

# Polyphony J. Bruna

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## EDUCATION

University of California, Merced, CA  
Doctor of Philosophy, Cognitive and Information Sciences

Expected 2027

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Bachelor of Arts, Cognitive Science and Philosophy  
Minor, Japanese

2022

- Overall GPA: 3.99/4.00
- Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Psi Chi, cum laude generali et cum laude in materia subiecta*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational Modeling; Cognitive Alignment; Language Evolution and Change; AI; HMI, Translation

## PUBLICATIONS

**Bruna, P. J.**, Andrews, J., & de Leeuw, J. R. (2023). *Psychophysical Adaptive Procedure: Developing a New, Generalizable Method* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Cognitive Science, Vassar College.

Andrews, J. & **Bruna, P. J.** (2023). *Probing the Methodology and Interpretation of Learned Categorical Perception Research* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Cognitive Science, Vassar College.

**Bruna, P. J.** (2021). *Exploring Semantic Relatedness Judgments in the Structure of a Semantic Network* [Unpublished manuscript]. Department of Cognitive Science, Vassar College. <https://osf.io/sj7tg/>

de Leeuw, J. R., Andrews, J., Barney, L., Bigler, M., **Bruna, P. J.**, Chen, Y., Cherry, R., Dowie, D. R., Forbes, E., Haffey, B., Hu, X., Jaklitsch, M., Leopold, N., Lewis, C., MacDonald, D., McShaffrey, C., Nakayama, K., Olstad, W., Peng, R., ... Zhang, L. (2021). Words May Jump-Start Meaning More Than Vision: A Non-Replication of Early ERP Effects in Boutonnet and Lupyan (2015). *Collabra: Psychology*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.29763>

**Bruna, P. J.** (2019). A Review of Bryan W. Van Norden, Taking Back Philosophy. *Vassar College Journal of Philosophy*, 6, 73–75. <https://www.vassar.edu/sites/default/files/2021-08/philosophy-journal-spring-2019.pdf>

## TALKS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Bigler, M. & **Bruna, P. J.** (2020, Sep 30). *Probing the Methodology and Interpretation of Learned Categorical Perception Research* [Poster presentation]. 35th Annual URSI Symposium, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, United States. [https://www.vassar.edu/sites/default/files/2021-06/URSI\\_11\\_andrewsj\\_mbigler\\_pbruna.pdf](https://www.vassar.edu/sites/default/files/2021-06/URSI_11_andrewsj_mbigler_pbruna.pdf)

**Bruna, P. J.** (2020, Mar 27). *Hearing That It Is Silent: How to Hallucinate a Non-Perception* [Paper talk]. 10th Annual Mid-Hudson Valley Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, United States. (Canceled due to COVID-19)

**Bruna, P. J. & Marks, P.** (2019, Sep 25). *Psychophysical Adaptive Procedure: Developing a New, Generalizable Method* [Poster presentation]. 34th Annual URSI Symposium, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, United States. [https://osf.io/4ahd9/?view\\_only=0b55b01f9eea4ed1a0402589087a0a71](https://osf.io/4ahd9/?view_only=0b55b01f9eea4ed1a0402589087a0a71)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>	Since 2022
<i>Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society</i>	Since 2022
<i>Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology</i>	Since 2021

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Fellowship Incentive Award – \$200 <i>University of California, Merced</i>	2022
The Jamie Nisse Greenberg Philosophy Prize – \$900 <i>Vassar College</i>	2022
Best Technical Write-Up <i>Mid-Hudson IEEE Undergraduate Capstone Project Awards</i>	2022

## SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Graduate Division Recruiting Fellowship – \$45,000 + tuition <i>University of California, Merced</i>	2022 – 2023
*Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship – \$22,500 + tuition <i>U.S. Department of Education</i>	2022 – 2023
Adolph Sutro Fellowship – \$10,000 <i>Vassar College</i>	2022
Critical Language Scholarship for advanced Japanese, alternate <i>U.S. Department of State; American Councils for International Education</i>	2022
Frances Lehman Loeb 1928 Scholarship – \$44,000 <i>Vassar College</i>	2021 – 2022
Research Award – \$4,000 <i>Vassar College</i>	2021
Frances Lehman Loeb 1928 Scholarship – \$44,000 <i>Vassar College</i>	2020 – 2021
Undergraduate Research Summer Institute (URSI) – \$5,000 <i>Vassar College</i>	2020

\* Awarded, but declined

Frances Lehman Loeb 1928 Scholarship – \$42,500  
*Vassar College*

2019 – 2020

Undergraduate Research Summer Institute (URSI) – \$5,000  
*Vassar College*

2019

1956 Memorial Scholarship – \$42,000  
*Vassar College*

2018 – 2019

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Cognitive Science Department  
*Vassar College*

2021 – 2022

Research Mentor, Undergraduate Research Summer Institute  
*Vassar College*

2021

Research Assistant, Cognitive Science Department  
*Vassar College*

2018 – 2021

## INTERNSHIPS

Intern, Cognitive Science Department  
*Vassar College*

2021 – 2022

Research Fellow, Undergraduate Research Summer Institute  
*Vassar College*

2019, 2020

## WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Key Connections  
*The Phi Beta Kappa Society*

2022

Pittsburgh Summer Program in Philosophy of Science and Specialized Sciences  
*University of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Mellon University*

2020

## SKILLS

**Technical:** Neural Networks, Semantic Networks, Agent-Based Models, Bayesian Statistics, Behavior-Based Robotics

**Computer:** R, JavaScript, jsPsych, Python, C/C++, PyTorch, TensorFlow

**Equipment:** High-Performance Computing, Geodesic EEG System, Netstation 5.4, KISS IDE

**Language:** English (native), Japanese (advanced)