

## Robert Z. Sparks

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### Education and Professional Experience

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Lab Manager Language and Cognition Lab Advisor: Prof. Michael C. Frank	Stanford University	2022-Present
BS, Symbolic Systems, Departmental Honors Concentration: Cognitive Science Advisor: Prof. Hyowon Gweon	Stanford University	2022
Research Assistant Social Learning Lab Advisors: Prof. Hyowon Gweon and Aaron Chuey	Stanford University	2020-2022
Engineer Program-Modeler Intern CBRNE Defense – Hazard Modeling	Battelle	2019

### Honors & Awards

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Robert Glushko Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Recognized for senior Honors project, "Communication as Influence: Preschool-Aged Children Can Infer What Speakers Know Based on How They Influence Others," under the supervision of Hyowon Gweon and Aaron Chuey (Stanford Psychology)	Stanford University	2022
The Lunsford Award for Oral Presentation of Research Finalist One of 4 Finalists for the Lunsford Award, which recognizes innovative oral and multimedia presentations within the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, emphasizing excellence in dynamic presentations that effectively blend research and strong oral delivery.	Stanford University	2019

### Publications

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B. Long, G. Kachergis, V. A. Marchman, S. F. Radwan, **R. Z. Sparks**, V. Xiang, C. Zhuang, O. Hsu, B. Newman, D. L. K. Yamins, & M. C. Frank (2023). The BabyView Camera: Designing a New Head-mounted Camera to Capture Children's Early Social and Visual Environments. in press *Behavioral Research Methods*

A. Chuey, **R. Z. Sparks**, & H. Gweon. (2023). Young children can identify knowledgeable speakers from their causal influence over listeners. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**R. Z. Sparks**, A. Chuey, & H. Gweon. (2022). Preschool-Aged Children Can Infer What Speakers Know Based on How They Influence Others [Undergraduate Honors Thesis]. *Stanford Digital Repository*.

### Presentations

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Quantifying Children's Everyday Learning Environments via Head-Mounted Camera <b>with:</b> Dr. Bria Long	Language and Cognition Lab, Stanford University	July 2023
Communication as Influence: Preschool-Aged Children can Infer What Speakers Know Based on How They Influence Others	Symbolic Systems Honors Forum, Stanford University	June 2022
Preschool-Aged Children can Infer What Speakers Know Based on How They Influence Others (Poster)	Symbolic Systems Capstone Fair, Stanford University	June 2022

Communication as Influence: Examining Children's Ability to Infer Knowledge from Influence (Poster)	Symbolic Systems Research Forum, Stanford University	October 2021
Examining Children's Ability to Infer Knowledge from Influence	Social Learning Lab, Stanford University	August 2021
Inferring Action Goals and Knowledge Communication	Symbolic Systems Research Forum, Stanford University	October 2020

#### Mentorship

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Malia Perez	Mentor, Stanford Summer Research Internship	2023
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#### Teaching

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Developmental Psychology Summer Seminar	Instructor and Co-Organizer, Stanford Psychology	2023
Co-organized and instructed a 10-Week summer seminar for interns as a part of a summer research program in psychology and cognitive science. Syllabus included scientific reading, DEI in psychological research, data wrangling & visualization, completing an honors project, and topics in developmental and cognitive psychology.		

#### Service

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Stanford Chariot Program	Volunteer, Lucille Packard Children's Hospital	2023
Work with and assist in the research activities of the Chariot Program Team to deploy innovative technologies (VR, AR, XR) to patients to support early learning and physical activity during hospital stays and to minimize attention to stressful stimuli, pain, and anxiety.		
Stanford University Dance Marathon	Executive Director - Programming, Stanford University	2017-2020
Director of team facilitating fundraising, operation of campus activities, and recruitment for Stanford Dance Marathon which raises money for the Uncompensated Care Program at the Bass Center at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital		