

# Sam Zorowitz

PHD CANDIDATE AT THE PRINCETON NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE

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## Education

### Princeton University

PHD CANDIDATE IN NEUROSCIENCE

Princeton, NJ

Sep. 2017 - Present

- Advisors: Yael Niv, Nathaniel Daw
- Cumulative GPA: 3.90
- Supported by National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRF)

### Johns Hopkins University

BA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES

Baltimore, MD

Sep. 2010 - May 2014

- Cumulative GPA: 3.91
- Phi Beta Kappa, General University Honors

## Skills

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Quantitative</b> | Bayesian data analysis, cognitive modeling, item response theory, psychometrics |
| <b>Programming</b>  | Python, R, Matlab, HTML, JavaScript, CSS, Unix                                  |
| <b>Software</b>     | Stan, Jax, PsychoPy, Psychtoolbox, jsPsych                                      |

## Research Experience

### Princeton University

PHD CANDIDATE IN NEUROSCIENCE

Princeton, NJ

Sep. 2017 - Present

- Formalized classic theories of clinical anxiety using Bayesian decision theory, and demonstrated how this new model ties together a number of seemingly disjoint phenomena in anxious disorders.
- Designing experiments to dissociate biased beliefs about self-efficacy and environmental control in anxious patients.
- Developing psychometrically-validated battery of decision making and reinforcement learning tasks to measure and dimensionally characterize decision making in healthy and clinical samples.
- Built NivTurk, lightweight software for securely serving and storing data from online computational psychiatry experiments. Tested on over 3000 participants across Amazon Mechanical Turk and Prolific.

### Massachusetts General Hospital / Harvard Medical School

CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Boston, MA

Jun. 2014 - Jun. 2017

- Devised hierarchical Bayesian model of decision making conflict, integrating both choice and reaction time data, in an approach-avoidance gambling task for use in predicting conflict-related signals in fMRI & EEG neural data.
- Lead analyst on study investigating the effects of DBS on executive control in patients with severe depression. Found that DBS improved patients' performance on a Stroop-like task, which was indirectly predictive of patients' clinical response to DBS.
- Adapted Bayesian state space models of associative learning to a reversal learning paradigm and demonstrated its efficacy in improving fMRI signal-to-noise ratio.
- Interviewed and assisted patients with severe psychopathology as part of clinical and study visits.

### Johns Hopkins University

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Baltimore, MD

Aug. 2012 - May 2014

- With John Kruschke: designed a novel experiment to test models of counterfactual reasoning in judgments of responsibility, blame, and redistributive justice.
- With Jared Lorince: modeled social imitative behaviors in two million users of an online music-archiving community (Last.fm).
- With Marc Boulay: investigated social and sexual network predictors of HIV risk in MSM populations in Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria.

## Publications

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Bennett, D., Radulescu, A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Felso, V., Niv, Y. (under review). Affect-congruent attention drives changes in reward expectations. <https://psyarxiv.com/vu2cw>

Cox, J., Fleming, W., Zimmerman, C., Hayes, C., Bandi, A., Ornelas, A., Parker, N., **Zorowitz, S.**, Witten, I. (under review). A neural substrate of sex-dependent modulation of motivation by value.

**Zorowitz, S.**, Niv, Y., Bennett, D. (under review). Inattentive responding can induce spurious associations between task behavior and symptom measures. <https://psyarxiv.com/rynhk>

