

Maria Pombo

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EDUCATION

New York University

PhD in Psychology (Cognition and Perception)

Supervisor: Dr. Denis Pelli

GPA: 3.97/4.0

New York, NY

Expected Graduation: May, 2025

Georgetown University

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Minors in Cognitive Science and Computer Science

summa cum laude, GPA: 3.95/4.0

Washington, D.C.

Graduated May, 2020

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2020 - 2025 **McCracken Fellowship**, New York University
- 2020 **Phi Beta Kappa**, Georgetown University
- 2018 **Psi Chi**, International Honor Society in Psychology, Georgetown University

PUBLICATIONS

- Pombo, M., & Pelli, D. G. (2022) Aesthetics: It's beautiful to me. *Current Biology*, 32(8), R378-R379. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.03.002>
- Pombo, M., & Velasco, C. (2021). How aesthetic features convey the concept of brand premiumness. *Psychology & Marketing*, 38(9), 1475–1497. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mar.21534>
- Aleem, H., Pombo, M., Correa-Herran, I., & Grzywacz, N. (2019). Is beauty in the eye of the beholder or an objective truth? A neuroscientific answer. In J. L. Contreras-Vidal, D. Robleto, J. G. Cruz-Garza, J. M. Arzon, & C. S. Nam (Eds.), *Springer Series on Bio- and Neurosystems: Mobile brain-body imaging and the neuroscience of art, innovation, and creativity*. (pp. 101-110). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-24326-5_11

PREPRINTS & MANUSCRIPTS

- Pombo, M., Brielmann, A. A., & Pelli, D. G. (2022). *The intrinsic variance of beauty judgment*. PsyArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jm83e>
- Pombo, M., Aleem, H., & Grzywacz, N. (under review, 2022). Multiple axes of visual symmetry: detection and aesthetic preference. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*
- Pombo, M., Corradi, G., Elliot, A.J., Velasco, C. (under review, 2022) When and how visual aesthetic features influence approach-avoidance motivated behavior. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*
- Pombo, M., Pelli, D. G. (in preparation) The mutual information of beauty judgment.
- Bruns, A., Pombo, M. Ripollés, P., Pelli D.G., (in preparation). *Beauty and emotion of music and images: Emotions make more emotional objects more beautiful*.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- Pombo, M., Brielmann, A.A., Pelli D.G., (2022). *Order effects as a function of stimulus similarity*. Oral presentation at the Visual Science of Art Conference.
- Pombo, M., Brielmann, A.A., Pelli D.G., (2022). *When judging beauty, order matters only if the stimuli are homogeneous*. Oral presentation at the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics conference.
- Bruns, A., Pombo, M. Ripollés, P., Pelli D.G., (2022). *Object mood impacts beauty but subject mood does not*. Oral presentation at the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics conference.

Poster Presentations

- **Pombo, M.,** Pelli, D.G., (2022). *The mutual information of beauty judgment*. Poster at the 2022 Vision Science Society meeting.
- Feng, A., **Pombo, M.,** Pelli, D.G. (2022). *The effect of stories on beauty judgment*. Poster at the 2022 Vision Science Society meeting.
- Nguyen, M., Mai, A., **Pombo, M.,** Pelli, D.G. (2022). *Beauty perception is unaffected by the company of others*. Poster at the 2022 Vision Science Society meeting.
- **Pombo, M.,** Brielmann, A.A., Pelli, D.G., (2021). *Discounting the effect of memory on repeated measures of beauty judgment*. Virtual Poster at the 2021 Vision Sciences Society meeting.
- **Pombo, M.,** Brielmann, A.A., Pelli, D.G., (2021). *How sequential dependencies affect the intraindividual variability of beauty judgment*. Virtual Poster at the 43rd annual European Conference on Visual Perception.
- **Pombo, M.,** Brielmann, A.A., Pelli, D.G., (2021). *Accounting for the effect of recall memory on repeated measures of beauty judgment*. Virtual Poster at the 2021 International Association of Empirical Aesthetics Congress.
- **Pombo, M.,** & Velasco, C. (2020). *On how aesthetic features convey the concept of brand premiumness*. Poster at the 2020 American Marketing Association Winter Academic Conference, San Diego, CA.
- **Pombo, M.,** & Grzywacz, N. (2020). *Perception of multiple axes of symmetry*. Virtual Presentation at Georgetown's Colloquium for Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Washington, D.C.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

- Lab in Cognition and Perception (New York University) Spring, 2022
- Multisensory Marketing in Online and Offline Environments (BI Norwegian Business School) Summer, 2019

Guest Lectures

- Experiments in beauty, *Modeling Beauty* November 2021

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

New York University

- Mathematical Tools for Cognitive and Neural Science, Psychophysics, Neuroeconomics, Bayesian Models of Behavior, Perception, Cognitive Neuroscience of Music, Cognitive Neuroscience, Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Lab, Scientific Writing Workshop

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Meta Reality Labs (formerly Facebook Reality Labs)

May 2022 - August 2022

- **Research Scientist Intern** Worked closely with a cross-functional team to develop and implement a series of studies to examine aesthetic preferences of 50+ participants quantitatively and qualitatively. The findings of the study directly informed product development.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Colegio Nueva Granada Institutional Review Board

October 2021 - Present

- One of eight alumni selected to form part of the school's IRB, which is in charge of ensuring that the research projects of students taking the AP Capstone course follow ethical guidelines and are scientifically sound

Georgetown University Alumni Interviewer

May 2020 - Present

- Conduct admission interviews for Colombian students applying to Georgetown University and generate detailed reports

NYU Access Grad Program

September 2022 - Present

- Mentor a group of students from underrepresented backgrounds on acquiring research experience, building a strong graduate school application, and navigating a career in psychology.

NYU C&P Social Rep

August 2021 - August 2022

- Elected by the student body to plan and coordinate department-wide social activities that encourage cross-lab relationships

Midwood High School Junior Research Course

June 2021 - May 2022

- Mentor a group of high school students on their independent research project and teach them tools to analyze their data

Mango - Spanish Immersion Social Program Coach

April - September 2021

- Facilitated weekly English lessons between a native English-speaking child and a low-income Colombian child

Ad hoc Reviewer

- Psychology & Marketing
- Current Biology

OTHER SKILLS

- **Language Skills:** Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)
- **Programming Skills:**
 - Advanced: R, Python, MATLAB
 - Intermediate: C++, LaTeX
 - Basic: Java, JavaScript, HTML
- **Software Skills:** PsychoPy, Qualtrics, lab.js, Prolific, Pavlovia, GIMP, Adobe Photoshop, and Illustrator, MeshLab