

TASFIA AHSAN
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EDUCATION

- **PhD – Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Sciences (BBCS):** 2021- 2025
York University, North York, ON
- **M.A. – Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Sciences (BBCS):** 2019 – 2021
York University, North York, ON
- **BSc. (Honours) – Psychology, Neuroscience, & Behavior (PNB):** 2013 – 2017
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) 2022 – 2023
A merit-based scholarships to Ontario's best graduate students in all disciplines of academic study (\$15000)
- Canada First Research Excellence Fund VISTA Doctoral Scholarship 2021 – 2025
Scholarship providing financial support to high-calibre scholars doing research in vision science (\$10,000/year for 4 years)
- Academic Excellence Fund - \$675 2022
Supports graduate students in advancing their research and scholarly objectives through simple and timely access to funds
- CPA Certificate of Excellence 2021
Award in recognition of outstanding achievements made by students at all levels of study (Honours, Master's, Ph.D.) in each Canadian department of psychology.
- CFREF, VISTA Travel Award 2021
The VISTA Distinguished Visiting Scholar/Trainee program will provide travel support for high-caliber scholars/trainees doing research that is aligned with the VISTA program (\$7500)
- E. Lynn Kirschner Memorial Doctoral Scholarship 2021
Awarded in recognition of for Best Paper in Visual Science (\$1000)
- Norman S. Endler Research Fellowship Award in Psychology sole nominee from the BBCS Program Area 2021
- Best MA Thesis Award sole nominee from the BBCS Program Area 2021
- CUPE MA Bursary – \$1000 2019
- McMaster Honours Award - \$1000 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Ahsan, T., Bolton, K., Wilcox, L. M., & Freud, E. (2022). Perceived depth modulates perceptual resolution. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 29(2), 455-466.

Freud, E., & **Ahsan, T.** (2022). Does the dorsal pathway derive intermediate shape-centred representations? *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, 1-3.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Ahsan, T., & Wilcox, L. M., Freud, E. Enhanced Visual Resolution for Objects in the Close Space is Mediated by Affordance. Poster presented at the Center for Vision Research (CVR) Conference, York University, ON, June 2022.

Ahsan, T., & Wilcox, L. M., Freud, E. Enhanced Visual Resolution for Objects in the Close Space is Mediated by Affordance. Poster presented at the Vision Science Society (VSS) Conference, St. Pete Beach, FL, May 2022.

Ahsan, T., & Wilcox, L. M., Freud, E. Perceived depth modulates visual properties. Talk presented at the Virtual Vision Futures (VVF) Conference, Online, June 2021.

Ahsan, T., Bolton K., Chiasson, K. & Wilcox, L. M., Freud, E. Perceived depth modulates visual properties. Poster presented at the Virtual Vision Science Society (V- VSS) Conference, Online, May 2020.

Ahsan, T., Bolton, K., Chiasson, K., Wilcox, L., & Freud, E., (2020, February 4-5). Perceived depth modulates visual properties. Poster presented at the 49th Annual Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment (L.O.V.E) national conference 2020, Niagara Falls, Canada. (Master's work)

SELECTED GUEST SPEAKER

[PLANNED] Rotman Research Institute (January 17, 2023), Rotman Workshop Series, University of Toronto, Baycrest. Teaching an interdisciplinary group of people how to use PsychoPy to carry out perceptual experiments.

PSYC 6273: Computer Programming for Experimental Psychology (March 11, 2022; November 11, 2022). Guest Lecturer, York University. Teaching graduate students how to build and run an online experiment using PsychoPy, Prolific and Qualtrics. <https://tasfiaahsan.github.io/Creating-Online-Experiments-with-PsychoPy/>

PSYC 3010: Intermediate Research Methods (October 3, 2022). Guest Lecturer, York University. Teaching undergraduate students how to build and run an online experiment using PsychoPy. <https://tasfiaahsan.github.io/Creating-Online-Experiments-with-PsychoPy/>

CVR Summer School (5 days; July 5-9, 2021). Centre for Vision Research, York University. A five-day prestigious summer school on vision science, teaching students how to build and run their own online experiments using PsychoPy.