- Zorowitz, S.**, Bennett, D., Choe, G., Niv, Y. (2021). A Recurring Reproduction Error in the Administration of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale. *Lancet Psychiatry*. 8(3), P180-181.
- Zorowitz, S.**, Momennejad, I., & Daw, N. D. (2020). Anxiety, avoidance, and sequential evaluation. *Computational Psychiatry*, 4, 1-17.
- Zorowitz, S.**, Rockhill, A. P., Ellard, K. K., Link, K. E., Herrington, T., Pizzagalli, D. A., Widge, A. S., Deckersbach, T., Dougherty, D. D. (2019). The Neural Basis of Approach-Avoidance Conflict: A Model Based Analysis. *eNeuro*.
- Langdon, A. J., Hathaway, B. A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Harris, C. B. W., Winstanley, C. A. (2019). Relative insensitivity to time-out punishments induced by win-paired cues in a rat gambling task. *Psychopharmacology*, 236(8), 2543-2556.
- Widge, A. S., **Zorowitz, S.**, Basu, I., Paulk, A. C., Cash, S. S., Eskandar, E. N., Deckersbach, T., Miller, E. K., Dougherty, D. D. (2019). Deep Brain Stimulation of the Internal Capsule Enhances Human Cognitive Control and Prefrontal Cortex Function. *Nature Communications*, 10(1), 1-11.
- Widge, A. S., Ellard, K. K., Paulk, A. C., Basu, I., Yousefi, A., **Zorowitz, S.**, ... Eskandar, E. N. (2017). Treating refractory mental illness with closed-loop brain stimulation: Progress towards a patient-specific transdiagnostic approach. *Experimental Neurology*, 287, 461-472.
- Klein, E., Goering, S., Gagne, J., Shea, C. V., Franklin, R., **Zorowitz, S.**, ... & Widge, A. S. (2016). Brain-computer interface-based control of closed-loop brain stimulation: attitudes and ethical considerations. *Brain-Computer Interfaces*, 3(3), 140-148.
- Rodriguez-Hart, C., Liu, H., Nowak, R. G., Orazulike, I., **Zorowitz, S.**, Crowell, T. A., ... Charurat, M. (2016). Serosorting and Sexual Risk for HIV Infection at the Ego-Alter Dyadic Level: An Egocentric Sexual Network Study Among MSM in Nigeria. *AIDS and Behavior*, 20(11), 2762-2771.
- Widge, A. S., Licon, E., **Zorowitz, S.**, Corse, A., Arulpragasam, A. R., Camprodon, J. A., ... Dougherty, D. D. (2016). Predictors of Hypomania During Ventral Capsule/Ventral Striatum Deep Brain Stimulation. *The Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 28(1), 38-44.
- Widge, A. S., **Zorowitz, S.**, Link, K., Miller, E. K., Deckersbach, T., Eskandar, E. N., & Dougherty, D. D. (2015). Ventral Capsule/Ventral Striatum Deep Brain Stimulation Does Not Consistently Diminish Occipital Cross-Frequency Coupling. *Biological Psychiatry*, 80(7), e59-e60.
- Franklin, R., **Zorowitz, S.**, Corse, A. K., Widge, A. S., & Deckersbach, T. (2015). Lurasidone for the treatment of bipolar depression: an evidence-based review. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, 11, 2143-2152.
- Lorince, J., **Zorowitz, S.**, Murdock, J., & Todd, P. M. (2015). The Wisdom of the Few? "Supertaggers" in Collaborative Tagging Systems. *The Journal of Web Science: Vol. 1: No. 1*, pp 16-32.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Zorowitz, S.**, Momennejad, I., & Daw, N. D. (2019). Anxiety, avoidance, and sequential evaluation. *Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making*.
- Langdon, A. J., Hathaway, B. A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Harris, C. B. W., Winstanley, C. A. Insensitivity to time-out punishments induced by win-paired cues in a rat gambling task. *Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making*.
- Lorince, J., **Zorowitz, S.**, Murdock, J., & Todd, P. M. (2014). Supertagger behavior in building folksonomies. In *Proceedings of the 2014 ACM conference on Web science* (pp. 129-138). ACM.

## CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Zorowitz, S.**, Lane, P. L., Daw, N. D. (2021). The value of free choice in anxiety. Presented at Society of Biological Psychiatry.
- Paredes, N., **Zorowitz, S.**, Niv, Y. (2021). The psychometric properties of the Pavlovian Instrumental Transfer task in an online adult sample. Presented at Society of Biological Psychiatry.
- Zaller, I., **Zorowitz, S.**, Niv, Y. (2021). Information seeking on the horizons task does not predict anxious symptomatology. Presented at Society of Biological Psychiatry.
- Paredes, N., **Zorowitz, S.**, Niv, Y. (2021). The psychometric properties of the Pavlovian Instrumental Transfer task in an online adult sample. Presented at Society for Neuroscience Global Connectome.
- Zaller, I., **Zorowitz, S.**, Niv, Y. (2021). Information seeking on the horizons task does not predict anxious symptomatology. Presented at Society for Neuroscience Global Connectome.
- Zorowitz, S.**, Bennett, D., Niv, Y. (2020). The Relation between Probability Weighting and Subclinical Anxiety in Decisions under Uncertainty. Presented at Society for Biological Psychiatry. New York City, New York.
- Bennett, D., Radulescu, A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Niv, Y. (2019). Assessing mood's effects on attention in value-based decision making. Presented at Society for Affective Science. Boston, Massachusetts.
- Widge, A. S., **Zorowitz, S.**, Afzal, A., Farnes, K., Paulk, A. C., Miller, E. K., Deckersbach, T., Cash, S. S., Dougherty, D. D. (2016). Deep Brain Stimulation of Striatal White Matter Alters Top-Down Control Signals in Cingulate and Prefrontal Cortices. Presented at the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Hollywood, Florida.
- Sitnikova, T. A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Afzal, A., Gilmour, A. L., Ellard, K. K., Herrington, T. M., ... Deckersbach, T. (2016). Oscillatory synchronization enables dynamic information processing to resolve reward seeking vs. risk avoidance conflict. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

