

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS); Collective Cognition Lab University of Rochester, New York	2021-present
MS(R)	Cognitive Science (CGS); Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (CGPA: 9.35/10)	2018-21
B.Sc.	Physics; Amrita University, Coimbatore, India (CGPA: 9.66/10)	2015-18

CURRENT RESEARCH

Experimental emergence of conventions in humans	2021 - present
Studying the emergence of conventions in the laboratory under various conditions through computerized multiplayer tasks with humans to address questions that promise to yield significant advances for our understanding of how groups solve recurring multi-agent coordination problems	
Gaze following in marmoset monkeys (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>)	2021 – present
Studying gaze-following (directing one's attention to where someone else is looking, essential for successful social interaction involving coordination) in common marmoset monkeys (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>) to address open questions about the evolution of this ability in humans using naturalistic video stimuli and high-precision eye tracking	
Coordinated problem solving in marmoset monkeys (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>)	2021 - present
Developing a paradigm to study the cognitive mechanisms underlying coordinated problem-solving by using deep learning and machine vision tools to track and quantify visual attention in free-moving common marmosets	

AWARDS

Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute Fellow	July 2025
Kuczaj Memorial Travel Grant	March 2025
<i>32nd International Conference on Comparative Cognition</i>	
Donald M. and Janet C. Barnard Fellowship	2024-25
<i>Awarded by the School of Arts, Sciences & Engineering at the University of Rochester, in recognition of achievements in research, mentoring, outreach and service.</i>	
Best Research Talk, Experimental Emergence of Conventions in Humans	October 2023
<i>Graduate Research Day, University of Rochester</i>	

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Context-dependent gaze following in common marmosets	
Oviya Mohan, Dora Biro and Jude Mitchell	
Poster, 47 th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society	August 2025
Poster, 25th Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society [Proceedings]	May 2025
Common marmosets exhibit coordination in a rope-pulling task	
Oviya Mohan, Jude Mitchell and Dora Biro	
Talk, 32 nd International Conference on Comparative Cognition	March 2025
Experimental Emergence of Conventions in Humans	
Oviya Mohan and Dora Biro	
Poster, 46 th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society [Proceedings]	July 2024
Talk, 31st International Conference on Comparative Cognition	April 2024
Poster, Gordon Research Conference - Collective Behavior	August 2023
Free-viewing of static natural images and movies in marmoset monkeys	
Oviya Mohan, Amy Bucklaew, Dora Biro, and Jude F. Mitchell	
Poster, 24th Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society [Proceedings]	May 2024

TEACHING

Co-Instructor , Animal Minds (BCSC 183)	Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant , Computational Models of Perception and Cognition (BCSC 229)	Spring 2025
Guest Lecture , Language Use and Understanding (BCSC 261)	Fall 2024, 2025
Teaching Assistant , Animal Minds (BCSC 183)	Fall 2022, 2023
Organizer/Instructor , Advanced Methods in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCSC 509)	Spring 2023
Organizer/Instructor , Statistics for Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCSC 519)	Fall 2022
Tutor , Basic Statistics, Data Analysis and Inference (CGS 602A)	Fall 2020
Teaching Assistant , Logic and Cognitive Science (CGS 651A)	Spring 2020

PAST RESEARCH

Master's Thesis, Executive Function and Reasoning	2019-21
Designed and conducted experiments, using rules of formal logic, to understand the connection between executive functions and reasoning in different developmental stages, including school children	
Master's Project, Agent Based Modelling of Cooperation	2019
Used an agent-based model to better understand the role of cooperation in the survival of both individuals and groups in a community	
Bachelor's Project, Pulse Generating Circuit for NMR (for an indigenous MRI)	2018
Advisor: Dr. Murugadass K, Amrita University	
Built a pulse generating circuit for NMR using 555 timer IC for building an indigenous MRI machine	

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Associate, Building a GUI for PHMR, GAIL	2021
Applied Dynamics and Vibration Laboratory, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kanpur	
Designed an intuitive GUI to display data from a gas pipeline health monitoring robot (PHMR), for a project commissioned by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL)	
Research Assistant, Role of Object's Self Relevance in Attentional Guidance	2018-19
Designed and conducted behavioral experiments to understand the role of an object's self-relevance when used as a distractor in visual search paradigms	
Research Internship, Tribological Characterization and Coating Deposition	2017
Defence Research & Development Organization, Hyderabad	
Utilized a tribometer to characterize frictional properties of various coatings	

MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP

Undergraduate Mentees:	2023 - present
Janejira Chapoomee (Neuroscience), Alexia Nelms (Neuroscience), Yiran Zhu (Brain & Cognitive Sciences)	
Past: Enana Jacob (Neuroscience), Kiet Nguyen (Computer Science), Skye Crocker (Data Science), Federico Sanchez (Biology), Helena Xiong (Neuroscience)	
Graduate Student Representative, BCS, University of Rochester	2022-24
Committees: Graduate Program Overhaul, Faculty Search, BCS DEI	
Department Representative, GSA, University of Rochester	2023-24
Graduate Ambassador, GEPA, University of Rochester	2022-23
Hall Executive Committee, IIT Kanpur	2019-20
Core Member, Association of Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	2016-18
School Pupil Leader, The PSBB Millennium School	2014-15

OUTREACH

STAR (Science Teaching through Art), Organizer	Fall 2025
DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee (BCS) - Outreach Coordinator	2023 - present
NeuroEast Bench Mentor (mentoring a high school student in a summer project)	Summer 2024, 2025
Brain Awareness Campaign, Volunteer	2023 - 24
Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer	2022
eVidyaloka, Content Developer	2020-21
Created lesson plans to teach children in rural India via local television channels in regional languages	
NSS – National Service Scheme, Amrita University, Volunteer & Unit Secretary (Amrita University)	2016-18
Executed projects renovating village schools, lake clean-ups, tree plantation and road safety drives	

CERTIFICATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Deep Learning - Machine Vision - Neuromatch Academy	July 2023
Safe Space Training - University of Rochester	December 2021
Writing about Science for Non-Scientific Audiences - IISER, Pune	December 2020
Introductory Machine Learning Workshop - Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	October 2020
Winter School on Cognitive Modelling - Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi	February 2019
Natural Language Processing - Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	December 2018

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Programming: Python, R, MATLAB, jsPsych, PsychoPy, C, C++	
Other: Public speaking and debate, Voice acting, Student organization and leadership	
Languages: Native/Bilingual Proficiency: English, Tamil ; Goethe-Zertifikat A1: German ; DELF A2: French	