Creating Online Experiments (2 days; May 31 & April 1, 2021). VISTA Workshop Series, York University. A two-day workshop series on Pavlovia, an online platform for researchers in the behavioural sciences to run, share, and explore experiments online.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsnyVgOAoEA&feature=emb_title

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Visit – INDIVISUAL Lab

June – July, 2022

Supervisor: Dr. Benjamin de Haas

Justus-Liebig Universität (JLU) Giessen, Germany

- Implementation of Eye tracker (SR Research Eyelink 1000) into experimental design to study individual gaze pattern behavior of depth perception
- Building a psychophysical experiment using MATLAB Psychtoolbox
- Collecting pilot data and analyzing eye tracking data

Graduate Researcher – Freud Lab

September 2019 – Present

Supervisor: Dr. Erez Freud (PhD)

York University

- Knowledge dissemination: writing scientific manuscripts and presenting results on national & international conferences.
- Building and analyzing psychophysical experiments using PsychoPy and MATLAB
- Creating analytical pipeline to process complex data
- Training undergraduate research assistants with Python coding and carrying out experiments
- Writing ethics and grant proposals to fund research

Research Assistant – Freud Lab

August 2018 – August 2019

York University

- Recruitment and coordinating participation in behavioural and functional neuroimaging
- Assisting with data collection in fMRI and stereoscopic experiments on Object Recognition
- Scoring and analysis of behavioural data; pre-processing and analysis of neuroimaging data using FSL and Matlab
- Administrative duties as needed

Research Assistant – Social Media Lab

January 2018 – April 2018

Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Want (PhD)

Ryerson University

- Attend regular lab meetings
- Editing and proofreading study materials
- Administering study and debriefing participants
- Digitizing paper forms

Honours Bachelor's of Science Thesis

May 2016 – April 2017

Co-supervisors: Dr. Balodis (PhD) and Dr. Laliberte (C. Psych)

St. Joseph Hospital (Eating Disorder Clinic), McMaster University

- Independently creating dataset template on SPSS and entering all patient EDI-3 data and weekly checklists
- Coordinating weekly meetings with supervisor and biweekly meetings with thesis team to stay on top of the project
- Applying research skills learned in research methods and statistics courses

Research Assistant - Neurodevelopmental Clinic

May 2015 – August 2015

Supervisor: Dr. Paul Sandor (MD) and Dr. Jennifer Stanga (C. Psych)

Tourette Syndrome Neurodevelopmental Clinic - Toronto Western Hospital

- Independently working to enter data from the TS genetic study into the hospital database using Microsoft Access
- Expanding population knowledge by shadowing Dr. Sandor (MD) and Dr. Stanga (C. Psych) through patient meetings
- Showing initiative by studying personal history and gaining knowledge of medicine used after each meeting and reporting to psychiatrist the following day
- Maintaining professional interpersonal skills with doctors, staff, and patients

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

York University

Writing in Psychology – Fall 2019, Winter 2021 and Fall 2021

CD: Dr. Jessica Sutherland; Dr. Jorida Cila

- Supporting student developments through office hours and in class workshops
- Grading essays/reflections each week and providing timely feedback on Moodle to support student's progress

Psycholinguistics – Winter 2020

CD: Dr. Marina Sherkina-Lieber

- Assessing students using a variety of methods and techniques through marking assignments, papers, and exams
- Providing academic support through email, Moodle, and zoom office hours

Introduction to Psychology – Fall 2020, Winter 2022

CD: Dr. Heather L. Jenkin

- Implementing departmental processes related to mentoring and supervising students

- Effectively communicating with course director and other TAs to ensure consistency in grading and conceptual understanding

VOLUNTEER WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Volunteer Crisis Line Responder

May 2017- Jan 2018

Toronto Distress Centre

- Providing emotional support, crisis management and suicide prevention at the Ontario's Crisis and Distress Service
- Obtained 40 hours of training to assist caller through distress by actively listening, validating, and exploring options
- Mentoring new volunteers on conducting suicide risk assessments with callers in crisis, de-escalate them and employ various coping techniques

Instructor Therapist

October 2017 – June 2018

Leaps and Bounds, Richmond hill, ON

- Providing Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) in a one-to-one setting
- Monitoring child's progress and effectiveness of individualized programs
- Recording and graphing treatment data while writing reports and progress notes
- Participating with parents and team members in the treatment planning process

Math, Science, and English Tutor

2015 – Present

Independent

- Helping students (elementary, high school, university) in applied and academic classes with subjects like chemistry, calculus, biology, english, psychology, etc.
- Planning out daily lesson plans and helping student work through daily homework
- Incorporating knowledge of pedagogical research in order to help student succeed
- Encouraging student to become organized every Sunday with a calendar and commit to spaced interval studying tactics
- Using techniques such as mnemonic or the peg system to help students retain information in long term memory

Clinical and Patient Support volunteer

May – August 2014

Head and Neck Clinic, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

- Communicating effectively with patients by explaining procedures such as filling out various forms that could provide the doctor with valuable information
- Empathetically talking and listening to patients waiting to go into the doctor's office
- Collecting and entering patient demographics and personal information into the hospital database
- Providing resources to patients that will help them better cope with their current condition