

Estelita Leija



Zhuojun Ying



Srini Ravishankar



WHO'S NEW AT COGSCI

Meet Our Incoming Graduate Students

Alexandria Evans



Jude Rayan



Fuling Sun



Winnie Xu



EM-J Galang



Annapurna Vadaparty



Sam Taylor



Peiling Jiang



Shang-En Huang



Chung, Alm “Alice” <a3chung@ucsd.edu>

Hi, I'm Alice. My main research interest is human-computer interaction, to study how/why we create software and how we talk about software. For the last few years, I've been developing tools to broaden participation in open-source software communities focused on internationalization (i18n) issues. I got my BS in Bioengineering at UCSD and MS in Bioengineering at Stanford University for developing interfaces for microbiology experiments. I also hold an MFA in Design Media Arts at UCLA.

Evans, Alexandria <a6evans@ucsd.edu> A59016702

I'm Alex, a first year student in the Cognitive Science program. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona where I worked with children and later canines to study learning, sleep's role in memory, and problem solving. While completing my master's degree at University of Chicago, I was able to conduct research at Lincoln Park Zoo studying decision making and visitor effects in primates. I look forward to working with the Comparative Cognition Lab at UCSD and continuing to get to know my fellow students and all of the awesome people in this department. Outside of my research I enjoy spending time with my pets, playing tabletop and video games, and as an Arizona native I look forward to beach days and attempting to learn to surf!

Galang, Eldrick “Em-J” <emgalang@ucsd.edu> A59016741

Hi, I'm Em-J! During my undergrad, I studied neuroscience and philosophy at Tulane University in New Orleans. In graduate school, I'm interested in studying spatial cognition using electrophysiology, answering questions such as how we encode inputs from the environment into cognitive maps and how we reciprocally make use of those schemas to evoke egocentric responses during navigation. When I'm not in the lab, I enjoy cycling, golfing, and experimenting with new recipes.

Huang, Shang-En “Sean” <shh044@ucsd.edu>

Great to meet you, I'm Sean! I got my bachelor's degree in Chinese as a Second Language at National Taiwan Normal University, where I mainly worked on SLA and Neurolinguistics. Fascinated by language and the brain, I wish to further explore my interests in Psycholinguistics and Language Acquisition at Cog Sci with cognitive neuroscience methods. Multimodality, filler processing, and learning preferences are some of the research topics that I am interested in. In my free time, I enjoy dancing (Locking, House, and Popping), jogging, and hiking.

Jiang, Peiling <p4jiang@ucsd.edu> A59016831

I'm an incoming human-computer interaction PhD student. Starting as an industrial design student in China, I transferred to and completed my undergrad at NYU, double majored in Interactive Media Arts and Psychology. I'm interested in making tools that help us learn, manage information space, and create.

Koithan, Emily <emkoithan@ucsd.edu>

Before joining the Cognitive Science program at UCSD, I majored in mathematics and psychology at the University of Minnesota. During and after college, I assisted with substance use and eating disorders research using functional magnetic resonance imaging. I plan to learn more about neuroimaging and machine learning in graduate school, which I hope to use to gain insight into the functional organization of the brain and the neural bases of psychiatric and neurological disorders.

Leija, Estelita <esleija@ucsd.edu>

I would like to combine the knowledge I obtained from my Master of Science in architecture and Bachelor of Science in cognitive science and emphasis in neuroscience to continue research advancements that guide the design for both indoor and outdoor environments that are inclusive and adaptable to children (K-12) who are both typically developing as well as those with ADHD, Autism, and Anxiety Disorders. When not doing research I love being around nature, playing board games, or electrictrick skateboarding.

Ravishankar, Srinivas “Srini” <srravishankar@ucsd.edu>

Hi there, I'm Srini. Before starting my PhD at UCSD, I did my B.E in Computer Science at RVCE, India; and my MS in Machine Learning at Carnegie Mellon. I'm currently working on neuroprosthetics for BCI-assisted communication; and down the line, I'm interested in developing neuroprosthetics that address memory dysfunction. When I'm not in the lab, you can find me in the swimming pool or playing badminton.



Rayan, Jude <jrayan@ucsd.edu>

Hello! My name is Jude. My educational background is a mixture of Computer Science, Neuroscience, and Education. My primary research interest is in understanding how technology can be leveraged to help foster creativity and aid problem solving across communities. I play a few instruments including piano, bass, and guitar. My hobbies include music production, running, and asking people if I can pet their dog(s).

Sun, Fuling <fusun@ucsd.edu> A59017007

Hello! I am Fuling Sun from China. My research interests are human-computer interaction and data visualization. During my master's, I have participated in research projects on visualization and data storytelling. I am very excited to join CogSci and look forward to my new life and new friends there!

Taylor, Samuel "Sam" <s6taylor@ucsd.edu> A13846103

Before starting my PhD at UCSD, I graduated with undergraduate degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Tulsa in 2020, where my research centered on UAV navigation algorithms. Since then, I have worked as a Research Specialist at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research in Tulsa, Oklahoma, researching computational models to better characterize the mental processes underlying neuropsychiatric disorders. I am particularly interested in the intersection between human cognition and artificial intelligence, specifically with respect to decision making. Outside of academics, I enjoy reading, games, hobbyist robotics, and hiking.

Vadaparty, Annapurna <avadaparty@ucsd.edu>

I am interested in studying problem solving and how creative thinking arises from constraints. I grew up on the east coast and studied neuroscience and computer science as an undergrad. I love teaching, and I hope to apply my work in educational settings. I also love tiramisu.

Xu, Haoyin "Winnie" <winniexu@ucsd.edu>

Hello! Before starting my PhD in at UCSD, I completed my B.S. degree in Cognitive Science and Neuroscience at UCSD. My research interest spans language comprehension, EEG-based brain-computer interface (BCI), and general clinical EEG research. I enjoy doing research to further our understanding of the brain and hopefully one day I can discover/create something that's impactful. When I'm not doing research, I enjoy playing music, playing video games, and hanging out with friends.

Yang Sihan <siy009@ucsd.edu>

Hi, I'm Sihan, a first-year Ph.D. student in the Yu Lab. I'm interested in the link between statistical theory and cognition & behavior, i.e., how the brain processes information and performs inference efficiently. I got my B.Sc. Applied Mathematics and B.Comp. Computer Science from the National University of Singapore.

Ying, Zhuojun <z5ying@ucsd.edu>

I am interested in using computational approaches to understand human cognitive and learning processes. My previous research includes infant sensorimotor decoupling and basic level categorization. I finished my bachelor's degree in Cognitive Science at UCSD and my master's degree in Natural Language Processing at Cambridge University. I am thrilled to come back to UCSD for my PhD! In my free time I like reading, spending way much time on animal videos, playing board games, and making video games.

