

Nora Bradford

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🌐 <http://norabradford.com>

Education

2020 – Present

📖 **Ph.D. Cognitive Sciences, University of California, Irvine**
M.S. Cognitive Neuroscience, University of California, Irvine
Advisor: *Dr. Megan Peters*

2015 – 2019

📖 **B.S. Neuroscience, B.A. Psychology, B.A. Philosophy, University of Chicago**
Advisor: *Dr. Lesley Kay*

Research and Teaching Experience

2024-2025

Graduate Writing Consultant, Writing Center, UC Irvine.

- Review up to eight pieces of graduate writing per week during one-on-one meetings
- Provide feedback on manuscripts, grant applications, and job materials from a wide variety of academic fields
- Teach two writing workshops, guide weekly peer-review groups, and coordinate a writing bootcamp for graduate students
- Research and create resources on topics such as procrastination and PhD statements of purpose

2020-2025

Graduate Student Researcher, Cognitive and Neural Computation Lab, UC Irvine.

- Create new analysis technique for metacognitive research in real-world settings
- Plan, code, and conduct online experiments on perceptual metacognition, leading to presentations at multiple conferences
- Initiate and lead a collaborative, inter-university project studying metacognition in a variety of types of tasks
- Aid multiple collaborative research projects, developing cognitive tasks and survey questions and organizing Institutional Review Board materials

2023

Data Research Intern, McGraw Hill Plus, Online Learning

- Analyzed data from online math learning tools to explore predictive validity both within and between products
- Created data summaries to inform assessment recommendations for students in middle and high school
- Collaborated with and presented findings to stakeholders from marketing, customer experience, data science, and academic development teams

2020-2024

Teaching Assistant, UC Irvine

- Prepared and delivered discussion sections, lab sections, and review sessions for the following courses: Human Memory, Experimental Psychology, Principles of Learning Theory, Consciousness and the Brain, Perception Research, and Introduction to Psychology.
- Evaluated exams, homework, and papers from over 1000 students
- Hosted office hours and supported students individually, resulting in overwhelmingly positive student evaluations

Writing Experience

- 2022-2025 **Science Writer**, Freelance.
- Write over 50 news and feature stories on science-related content for outlets like Scientific American, Science News, Discover, WIRED, National Geographic and Quanta Magazine
 - Develop organizational skills to track simultaneous projects and balance them with PhD responsibilities
- 2023-2024 **Assistant Writer**, PBS Terra Hungry Planet.
- Researched topics related to food, science, and culture
 - Collaborated with lead writer to create digital video scripts for the seven episode series, resulting in over 60,000 views on most episodes
 - Pitched, developed, and wrote seven video scripts for TikTok shorts
- 2022 **Summer Science Writer**, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.
- Interviewed scientists and attended research seminars to identify seven budding science stories to highlight on institute website
 - Pitched, wrote and edited feature stories, press releases, and Q and As
- Science Writing and Communications Intern**, The Broad Institute, MIT & Harvard.
- Researched, reported, and wrote at least one news story per month as well as Q and As and funding announcements
 - Wrote a weekly research summary for the internal Broad Institute newsletter
 - Collaborated with designers and team members to create infographics, videos, and social media content

Professional Service

- 2022-2024 **Cognitive Sciences Representative**, Campus Diversity Council (DECADE), UC Irvine.
- Developed department-wide climate survey, analyzed results, and shared findings with the department
 - Collaborated with fellow representatives to host inclusion-focused events, such as an introduction to conference attendance and reimbursement
- 2024 **Writing Mentor**, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UC Irvine.
- Advised seven undergraduate student researchers throughout the summer
 - Provided guidance and feedback on PhD application materials including statements of purpose and personal statements
- Writing Coach**, National Science Policy Network.
- Guided ten student writing projects - including policy briefs, journal papers, and popular science pieces
 - Led "Kickstarting a SciCom Career" workshop for an audience of over 30 students

Selected Accolades

- 2024 ◇ **Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship**, Graduate Division, UCI.
- ◇ **AAAS Graduate Travel Fellowship**, National Association of Science Writers.
- ◇ **WAC + WID Graduate Scholar**, UC Irvine Writing Center.

Selected Accolades (continued)

- 2023 ◇ **Science Journalism Workshop Acceptance**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ.
- 2022 ◇ **Professional Development Award**, DECADE.
- ◇ **Norman Weinberger Award**, UCI Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory.
- ◇ **Inclusive Excellence Award**, UCI Graduate Division.
- 2021 ◇ **NASW Travel Fellowship**, Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.
- ◇ **Award for Public Writing**, UCI School of Social Sciences.
- ◇ **Graduate Innovation Fellowship**, UCI Beall Applied Innovation.
- 2020-21 ◇ **Science Communication Fellowship**, Loh Down On Science Podcast, NPR.

