

# **Curriculum Vitae**

Laura E. Thomas

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## **Education**

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| 2008 | PH.D., EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY<br>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign                        |
| 2004 | M.A., EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY<br>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign                         |
| 2002 | B.A., PSYCHOLOGY ( <i>summa cum laude</i> ), minor in Biology<br>Washington University, St. Louis |

## **Professional History**

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| 2008 – | POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW<br>Perception, Attention, and Control Lab, Vanderbilt University |
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## **Research Interests**

Broad: cognition, action, perception, attention

Specific: Links between action and cognition; embodied cognition;  
perception of control; attention in visual search

## **Teaching Interests**

Sensation and Perception  
Visual Cognition  
Cognitive Psychology  
Experimental Psychology

## Honors and Awards

2008	LYLE H. LANIER CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARD University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2007 – 2008	DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIP University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2004 – 2007	NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
2002	JOHN A. STERN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD Washington University, St. Louis, Department of Psychology

## Publications

- Thomas, L. E., & Seiffert, A. E. (2010). Self-motion impairs multiple-object tracking. *Cognition*, 177, 80-86.
- Irwin, D. E., & Thomas, L. E. (2010). Eyeblinks and cognition. In Coltheart, V. (Ed.), *Tutorials in Visual Cognition*. (pp. 121-141). New York: Psychology Press.
- Higgins, J. S., Irwin, D. E., Wang, R. F., & Thomas, L. E. (2009). Visual direction constancy across eye blinks. *Attention, Perception & Psychophysics*, 71, 1607-1617.
- Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2009a). Swinging into thought: Directed movement guides insight in problem solving. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 16, 719-723.
- Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2009b). Covert shifts of attention function as an implicit aid to insight. *Cognition*, 111, 168-174.
- Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2009c). Inhibitory tagging in an interrupted visual search. *Attention, Perception & Psychophysics*, 71, 1241-1250.
- Irwin, D. E., & Thomas, L. E. (2008). Visual sensory memory. In Luck, S. J., & Hollingworth, A. (Eds.), *Visual memory*. (pp. 9-42). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2007). Moving eyes and moving thought: On the spatial compatibility between eye movements and cognition. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 14, 663-668.

Irwin, D. E., & Thomas, L. E. (2007). The effect of saccades on number comparison. *Perception & Psychophysics*, 69, 450-458.

Thomas, L. E., Ambinder, M. S., Hsieh, B., Levinthal, B., Crowell, J. A., Irwin, D. E., Kramer, A. F., Lleras, A., Simons, D. J., & Wang, R. F. (2006). Fruitful visual search: Inhibition of return in a virtual foraging task. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 13, 891-895.

Thomas, L. E., & Irwin, D. E. (2006). Voluntary eyeblinks disrupt iconic memory. *Perception & Psychophysics*, 68, 475-488.

Wang, R. F., Crowell, J. A., Simons, D. J., Irwin, D. E., Kramer, A. F., Ambinder, M. S., Thomas, L. E., Gosney, J. L., Levinthal, B. R., & Hsieh, B. B. (2006). Spatial updating relies on an egocentric representation of space: Effects of the number of objects. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 13, 281-286.

## **Invited Talks and Colloquia**

Thomas, L. E. (Dec. 7, 2009). Moving minds: Influences of actions on cognition. Talk at the Cognitive Brownbag, Texas A&M University.

Thomas, L. E. (Sept. 12, 2008). Directed actions guide insight in problem solving. Talk at the Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Colloquium, Vanderbilt University.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (May 24, 2008). Swinging into thought! Directed body movements guide thought towards insight in problem solving. Talk at the Embodied Cognition and Problem Solving Symposium at the 2008 Association for Psychological Science Convention, Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (Oct. 31, 2007). Moving thought: Directed movement guides insight in problem solving. Talk at the Cognitive Brownbag, University of Chicago.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (Nov. 29, 2006). Inhibition of return in an interrupted visual search. Talk at the Visual Cognition and Human Performance Brownbag, University of Illinois.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (Feb. 15, 2006). Moving eyes and moving thought: The spatial compatibility between eye movements and cognition. Talk at the Visual Cognition and Human Performance Brownbag, University of Illinois.

Thomas, L. E., & Irwin, D. E. (April 20, 2005). The influence of eyeblinks on visual attention. Talk at the Visual Cognition and Human Performance Brownbag, University of Illinois.

Thomas, L. E., & Irwin, D. E. (Sept. 17, 2003). A test between theories of cognitive suppression. Talk at the Visual Cognition and Human Performance Brownbag, University of Illinois.

## Conference Presentations

Thomas, L. E., & Seiffert, A. E. (2010). Looking ahead: Attending to anticipatory locations increases perception of control. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Naples, Florida.

Thomas, L. E., & Seiffert, A. E. (2009). Self-motion influences multiple-object tracking in a virtual environment. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Naples, Florida.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2008). Moving thought: Directed movement guides insight in problem solving. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Naples, Florida.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2007). Inhibitory tagging in an interrupted visual search. Talk at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (2006). Moving eyes and moving thought: The spatial compatibility between eye movements and cognition. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

Boot, W. R., Kramer, A. F., Fabiani, M., Gratton, G., Simons, D. J., Wan, X., Ambinder, M. S., Thomas, L. E., Colcombe, S. J., Agran, J., Low, K., & Lee, Y. (2006). The effects of video game playing on perception and cognitive abilities. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

Irwin, D. E., & Thomas, L. E. (2005). Cognitive saccadic suppression: Number comparison is suppressed during leftward saccades. Talk at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

Thomas, L. E., Ambinder, M. S., Hsieh, B., Levinthal, B., Crowell, J. A., Irwin, D. E., Kramer, A. F., Lleras, A., Simons, D. J., & Wang, R. F. (2005). Fruitful visual search: Inhibition of return in a virtual foraging task. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

Levinthal, B. R., Ambinder, M. S., Thomas, L. E., Gosney, J., Hsieh, B., Lipes, G. A., Wang, R. F., Crowell, J. A., Simons, D. J., Irwin, D. E., Kramer, A. F., & Lleras, A. (2005). The binding of features in visual short-term memory. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

Irwin, D. E., & Thomas, L. E. (2004). The effect of saccades on number comparison. Talk at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Thomas, L. E., & Irwin, D. E. (2004). The Influence of eyeblinks on visual attention. Poster at the OPAM Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Thomas, L. E., & Irwin, D. E. (2004). Blinking and thinking: Voluntary eyeblinks disrupt iconic memory. Poster at the Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

## **Service**

Ad Hoc Reviewer for:

Cognition, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception & Performance, Neuropsychology, Perception & Psychophysics, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Vision Research, Visual Cognition

## **Teaching Experience**

2007	Instructor for Perception and Sensory Processes University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2003 – 2004	Teaching Assistant for Perception and Sensory Processes (Instructor: Prof. Frances Wang, Prof. David Irwin) University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2000 – 2002	Peer Tutor, Writing Center (Supervisor: Doreen Salli) Washington University, St. Louis

## **References**

Professor David Irwin  
Psychology Department  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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Champaign, IL 61820  
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Assistant Professor Adriane Seiffert  
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