

Yuan Chang Leong

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Chicago
2019 – 2021 Postdoctoral Scholar, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, University of California, Berkeley (PI: Mark D’Esposito, M.D.)

EDUCATION

2014 – 2019 Ph.D. in Psychology, Stanford University (PI: Jamil Zaki, Ph.D.)
2019 – 2021 A.B. in Psychology, summa cum laude (PI: Yael Niv, Ph.D.)

FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS

2022 Neubauer Faculty Development Fellowship
2021 F32 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NIMH, NIH)
2021 Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting Poster Award
2018 Stanford Mind, Brain and Cognition Graduate Training Fellowship
2018 Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging Seed Grant
2018 Organization of Human Brain Mapping: Merit Abstract Award
2018 Stanford University Bio-X Travel Award
2017 Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting Poster Award
2016 Zimbardo Teaching Prize, Stanford University
2013 John Brinster’43 Neuroscience Senior Thesis Prize, Princeton University
2013 Howard Crosby Warren Award for Psychology, Princeton University
2012 Society for Neuroscience Undergraduate Student Travel Award
2012 Quantitative and Computational Neuroscience Training Grant

RESEARCH SUPPORT

2022-present Data and Democracy Initiative Seed Grant (Role PI, \$41,050)
Understanding divergent interpretations of political information and the bias of universal sentiment measures

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Calabro, R., Lyu, Y., **Leong, Y. C.** Trial-by-trial fluctuations in amygdala activity track motivational enhancement of desirable sensory evidence during perceptual decision-making. *Cerebral Cortex*. (accepted)

Leong, Y. C., Dziembaj, R. & D’Esposito, M. Pupil-linked arousal biases evidence accumulation towards desirable percepts during perceptual decision-making. *Psychological Science*. (2021)

Rossi-Goldthorpe, R., **Leong, Y. C.**, Leptourgos, P., & Corlett, P. R. A normative account of self-deception, overconfidence, and paranoia. *PLOS Computational Biology*. (2021)

Leong, Y. C., Chen, J., Willer, R. & Zaki, J. Conservative and liberal attitudes drive polarized neural responses to political content. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 117(44), 27731-27739 (2020).

Leong, Y.C., Hughes, B., Yiyu Wang & Zaki, J. Neurocomputational mechanisms underlying motivated seeing. *Nature Human Behavior*, 3(9), 962–973 (2019).

Chen, J.*, **Leong, Y.C.***, Honey, C., Yong, C.H., Norman, K.A. & Hasson, U. Shared experience and shared memory reveal a common structure for brain activity during natural recall. *Natu Neuroscience*, 20(1), 115-125 (2017).

CONFERENCE TALKS (SELECTED)

“Neurocomputational approaches to motivated visual perception”. *Society for Experimental Social Psychology Annual Meeting* (2021).

“Neural divergence between politically dissimilar individuals viewing real-world political messages”. *European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience 2021 Convention* (2021).

“Neurocomputational mechanisms underlying motivational biases in perceptual decision-making”. *Organization of Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting* (2018)

“Shared patterns of neural activity during narrative recall reveal shared structure in memory representations across individuals”. *Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention* (2018)

“Neural detection of socially-valued community members”. *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting* (2017).

“Inflated perception of expertise: A computational account”. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting* (2017).

INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

New Your University (2022), Peking University (2021), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2021), University of California, Los Angeles (2021), University College London (2021), National Institutes of Health (2017), Johns Hopkins University (2017), Princeton University (2017), University of California, Berkeley (2017)

ORGANIZED CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Annual Meeting of the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society, Conference Chair (Co-chair: Meghan Myer, 2021)

“First Impressions: When Are They Updated? When Are They Maintained?”. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (Co-chair: Jack Cao, 2017).

TEACHING

2021-present	Introduction to Social Psychology
2021-present	Mechanisms of Motivated Cognition
2021-present	Mind

AD-HOC REVIEWING

Cognitive Science, Cognition, eLife, Frontiers in Psychiatry – Social Cognition, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, Journal of Neuroscience, Nature Communications, Nature Human Behavior, Network Neuroscience, Neuropsychologia, Philos. Trans. R. Soc. B, Science Advances, Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

2021-present	Data Lab Summer Internship Mentor
2020-present	Project SHORT Mentor for Graduate School Applications
2019	Bay Area Society for Neuroscience Youth SfN Symposium Speaker
2018	SPSP Summer Program for Undergraduate Research Mentor
2016	Stanford Summer Research Early Identification Program Mentor
2016	Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program Mentor

MEDIA COVERAGE

Big Think, BBC Mundo, BrainPost, Goggles Optional (podcast), KCBS Radio, Medscape Medical News, Psychcast (podcast), Psychology Today, PsyPost, Radiology Business, Slate (FR), Science Daily, Science Magazine, Vox, WebMD, UC Berkeley News