Research

Symposia, Workshops, and Invited Talks

- 1 GPS-STEM UCI, *Science Writing Mini Retreat*, Feb. 2025.
- 2 Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, *Funding and Sharing Consciousness Science*, Tokyo, Jul. 2024.
- 3 GPS-STEM UCI, *Science Writing for the Public*, Nov. 2024.
- 4 National Science Policy Network, *Kickstarting a SciCom Career*, May 2024.
- 5 SoundMind Collaboratory at Northeastern University, *Science Communication Workshop*, Jul. 2024.
- 6 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, *Crafting an Abstract*, Apr. 2024.
- 7 Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, *Communicating Consciousness Science to Funders and the General Public*, New York, NY, Jun. 2023.
- 8 Science Writers meeting, *ComSciCon-SciWri Workshop*, Memphis, TN, 2022.

Publications and Conference Proceedings

- 1 L. Montgomery, **N. Bradford**, and M. Lee, "The wisdom of the crowd with partial rankings," *Behavior Research Methods*, 2024.
- 2 **N. Bradford**, A. Shen, B. Odegaard, and M. A. K. Peters, "Aligning consciousness science and u. s. funding agency priorities," *Nature Communications Biology*, 2024.
- 3 **N. Bradford**, Y. Xu, and R. Garg, "Transparency enhances positive perceptions of social artificial intelligence," *Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies*, 2023.
- 4 Y. Xu, D. Wang, M. Yu, D. Ritchie, B. Yao, T. Wu, Z. Zhang, T. Li, **N. Bradford**, B. Sun, T. Hoang, Y. Sang, Y. Hou, X. Ma, D. Yang, N. Peng, Z. Yu, and M. Warschauer, "Fantastic questions and where to find them: FairytaleQA— an authentic dataset for narrative comprehension," *Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2022.
- 5 G. Grasselli, H. Boele, H. Titley, **N. Bradford**, L. van Beers, L. Jay, C. De Zeeuw, M. Schonewille, and C. Hansel, "Learning deficit associated with a selective and cell-type specific impairment of intrinsic plasticity in cerebellar purkinje cells," *PLoS Biology*, 2020.

Selected Talks

- 1 **N. Bradford** and M. Peters, *Metacognition and learning: Bridging the gap between the lab and the classroom*, 2023 International Conference on Learning and Memory, Huntington Beach, CA, Apr. 2023.

- 2 **N. Bradford**, B. Maniscalco, and M. Peters, *Model-based approach for extracting performance-independent metacognitive sensitivity from meta-learning data*, New York, NY, Jun. 2023.
- 3 M. Lee, **N. Bradford**, and H. Tejada, *Using thurstonian ranking models to find the wisdom of the crowd*, European Mathematical Psychology Group Meeting, Rovereto, Italy, Sep. 2022.
- 4 **N. Bradford** and M. Peters, *Effects of perceived numerosity on confidence*, Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Jul. 2022.
- 5 **N. Bradford** and M. Peters, *Investigating metacognitive sensitivity in online learning tool for undergraduates*, Neuromatch Conference, virtual, Dec. 2021.

Selected Posters

- 1 **N. Bradford** and M. Peters, *Investigating the domain-generalty of metacognition among memory, perception, and intuitive reasoning*, Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness meeting, Tokyo, Japan, Jul. 2024.
- 2 **N. Bradford** and M. Peters, *Metacognition and learning: Bridging the gap between the lab and the classroom*, 2023 International Conference on Learning and Memory, Huntington Beach, CA, Apr. 2023.
- 3 **N. Bradford**, E. Tao, V. Nguyen, and L. Kay, *Testing piriform cortex inputs to granule cells as modulators of excitability leading to beta oscillations*, Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Apr. 2019.
- 4 **N. Bradford**, E. Tao, V. Nguyen, and L. Kay, *Testing piriform cortex inputs to granule cells as modulators of excitability leading to beta oscillations*, Midstates Consortium for Math and Science Undergraduate Research Symposium on Biological Sciences and Psychology, Chicago, IL, Nov. 2018.

Selected Science Writing

National Geographic	📖	Pregnancy transforms the brain—and some changes last forever
	📖	Getting your baby to sleep can be a nightmare. Sleep experts know a better way.
Scientific American	📖	Humans Can Spot Tiny Numerical Differences
	📖	Octopuses Are Colorblind. Here's How They See the World
	📖	Soft Robots Take Steps toward Independence
	📖	How Octopus Arms Bypass the Brain
Quanta Magazine	📖	What Your Brain Is Doing When You're Not Doing Anything
Science News	📖	Stimulating spleens with ultrasound hints at a treatment for inflammation
	📖	The classic map of how the human brain manages movement gets an update
	📖	Scientists have now recorded brain waves from freely moving octopuses
Discover	📖	Research on Psychedelics and How Mushrooms Can Help Combat Depression

Training

- 2023 **Science Journalism Workshop at the Institute for Advanced Study**, Selected Participant.
- 2021 **ComSciCon-SciWri Workshop**, Selected Participant.
- Mentoring Excellence Program, UCI Graduate Division** Certificate Holder.
- Knight Science Journalism @ MIT**, Fact-Checking Workshop Certificate Holder.

Training (continued)

	UCI as a Minority Thriving University , Inclusive Excellence Certificate Holder.
2020	Neuromatch Academy, Computational Neuroscience Course , Interactive Student.
2019	MRI Technician Level II Training, University of Pennsylvania Certificate Holder.