

# Curriculum Vitae

Laura E. Thomas

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## Education

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

## Professional History

- 2008 –                      POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW  
Perception, Attention, and Control Lab, Vanderbilt University

## Research Interests

Broad:                      perception, action, cognition, attention

Specific:                      The effects of eye movements and blinks on cognitive processing;  
embodied cognition in problem solving tasks; motion perception;  
attention in visual search; action influences on multiple object  
tracking

## Teaching Interests

Sensation and Perception  
Visual Cognition  
Cognitive Psychology

Introductory Psychology  
Experimental Psychology  
Research Methods and Statistics

## Honors and Awards

- 2008                    LYLE H. LANIER 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., & Lleras A. (in press). Covert shifts of attention function as an implicit aid to insight. *Cognition*.
- Thomas, L. E., & Lleras, A. (in press). Inhibitory tagging in an interrupted visual search. *Attention, Perception & Psychophysics*.
- Irwin, D. E., & Thomas, L. E. (2008). Visual sensory memory. In Luck, S. J., & Hollingworth, A. (Eds), *Visual memory*. (pp. 9-42). 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., & 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., & Lleras, A. (May 13, 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. (May 13, 2007). Inhibitory tagging in an interrupted visual search. Talk at the 2007 Vision Sciences Society Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida.

