

Curriculum Vitae

Jennifer Ann Francesconi

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Education:

Ph. D., 2022 (anticipated). Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience, Psychology
Advisor: Dr. John McGann
Marketing (consumer behavior track), Business
Advisor: Dr. Ashwani Monga

M.S., April 2019. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience, Psychology
Advisor: Dr. John McGann

B.A., December, 2015. Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Major in Psychology

Research Experience:

Graduate Research Assistant Rutgers University, Newark (2018 – Current)

Advisor: Dr. Ashwani Monga

Projects: Using concepts and theories from evolutionary psychology to predict and explain modern-day consumer behaviors. Investigating how sensory features of the environment affect consumer behavior outcomes such as impulsivity, choice, and time perception.

Graduate Research Assistant Rutgers University, New Brunswick (2016 – Current)

Neurobiology of Sensory Cognition Laboratory

Advisor: Dr. John McGann

Projects: Using ecologically relevant stimuli and behavioral paradigms to investigate individual differences and sex differences in neural and behavioral responses to threat cues in mice.

Performing immunohistochemistry and *in vivo* imaging techniques to quantify neural activity.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Temple University, Philadelphia (2014 – 2015)

Neurochemistry and Cognition Lab

Advisor: Dr. Vinay Parikh

Projects: Age-related functional compensation to shifts in cholinergic and attentional capacity; Age-related alterations in decision policy under conditions of uncertain strategy choices in mice

Roles: Assisted in the behavioral training of rodents on tasks of sustained attention, cognitive flexibility, and strategic decision-making. Performed immunohistochemistry and quantified neural activation using unbiased stereology.

Teaching Experience:

Lab Course Instructor Rutgers University: Learning Processes (2016 – 2019)

Roles: Instructed undergraduate students in methods used in animal conditioning research through hands-on experiments. Guided students in the collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation of data from experiments conducted in class. Facilitated students' ability to critically assess and synthesize information from scientific scholarly articles. Aided students in developing their scientific writing skills through written lab reports and peer review sessions.

Experiments conducted in class:

- Habituation/dishabituation
- Operant conditioning
- Social transmission of food preference

Online Lab Course Instructor Rutgers University: Sensation and Perception (2019 – current)

Roles: Instructed undergraduate students in methods and techniques used in the field of sensation and perception. Aided students in running individual experiments via PsychoPy software. Facilitated students' abilities to generate novel hypotheses for a phenomena of their own interest. Guided students in hypothesis testing through in-class data collection where students' obtained data from their classmates for their original research project. Instructed and aided students in statistical analysis via Excel and interpretation of results.

Experiments conducted in class:

- Method of adjustment – line length perception
- Method of constant stimuli – pitch discrimination
- Stroop test
- Visual short term memory
- Divided attention
- Original research project proposed by each student

Lab Course Instructor Rutgers University: Infant and Child Development (2020 - current)

Roles: Instructed undergraduate students in methods and techniques used in research with infant and child participants. Guided students in the collection and coding of data obtained in Rutgers Psychology Child Development Center. Ensured students complied with the research rules and regulations of the Child Development Center. Facilitated students' ability to use basic statistics and statistical software (SPSS) to analyze and interpret the results of the statistical analyses of data collected in class. Aided students in synthesizing information from scientific scholarly articles and developing their scientific writing skills through written lab reports and peer review sessions.

Experiments conducted in class:

- Peer interactions (observation)
- Theory of mind
- Executive functioning

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Temple University: Cognitive Neuroscience (Fall 2015)

Roles: Prepared and gave a short lecture on the topic of unilateral neglect in a class of 150 students. Organized and facilitated bi-weekly recitations. Responded to students' questions/concerns during office hours or via email.

Teaching Certification:

Teaching with Technology Certificate (2018)

Center for Teaching Advancement & Assessment Research
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Honors and Awards:

Temple Diamond Peer Teacher - Cognitive Neuroscience (Fall 2015)

Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Grant (Spring 2015):

Investigating the effects of aging on a strategic decision-making task, \$1,200.00.

Temple University's Creative Arts, Research, and Scholarship Award (Spring 2015):

The impact of aging on strategic decision-making, \$2,835.00.

Manuscripts:

Francesconi, J. A.*, Macaroy, C., Sawant, S., Hamrick, H., Wahab, S., Klein, I., & McGann, J. P. (2020). Sexually Dimorphic Behavioral and Neural Responses to a Predator Scent. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 112467. *corresponding author

Conference Abstracts:

Yegla B, **Francesconi, J**, Forde J, Parikh V. Age-related functional compensation to shifts in cholinergic and attentional capacity. **Eastern Psychological Association Meeting Abstracts** 2016, pp 45.

Yegla B, **Francesconi JA**, Forde J, Parikh V. Cholinergic contributions to PASA and functional compensation in rats. **Society for Neuroscience Abstracts** 2015, 45: 253.11.

Cole RD, **Francesconi JA**, Yu A, Parikh V. Age-related alterations in decision policy under conditions of uncertain strategy choices in mice. **Society for Neuroscience Abstracts** 2015, 45: 20.02.

Yegla B, **Francesconi J**, Parikh V. Cholinergic contributions to PASA and cognitive compensation. **24th Annual International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Meeting** 2015, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Yegla B, **Francesconi, J**, Parikh V. Cholinergic contributions to PASA and cognitive compensation. **Eastern Psychological Association Meeting Abstracts** 2015, pp 53.

Relevant Skills:

- Qualtrics survey platform
- Statistical analysis - SPSS
- PsychoPy software

- PhenoSys virtual reality system for use in rodents
- Operant conditioning
- Immunohistochemistry

- Rodent behavioral testing and analysis using Ethovision & GraphicState
- *in vivo* optical imaging
- Microscopy