

SUNGJOON PARK 박성준

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cognitive neuroscience researcher with 5+ years of experience. Specializing in behavioral, fMRI, eye-tracking, and computational methods. Proficient in experimental design, cross-modal research, and statistical modeling of cognitive and behavioral processes. Strong record of collaborative research across 8 research projects resulting in 4 peer-reviewed publications and 11 conference presentations. Committed to advancing understanding of neural mechanisms underlying spatial and social cognition through innovative methodology and interdisciplinary collaboration.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Research Assistant

2023 – Present

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

- Involved in 6 projects between 2 labs. Contributed to 4 peer-reviewed publications and 3 presentations.
- Processed and analyzed fMRI data using FSL, fmripreg, and adapted custom codes, for mapping neural selectivity in human visual cortex.
- Developed data visualization, wrangling, and statistical analysis pipeline using R and Python to effectively interpret data and communicate statistical inferences.
- Coordinated data collection across 6 behavioral, cognitive, and neuroimaging studies. Both online and in-person.
- Implemented R code for data wrangling and statistical analyses of behavioral and cognitive data.
- Collaborated with computer scientists to develop machine learning algorithms for sound morphing tools. Used Python to generate sounds and tested human evaluations of sound morphs.
- Collaborated with designers to study human spatial sound localization.

Graduate Research Assistant

2020 – 2022

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

- Designed and executed master's thesis examining cognitive mechanisms shared between spatial and social perspective-taking. Designed and conducted 2 experiments: one online, and one in-person experiment.
- Created Unity-based virtual environments for experimental stimuli.
- Published thesis findings establishing connections between spatial and social cognitive processes, with portions published on a peer-reviewed conference proceedings.
- Trained up to 9 undergraduate research assistants per semester on how to program using R, RStudio, and how to conduct basic data wrangling and statistical analyses.
- Collaborated with a kinesiology team to research brain processes during complex locomotor navigation.
- Supervised a team of 3 undergraduate research assistants, teaching how to program an experiment using Python, resulting in a pilot study on spatial memory and resulting in a poster presentation.

Undergraduate Researcher

2018 – 2020

University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

- Designed and programmed eye-tracking experiment using Python that measured pupillary response to how we change our minds with new evidence.
- Built custom data analysis pipeline that processed eye-tracking data.
- Self-motivated learning of Linux, R, and Python, developing computational skills used in all subsequent research projects.
- Assisted in data collection that contributed to a Master's thesis.

SKILLS

Data Analysis:	Data wrangling, visualization, statistical modeling (mixed effects, generalized), Correlation, t-test, ANOVA, descriptive statistics, contrast analysis, repeated-measures
Software:	R, Python, SPSS, Microsoft Office, C++ (hobby)
Computing:	Linux environment, version control (git), remote computing, bash scripting
Research Methods:	fMRI, eye-tracking experiment design, cross-modal research methodology
Neuroimaging:	FSL, fmripred, pycortex, freesurfer
Hardware:	Eye-tracking systems (EyeLink, LiveTrack, SmartEye), Motion capture (Motek M-Gait), Personal Computers
Soft Skills:	Interdisciplinary collaboration, mentoring, technical communication, project management
Languages:	English (Native), Korean (Native)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Oszczapinska. U., **Park. S.**, Qiu. Y., Nance. B., Julien. M., Heller. L., (2025). The impact of disgusting sounds on pupil diameter of misophonic and non-misophonic listeners. *Psychophysiology*.
- Henderson M. H., Luo. A. F., **Park. S.**, Tarr. M. J., Wehbe. L. (2025). Generative modeling tools for characterizing human higher visual cortex. *Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2025 Annual Meeting*.
- Park. S.**, Watanabe. B., Burte. H., (2022). Perspective taking and reference frames for spatial and social cognition. *Paper submitted to the CogSci 2022 Annual Conference*.

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University , College Station, TX	2020 – 2022
Master of Science in Psychological Sciences	
Thesis: <i>Relationship between Perspective Taking with Space and People</i>	
University of Waterloo , Ontario, Canada	2013 – 2020
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with Thesis, Minor in Philosophy & Cognitive Science	
Thesis: <i>Mental Model Updating and Pupil Response</i>	