVRY

2019

CONFERENCES

Cerebro-cerebellar connectivity is dominated by divergent mapping

[Society for Neuroscience](#)

M KING, L SHAHSHAHANI, IVRY, J DIEDRICHSEN

Virtual Conference

2021

Evaluating Brain Parcellations using the Multi-Domain Task Battery

[Organization for Human Brain Mapping](#)

J DIEDRICHSEN, M KING, C HERNANDEZ-CASTILLO, D ZHI, R IVRY

Rome, Italy

2019

Transcriptomic Gradients of the Human Cerebellum

[Cerebellum Gordon Research](#)

M KING, R IVRY, K WEINER

Les Diablerets, Switzerland

2019

INVITED TALKS

Cerebro-cerebellar connectivity across motor and cognitive circuits

[Neurologische Uniklinik Essen](#)

NEUROPHYSIOLOGISCHES SEMINAR

Virtual Conference

2021

Bringing a systems level perspective to neuroimaging analyses

[Organization for Human Brain Mapping](#)

EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: NEUROANATOMY FOR NEUROIMAGING

Virtual Conference [Link]

2021

Mapping the Human Cerebellum Using a Multi-Domain Task Battery

[Society for Neuroscience](#)

SYMPOSIUM: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CEREBELLAR FUNCTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Chicago, Illinois

2019

Skills & Interests

Programming Languages

Python, SQL, R, MATLAB, HTML, Bash

Frameworks and Tools

Keras, OpenCV, Git, Vim, Blender, Numpy, Deeplabcut, PsychoPy, Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn, Scipy

Conceptual

High performance computing (Savio), Grant Writing and IRB Ethics Protocols, MRI technician certificate

Interpersonal

Project management, Organizational leadership, Resourcefulness, Problem solving, Conflict resolution

Languages

English (Native), Irish (Native), French (Proficient), German (Basic)

Hobbies

Road Biking, Yoga, Running, Mountain Climbing, Fiddle Playing (traditional Irish music), Crosswords