**Zorowitz, S.**, Afzal, A., Deckersbach, T., Ellard, K. K., Gilmour, A. L., Dougherty, D. D., Eskandar, E. N., Widge, A. W. (2016). Bayesian State-Space Modeling of Reversal Learning. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

Afzal, A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Ellard, K. K., Widge, A. S., Gilmour, A. L., Dougherty, D. D., Eskandar, E. N., Deckersbach, T. Neural Correlates of Approach-Avoidance Behavior in Decision Making. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

Afzal, A., **Zorowitz, S.**, Ellard, K. K., Widge, A. S., Gilmour, A. L., Dougherty, D. D., Eskandar, E. N., Deckersbach, T. Neural Correlates of Approach-Avoidance Behavior in Decision Making. Poster presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Atlanta, GA.

**Zorowitz, S.**, Franklin, R., Kunwar, P. S., Greve, D. N., Block, S., Moran, L. R., Schwartz, C. E. (2016). A High-reactive Temperamental Profile in 4 Month-Old Infants Predicts Reduced Amygdala Volume and Increased Amygdala Reactivity in Adults. Poster presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Atlanta, GA.

Widge, A. S., **Zorowitz, S.**, Tang, W., Miller, E. K., Deckersbach, T., & Dougherty, D. D. (2015). Behavioral and neural biomarkers of improved top-down control mediate clinical response to ventral capsule/ventral striatum deep brain stimulation in major depression. Poster presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Toronto, Canada.

## Teaching

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### Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

#### GRADUATE STUDENT BOOTCAMP INSTRUCTOR

Summer 2021

- Designed and taught lecture on fMRI principles.

#### GRADUATE STUDENT BOOTCAMP LEADER

Summer 2020

- Organized and oversaw 3 week long math and programming bootcamp for incoming graduate students.
- Lectured on python programming, model fitting, and significance testing.

#### ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR FOR LABORATORY IN PRINCIPLES OF NEUROSCIENCE

Spring 2020

- Taught scientific python programming to undergraduate students.
- Designed in-class exercises and problems sets on fMRI preprocessing and mass univariate analysis.

#### GRADUATE STUDENT BOOTCAMP INSTRUCTOR

Summer 2019

- Designed and taught a three day Intro to Python for Neuroscience series for the PNI Graduate Bootcamp.
- Bootcamp materials covered core Python, numeric computing, statistics, and vizualization.

#### ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR FOR GRADUATE METHODS IN COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Spring 2019

- Designed lecture materials for teaching neuroimaging analysis (fMRI, EEG) in python.
- Designed novel problem sets for teaching neuroimaging analysis and computational reproducibility.

#### ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR FOR FUNDAMENTALS OF NEUROSCIENCE

Fall 2018

- Taught three undergraduate precepts per week.
- Co-designed lecture materials, wrote exam questions, and organized review sessions.

### Columbia University

New York City, NY

#### WORKSHOP ORGANIZER

Summer 2017

- Designed and taught a two-week Intro to Python for Data Science workshop for the QMSS Masters Program.
- Workshop materials covered scientific computing, machine learning, statistical analysis, and webscraping.

## Invited Talks

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- 2021 **University of Amsterdam**, Theory Construction Lab meeting (October 2021)
- 2021 **Princeton University**, Parallel Distributed Processes meeting (March 2021)
- 2021 **Transcontinental Computational Psychiatry Workgroup**, (March 2021)

## Mentoring

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- 2020 **Kiersten Marr**, Junior project and senior thesis at Princeton University
- 2020 **Livia Qoshe**, Junior project and senior thesis at Princeton University
- 2020 **Isabel Zaller**, Independent work at Princeton University
- 2020 **Natalie Paredes**, Summer internship at Princeton University
- 2017 **Katherine Link**, Summer internship at Harvard Medical School

## Fellowships & Awards

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- 2019 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, National Science Foundation
- 2019 **Student Travel Award**, Conference on Reinforcement Learning & Decision Making
- 2017 **Centennial Fellowship**, Princeton University
- 2016 **Top Poster in Translational Research**, Society of Biological Psychiatry