

# Marta Kryven, Ph.D.

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🌐 <https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=VwblkpMAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>  
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## Research Employment

- 2024 – **Assistant Professor in AI**, Dalhousie University, Canada  
Research interests: large language models, computational cognitive science
- 2018 – 2024 **Postdoctoral Research Scientist**, MIT, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, USA  
**Advisor:** Josh Tenenbaum  
Research interests: planning, spatial navigation, cognitive models  
Designed models of how people navigate in cities and validated them to on a large data-set of GPS traces.  
Built generative models based on RL & program induction that can predict how people anticipate structure in novel environments  
Advised 5 graduate students, and over 10 undergraduate research assistants

## Education

- 2012 – 2017 **Ph.D., University of Waterloo** Computer Science.  
Thesis title: *Attributed Intelligence*.  
Research interests: computational perception, Bayesian inference, Natural Language Processing
- 2017 **Visiting Scholar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
Advisor: Prof. Joshua Tenenbaum.
- 2015 **'Brains, Minds Machines', Summer School**, The Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole  
**Teaching Fundamentals Certificate**, Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo

## Employment in Industry

- 2008-2011 **Senior Software Engineer**. Newbay Software, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2006-2007 **Senior Software Engineer, Team Leader**. Radvision, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- 2005-2006 **Software Engineer**. Weather Services International, Boston, USA

## Publications

### Articles

- Kryven, M.**, S. Yu, Kleiman-Weiner, U. T. M., and J. Tenenbaum, "Approximate planning in spatial search," 2024, (In revision).
- T. Shu, **Kryven, M.**, T. Ullman, and J. Tenenbaum, "Perceiving social interactions under physical dynamics," 2024, (In preparation).
- S. Acquaviva, Y. Pu, **M. Kryven**, *et al.*, "Communicating natural programs to humans and machines," *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, vol. 35, pp. 3731–3743, 2022.
- M. Kryven**, S. Yu, M. Kleiman-Weiner, and J. Tenenbaum, "Planning ahead in spatial search," *The 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making*, 2022.
- S. Sharma, A. Curtis, **M. Kryven**, J. Tenenbaum, and I. Fiete, "Map induction: Compositional spatial submap learning for efficient exploration in novel environments," *International Conference of Learning Representations*, 2022.
- T. Shu, A. Magaro, **M. Kryven**, T. Ullman, and J. Tenenbaum, "Social attribution guides similarity judgment of abstract scenes," *Journal of Vision*, vol. 22, no. 14, pp. 3644–3644, 2022.
- C. Bongiorno, Y. Zhou, **M. Kryven**, *et al.*, "Vector-based pedestrian navigation in cities," *Nature Computational Science*, vol. 1, no. 10, pp. 678–685, 2021.

- M. Kryven**, T. D. Ullman, W. Cowan, and J. B. Tenenbaum, "Plans or outcomes: How do we attribute intelligence to others?" *Cognitive Science*, vol. 45, no. 9, pp. 13–41, 2021.
- Y. Qian, **M. Kryven**, T. Gao, H. Joo, and J. Tenenbaum, "Modeling human intention inference in continuous 3d domains by inverse planning and body kinematics," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2112.00903*, 2021.
- T. Shu, A. Netanyahu, **M. Kryven**, *et al.*, "Perceiving social events in a physical world," *Journal of Vision*, vol. 21, no. 9, pp. 2463–2463, 2021.
- Y. Pu, K. Ellis, **M. Kryven**, J. Tenenbaum, and A. Solar-Lezama, "Program synthesis with pragmatic communication," *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, vol. 33, pp. 13 249–13 259, 2020.
- T. Shu, **M. Kryven**, T. D. Ullman, and J. Tenenbaum, "Adventures in flatland: Perceiving social interactions under physical dynamics," *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2020.
- L. Tian, K. Ellis, **M. Kryven**, and J. Tenenbaum, "Learning abstract structure for drawing by efficient motor program induction," *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, vol. 33, pp. 2686–2697, 2020.
- B. Cowan, E. Fourquet, and **M. Kryven**, "Teaching the societal consequences of computer science: New ideas for increasing student involvement," *Proceedings of the 23rd Annual ACM Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education*, pp. 242–247, 2018.
- M. Kryven**, T. D. Ullman, W. Cowan, and J. Tenenbaum, "Outcome or strategy? a bayesian model of intelligence attribution," *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2016.
- M. Kryven** and W. Cowan, "What does water look like?" *Proceedings of the Workshop on Computational Aesthetics*, pp. 53–56, 2014.
- M. Kryven** and W. Cowan, "Modelling perceptually efficient aquatic environments," *Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on Applied Perception*, pp. 131–131, 2013.
- M. Kryven** and E. Fourquet, "Generating knitting patterns from a sketch: A csp approach," *Proceedings of the Symposium on Computational Aesthetics*, pp. 53–61, 2013.

