WHO'S NEW AT COGSCI

Meet Our Incoming Graduate Students

Yumeng "Monica" Shen

Jeongeon Park

Sujin Park

Bryan Min
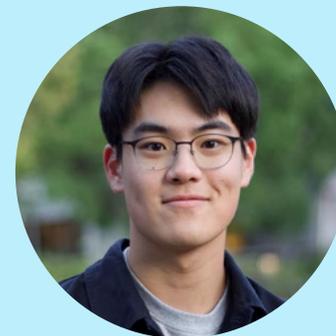
Lumi Kang

Jonathan Ahern

Lu Yang

Tori Hennessy

Zhining Chen

Madeline Meade

Irene Hou

Haiyang "Daniel" Xu
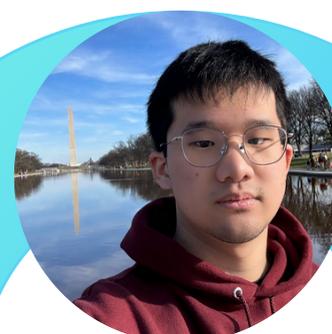
Liz Kaplan

Yumeng "Monica" Shen <yus099@ucsd.edu>

Hi, I'm Monica. I recently received my Bachelor of Science in Child Development and Cognitive Studies from Vanderbilt University. As a multi-lingual/-dialectal L2 speaker, I'm interested in speech perception and production among bilinguals and L2 speakers in diverse linguistic contexts. I'm also interested in understanding how preschoolers learn language(s). When I'm not at work, you can find me observing natural beings, chatting with interesting people, doing workouts at home, or traveling. I'm excited to start learning surfing in SD!

Jeongeon Park <jep034@ucsd.edu>

Hi, I'm Jeongeon. I come from a Computer Science background, holding BS and MS degrees from KAIST, South Korea. I am interested in understanding and supporting how people work with information through AI-infused interactive systems, in connection to their unique preferences and contexts. Outside of research, I enjoy listening to and playing music, exploring nature, and collecting cute little things.

Sujin Park <sup031@ucsd.edu>

Hi, I'm Sujin. Before joining the Cog Sci department, I majored in cognitive neuroscience in South Korea. My research interest focuses on the predictive markers of neurodevelopmental disorders. I often use fMRI and data-driven methodologies and would love to learn more. Outside the lab, I enjoy reading, playing badminton, and spending time in nature.

Bryan Min <bdmin@ucsd.edu>

My current research focus is in making software interfaces more customizable for end-users without the need for coding or dealing with complicated settings. I'm currently exploring methods in novel interaction techniques and generative AI. Previously, I attended UCSD for my undergrad, majoring in computer science. Outside of research, I mainly play lots of tennis.

Lumi Kang <l5kang@ucsd.edu>

Hello, everyone! I'm Lumi. Nice to meet you all! Before starting my PhD at UCSD, I completed my bachelor's and master's degree in Linguistics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. As a researcher, my goal is to get a better understanding in the relation between our language and the mind. I'm interested in exploring the human conceptual systems behind not only our everyday languages, specifically Korean, English, and Korean Signed Language, but also nonverbal communications, such as gestures. Outside of my research, I love doing yoga, cooking, and listening to music.

Lu Yang <luy013@ucsd.edu>

My main research interests are affective computing, embodied interaction modalities in Mixed Reality, and computational architecture. I received my B.Arch degree from Illinois Institute of Technology's College of Architecture, where I grow as an architect specializing in computational design and computer science. I received an MS degree from the Media Arts and Technology program at UCSB, where I joined the Four Eyes Lab and the transLab to concentrate on the development of embodied experiences within virtual architectural environments. During my free time, I'm dedicated to Historical European Martial Arts, where I practice and compete in modernized longsword fencing.

Jonathan Ahern <jahern@ucsd.edu>

Hello! My name is Jon! I received a degree in Cognitive Science (specialization in Neuroscience) from UCSD. For the last two years, I have been working with the UCSD Center for Human Development using population-level data to try to understand how genetic and environmental factors are associated with detectable changes in neural architecture and neuropsychiatric outcomes. My previous research has focused on neurodegeneration and I am interested in understanding the factors that influence early brain development and cognitive outcomes. Outside of research, I enjoy listening to podcasts, reading, and exploring town to find the best place to play pub trivia.

Tori Hennessy <vhennessy@ucsd.edu>

Hello, I'm Tori! For the last few years, I've studied infants' early auditory environments, neural speech processing, and language onset using a variety of tools ranging from at-home audio recordings to M/EEG. My research interests in early social learning and cognitive development are inspired by listening to the world of sounds infants hear. I received a B.S. in Psychology at the University of Washington and worked as a lab manager at the UW Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences before starting my PhD at UCSD. Outside of the lab, you can find me in the water: surfing, swimming, or outrigger canoe paddling.

Madeline Meade <mmeade@ucsd.edu>

Hi everyone, I'm Madeline! I'll be working in the Comparative Cognition Lab with Dr. Rossano on nonhuman primate social cognition. I got my undergraduate degree in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology from Yale, working with Dr. Laurie Santos. After graduating, I worked in a conservation corps and then returned to Yale as Dr. Santos's lab manager, exploring questions involving social evaluation in dogs and the logical abilities of rhesus macaques. I love hiking, camping, sci-fi & fantasy books, and games; I'm really looking forward to everything San Diego has to offer and meeting people to explore it with!

Irene Hou <ihou@ucsd.edu>

Hello, I'm Irene! I previously studied Cognitive Science (Design/Interaction) and Computer Science at UCSD. Before my PhD, I was UX Lead at FluentPet in collaboration with the Comparative Cognition Lab. My research interests span human-computer interaction, human-centered AI, and computing pedagogy. I study how generative AI and AI-driven systems can democratize learning and creativity; I'm particularly interested in learner behavior and participatory approaches to AI. Outside of research, I'm a fiction writer/poet, and I love exploring the outdoors, crafting, and other miscellaneous creative endeavours.

Haiyang "Daniel" Xu <hax038@ucsd.edu>

Hi! I'm Daniel. Before starting my PhD at UCSD, I finished my B.S. in Data Science at USTC, China. My current research focus is on computer vision and multimodal, especially on topics such as generative models and 3D vision. In my free time, I enjoy travelling and music. I also love playing poker and billiards.