

# SUSHRUT THORAT

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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GITHUB: [novelmartis](https://github.com/novelmartis)    OTHER INFO: [G-Scholar](#), [Short-CV](#)

## GENERAL INTERESTS

The minimal set of priors to enable an artificial agent to function and learn, e.g., self-supervised learning, lifelong learning, memory encoding and retrieval, and action planning; Bio-inspired AI

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience** *Thesis submitted*

*Donders Centre for Cognition, Radboud University, The Netherlands*

Thesis: Smart Search - Investigations into human visual search in structured environments

Advisors: Marius Peelen and Marcel van Gerven

**M.Sc. (cum laude) in Cognitive Neuroscience** *July, 2017*

*Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC), University of Trento, Italy*

Thesis: Using Convolutional Neural Networks to measure the contribution of visual features to the representation of object animacy in the brain

Advisor: Marius Peelen

**B.Tech. in Engineering Physics** *August, 2015*

*Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay (IIT-B), India*

Thesis: Quadcopter Flight Control using Modular Spiking Neural Networks

Advisor: Bipin Rajendran

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Thorat S, Peelen MV (2022). Body shape as a visual feature: evidence from spatially-global attentional modulation in human visual cortex. *NeuroImage*: 119207.

Thorat S\*, Aldegheri G\*, Kietzmann TC (2021). Category-orthogonal object features guide information processing in recurrent neural networks trained for object categorization. *Shared Visual Representations in Human & Machine Intelligence Workshop @ NeurIPS*. \*equal contribution.

Thorat S, Proklova D, Peelen MV (2019). The nature of the animacy organization in human ventral temporal cortex. *eLife* 8: e47142.

Thorat S\*, Aldegheri G\*, van Gerven MAJ, Peelen MV (2019). Modulation of early visual processing alleviates capacity limits in solving multiple tasks. *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)*: 226-229. \*equal contribution.

Thorat S, van Gerven MAJ, Peelen MV (2018). The functional role of cue-driven feature-based feedback in object recognition. *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)*: 1-4.

Thorat S, Choudhari V (2016). Implementing a Reverse Dictionary, based on word definitions, using a Node-Graph Architecture. *Proceedings of COLING 2016, the 26th International Conference on Computational Linguistics: Technical Papers*: 2797-2806.

Thorat S, Rajendran B (2015). Arithmetic computing via rate coding in neural circuits with spike-triggered adaptive synapses. *International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)*: 1-8.

## PUBLICATION DRAFTS

Thorat S, Quek GL, Peelen MV (2022). Statistical learning of distractor object pairs facilitates visual search. *in prep.*

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ AWARDS

- Voted **best poster/short-pitch**, among **15 posters**, in the 'Perception, Action, and Control' theme at the annual Donders Poster Session (2020).

- Recipient of the **Merit Award** (2017), awarded to students who achieve remarkable results at the end of their degree, by the University of Trento, Italy.
- Recipient of the **Abstract Award**, awarded to **5 of the 57** accepted abstracts at the Rovereto Workshop on Concepts, Actions and Objects (2017).
- Ranked **721 among 450,000** students in the Joint Entrance Examination (**JEE, 2011**) conducted towards admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).
- Recipient of the **KVPY scholarship** (2009), awarded to **215 students across India** with talent and aptitude for research, by the Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.
- Recipient of the **NTSE scholarship** (2007), awarded to **1000 students across India** with high intellect and academic talent, by the National Centre for Educational Research and Technology, Govt. of India.

#### TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY

**Programming languages:** Python, MATLAB, Javascript

**Machine learning frameworks:** TensorFlow, PyTorch, MatConvNet

**Experimentation frameworks:** PsychToolbox, jsPsych, Pavlovica

**Neuro-imaging:** fMRI (data acquisition and analysis), EEG (data analysis)

#### CONFERENCE TALKS/POSTERS

Category-orthogonal object features guide information processing in recurrent neural networks trained for object categorization

(Poster) *SVRHM @ NeurIPS*, Online, 2021

(Flash talk) *neuromatch 4.0*, Online, 2021

(Poster) *Champalimaud Research Symposium*, Online, 2021

Statistical learning of distractor regularities facilitates visual search

(Poster) *European Conference on Vision Perception*, Online, 2021

Body silhouettes as features in visual search: evidence from spatially-global attention modulation in visual cortex

(Poster) *Donders Poster Session*, Nijmegen, 2020

(Talk) *Neuromatch conference 3.0*, Online, 2020

The nature of the animacy organization in human ventral temporal cortex

(Poster) *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)*, Berlin, 2019

Modulation of early visual processing alleviates capacity limits in solving multiple tasks

(Poster) *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)*, Berlin, 2019

The functional role of cue-driven feature-based feedback in object recognition

(Talk) *Perception Day*, Nijmegen, 2018

(Poster) *Donders Discussions*, Nijmegen, 2018

(Poster) *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)*, Philadelphia, 2018

Using convolutional neural networks to measure the contribution of visual features to the representation of object animacy in the brain

(Poster) *Donders Discussions*, Nijmegen, 2017

(Talk & Poster) *Rovereto Workshop on Concepts, Actions and Objects (CAOs)*, Rovereto, 2017

(Tweets) *Brain Twitter Conference (brainTC)*, 2017

Arithmetic computing via rate coding in neural circuits with spike-triggered adaptive synapses

(Poster) *International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)*, Killarney, 2015

#### WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

**IBRO-SIMONS Computational Neuroscience Imbizo (ISi-CNI)**

*January, 2017*

Cape Town, South Africa

**Project:** Assessing the role of feature attention in object detection with CNNs.

**Advisor:** Timothy Lillicrap

## Computational Approaches to Memory and Plasticity (CAMP)

June, 2015

Bangalore, India

Project: The role of the billions of granule cells in the cerebellum.

TEACHING	– Co-supervisor - Master thesis (1 student)	<i>Radboud University, 2022</i>
EXPERIENCE	– Teaching Assistant - Advanced Academic & Professional Skills (writing/reviewing research reports; Masters course)	<i>Radboud University, 2020</i>
	– Guest Lecturer - Academic Skills 2 (research methods; UG course)	<i>Radboud University, 2019</i>
	– Teaching Assistant - Neural Networks (UG course)	<i>Radboud University, 2019</i>
	– Teaching Assistant - Advanced Academic & Professional Skills (writing/reviewing research reports; Masters course)	<i>Radboud University, 2019</i>
	– Supervisor - Research Project 3 (3 students; UG thesis project)	<i>Radboud University, 2018</i>
	– Co-supervisor - Research Project 3 (4 students; UG thesis project)	<i>Radboud University, 2018</i>
	– Guest Lecturer - Academic Skills 2 (research methods; UG course)	<i>Radboud University, 2018</i>
	– Teaching Assistant - Brain for AI (UG course)	<i>Radboud University, 2018</i>
REVIEWING WORK	Memory & Cognition'22, eLife'20, Monk Prayogshala'19, Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN)'19	
WORK EXPERIENCE	<b>General Secretary</b> Undergraduate division - Department of Physics, IIT Bombay	<i>2014-15</i>
	<b>Content Developer</b> Avanti Fellows, Delhi	<i>Summer 2013</i>
OTHER REPORTS	– The influence of scene processing on object information [ <a href="#">PDF</a> ]	<i>2019</i>
	– The functional relevance of neuronal clustering [ <a href="#">PDF</a> ]	<i>2016</i>
	– Predisposition to towards-gravity periodic motion in chicks [ <a href="#">PDF</a> ]	<i>2015</i>
	– Gesture Lock [ <a href="#">PDF</a> ]	<i>2013</i>