## Refereed Poster Abstracts

- N. Vlavianos, T. Nagakura, and **M. Kryven**, "A novel method for measuring psychophysical immersion in sacred architectural space in vr and in reality," in *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, 2023.
- S. Sharma, A. Curtis, **M. Kryven**, J. Tenenbaum, and I. Fiete, "Efficient exploration of spatial environments through map induction using adaptable compositional map representations," in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 44, 2022.
- S. Sharma, A. Curtis, **M. Kryven**, J. Tenenbaum, and I. Fiete, "Map induction: Compositional spatial submap learning for efficient exploration in novel environments," in *COSYNE*, 2022.
- N. Vlavianos, T. Nagakura, and **M. Kryven**, "Human information seeking in architectural spaces simulated in virtual reality," in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 44, 2022.
- G. Ecanow, C. Wong, S. Acquaviva, Y. Pu, **M. Kryven**, and J. Tenenbaum, "Core knowledge objects in reasoning and language use for highly abstract inductive tasks," in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 43, 2021.
- S. Sharma, A. Curtis, **M. Kryven**, J. Tenenbaum, and I. Fiete, "Learning spatial environments by adaptable compositional map representations," in *Proceedings of the 42th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 44, 2021.
- Z. Yang, **M. Kryven**, H. Shrobe, and J. Tenenbaum, "Modeling human planning in a life-like search-and-rescue mission," in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 43, 2021.
- S. Yu, **M. Kryven**, J. Tenenbaum, and M. Kleiman-Weiner, "Unpacking the computations of human spatial search under uncertainty: Noisy utility maximization, discounting, and probability warping," in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 43, 2021.
- M. Kryven**, S. Croom, B. J. Scholl, and J. Tenenbaum, "Look out, it's going to fall!: Does physical instability capture attention and lead to distraction?" In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2019, p. 3500.

**M. Kryven**, L. Niemi, L. Paul, and J. Tenenbaum, “Choosing the unimaginable: Social psychological factors in seeking transformative experiences,” in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2019, p. 3300.

**M. Kryven**, T. D. Ullman, W. Cowan, and J. Tenenbaum, “Thinking and guessing: Bayesian and empirical models of how humans search,” in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2017.

**M. Kryven** and W. Cowan, “Attending to the future,” in *Center for Visual Science Symposium, University of Rochester*, 2016.

**M. Kryven** and W. Cowan, “Semi-automated classification of free-form participant comments,” in *WiML workshop at Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2016.

**M. Kryven**, T. Ullman, W. Cowan, and J. Tenenbaum, “People explore under uncertainty by looking ahead,” in *Computational Approaches to Cognition Symposium at Psychonomics, Boston, USA*, 2016.

**M. Kryven**, T. Ullman, W. Cowan, and J. Tenenbaum, “Two types of exploratory behaviour,” in *Applied Vision Association Xmas 2016 Meeting at Queen Mary University of London*, 2016.

**M. Kryven** and C. W., “Why magic works? attentional blink with moving stimuli,” in *International Conference on Perceptual Organization. York University Centre for Vision Research*, 2016.

## Conference Talks and Invited Presentations

- 2024     Planing and reasoning about plans in real world *University of Toronto, Department of Psychology*  
Cognitively-inspired AI *Dalhousie University, Department of Computer Science*  
Cognitively-inspired AI for planning and understanding plans *University of Waterloo, Department of Computer Science*  
Cognitively-inspired AI *Leiden University, Computer Science Institute*
- 2021     Modeling human planning under uncertainty, *Harvard, Department of Neuroscience*  
Modeling human planning under uncertainty, *MIT, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences*
- 2020     Probabilistic Programming, *Lecture at CBMM Summer School, Woods Hole*
- 2019     Plan-generation and social attribution, *Boston College, Department of Psychology*  
Plan-generation and social attribution, *Harvard, Department of Neuroscience*  
Research Methods, *Lecture at CBMM Summer School, Woods Hole*
- 2018     Planning under uncertainty. *Yale University, Department of Neuroscience*  
Decision-making experiments, *Invited talk at MIT Museum*  
Perception as Inference, *Invited talk at MIT Museum*  
Perception as inference - what visual illusions tell us about the brain. Guest lecture, *Suffolk University, The New England School of Art and Design*  
Planning under uncertainty. *MIT, Rosenholtz lab*
- 2017     Value Based Decision-Making under Uncertainty. *MIT, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences*
- 2016     What do people mean by intelligence? *Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford*  
Attributing intelligence: Outcome and Strategy. *Conference, Cognitive Sciences Society, University of Pennsylvania, USA*  
Comparing own decision making to evaluation of others' actions. *MIT, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences*  
Attributing intelligence to Others. *York University, Neuroscience Student Research Symposium*  
Vision as inference in the real world, *University of Waterloo, Guest Lecture in a 4th year Artificial Intelligence class*  
Automated analysis of natural language data in behavioural experiments, *University of Waterloo, Computer Science Department*
- 2015     Facilitating effective class discussions, *Centre for Teaching Excellence, teaching session, University of Waterloo*  
Change blindness. *Centre for Teaching Excellence, teaching session, University of Waterloo*  
Counting permutations. *Centre for Teaching Excellence, teaching session, University of Waterloo*
- 2014     What does water look like? Psychophysics of image perception. Conference talk, *Computational Aesthetics in Graphics, Visualization and Imaging, Vancouver, Canada*
- 2013     Generating knitting patterns from a sketch: a CSP approach. Conference talk, *Symposium on Computational Aesthetics. ACM, 2013.*

## Teaching and Mentorship

2018-2022	<p><b>Advised graduate students at MIT</b> Yingdong Quian (now at Google), Suhyouun Yu (now at Amazon), Zhutian Yang (PhD student at MIT), Nik Vlavianos (startup CEO), Sughanda Sharne (now at Nvidia)</p> <p><b>Advised undergraduates at MIT's Summer Research Program (MSRP)</b> Ronald Alvarez (transferred to undergraduate program in Cognitive Science at MIT), Ruisi Zhong (now in medical school) <b>Research Assistants</b> Damarcus Peterson, Sholei Croom, Adeline Hillier, Roksi Freeman</p> <p><b>Advised graduate students at CSMM Summer School</b> Grace Ang, Sunwoo Kwon, Lior Fox (project won fellowship from Fujitsu)</p>
2019-2022	<b>Teaching Assistant, Computational Cognitive Science, MIT.</b> Mentored teams of students on developing their course projects – from formulating an original research question to presenting the results.
2019-2020	<b>Teaching Assistant, Marine Biological Laboratory: Brains, Minds and Machines Summer School</b> Advised students on research projects in Development of Intelligence and Core Knowledge. Supported students during tutorials and running online experiments.
2015-2017	<p><b>Teaching Assistant, Lab facilitator CS492, Societal Implications of Computing, University of Waterloo.</b></p> <p>Received a <b>Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award</b></p> <p>Modernized course curricula, selected readings, designed interactive assignments, facilitated in-class discussions, and edited students' essays to improve writing style. Introduced weekly quizzes, which <b>improved class attendance at a bi-weekly 8:30 class by 30 %</b></p> <p><b>Teaching Assistant, CS686: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, University of Waterloo.</b></p> <p>Met with students during office hours, designed and marked weekly quizzes, marked assignments and exams, supervised final projects where students developed original research.</p>
2015-2016	<p><b>Teaching Assistant, CS452: Real-Time programming, University of Waterloo.</b></p> <p>Met with students during office hours, marked assignments, exams, and final projects.</p>
2016-2015	<p><b>Lab instructor, CS116X, Introduction to Computer Science for Digital Arts, University of Waterloo</b></p> <p>Guided students in programming generative graphics during labs, met with students during office hours, marked assignments, and supervised final projects where students produced an original interactive artwork.</p>
2012-2014	<p><b>Teaching Assistant, CS488: Introduction to Computer Graphics, University of Waterloo</b></p> <p>Assisted students during labs, marked projects, assignments, and exams, met with students during office hours, designed assignments and quizzes.</p>

## Awards

2019	CBMM research award \$40 000
2018	'Beyond the Ivory Tower' Writing for The Public Workshop, Northwestern University \$1500
2017	Doctoral Thesis Award, University of Waterloo, \$5000, 3 awarded annually.
2016	Cheriton Scholarship, University of Waterloo, 9 awarded annually. \$20 000
2015	Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, University of Waterloo, \$500
2014	Graduate Excellence Award in Computer Science, University of Waterloo, \$5000
2013	QEII-Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology, University of Waterloo, \$5000

## Service

Reviewing for Journals	Cell, Neural Computation, PNAS, Cognition, Cognitive Science, PLOS Computational Biology, Computer Aided Design, Journal of Mathematics and the Arts, Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence
Reviewing for Conferences:	NeurIPS 2024(6), 2023(6), 2022(3), 2021(5), 2017(3), Cognitive Sciences Society 2016- 2024 (5 each year), ICML 2024 Workshop on LLMs and Cognition (3), ICLR 2024(2), 2023(3), 2021(2), ICRA 2021(2)
2019	Lecturer, Exhibit designer, MIT Museum
2017	Bicycle mechanic at University of Waterloo Student Bike Centre.