

Sonia A. Poltoratski

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Department of Psychology
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EDUCATION

August 2011 - present: Vanderbilt University (GPA: 4.0)

- Ph.D. student in Psychology, Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience program
- Advisor: Frank Tong

September 2005 - June 2009: Stanford University

- B.A. with Honors in Psychology, Neuroscience specialization
- Advisors: Kalanit Grill-Spector (thesis), Anthony Wagner (department)

January 2007 - March 2007: Bing Overseas Study Program at Oxford University

- Tutorial in cognitive neuroscience with Charles Wilson, Experimental Psychology Dept.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2012-2015: National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship
- 2012-present: Vanderbilt Department of Psychology Topping Up Award
- 2009 Stanford University Firestone Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research
- 2008 National Rowing Coaches Association Division I Scholar Athlete selection
- 2008 Pac-10 Conference All-Academic First Team selection
- 2005 National Merit Scholar

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

June 2009 - June 2011: Harvard Vision Sciences Lab

- Full-time research assistant/lab manager
- PI: Yaoda Xu
- Behavioral and fMRI work on visual short term memory, object features, visual number perception, ensemble encoding, and texture perception

September 2007 - June 2009: Grill-Spector Vision and Perception Neurosciences Lab

- PI: Kalanit Grill-Spector
- Honors thesis project: "Neural and Behavioral Exploration of Congenital Prosopagnosia," behavioral and fMRI techniques

September 2005 - June 2006, March 2007 - September 2007: Cognition Lab

- PI: Lera Boroditsky
- Behavioral work on synesthesia, face adaptation

September 2006 - March 2007: Mind, Culture, and Society Lab

- PI: Jennifer Eberhardt
- Behavioral work on racial bias in visual perception

May 2004 - September 2004: Texas A&M University Department of Psychology

- PI: Mark Packard
- Animal behavioral work on memory and learning

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Poltoratski S** (2012). Hysteresis in the Dynamic Perception of Scenes and Objects. Talk at Harvard Vision Sciences Lab, December 11; Cambridge, MA.
- Poltoratski S** (2012). Hysteresis in the Dynamic Perception of Scenes and Objects. Talk at Vanderbilt's Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience Seminar; September 21, Nashville, TN.
- Poltoratski S** and **Tong F** (2012). Dynamic Visual Representations of Scenes and Objects: The Forest to the Tree. Poster at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, May 11-16; Naples, FL.
- Poltoratski S** and **Xu Y** (2011). Distractors, sequential presentation have no effect on simultaneous enumeration of multiple sets. Poster at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, May 6-12; Naples, FL.
- Witthoft N**, **Poltoratski S**, **Nguyen M**, **Golarai G**, **Lieberman A**, and **Grill-Spector K** (2011). Psychophysical and Neural Investigations of Congenital Prosopagnosia. Poster at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, May 6-12; Naples, FL.
- Witthoft N**, **Poltoratski S**, **Nguyen M**, **Golarai G**, **Lieberman A**, and **Grill-Spector K** (2010). Psychophysical and Neural Investigations of Congenital Prosopagnosia. Poster at the annual meeting of the *Society for Neuroscience*, Nov 8-13; San Diego, CA.
- Poltoratski S** and **Xu Y**. (2010) Shared VSTM resources for enumerating sets and for encoding their colors. Poster at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, May 7-12; Naples, FL.
- Poltoratski S**. (2009) Neural and Behavioral Substrates of Congenital Prosopagnosia. Poster at Stanford Undergraduate Research Symposium.
- Poltoratski S**. (2008) Exploring Face Perception and Congenital Prosopagnosia Through Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Poster as part of Stanford's PsychSummer Research Program.

MANUSCRIPTS

- Poltoratski S** and **Xu Y**. (*In review*) The association of color memory and the enumeration of multiple spatially overlapping sets.
- Poltoratski S** and **Xu Y**. (*In preparation*) Enumeration of subsets but not the superset withstands temporal and attention manipulations.
- Poltoratski S** and **Tong F**. (*In preparation*) Hysteresis in the dynamic perception of scenes and objects.
- Poltoratski S**, **Witthoft N**, **Grill-Spector, K**. (*In preparation*) Behavioral exploration of congenital prosopagnosia.

ADVISING & TEACHING

- January 2013 – present*: advisor to Zidong Zhao, Vanderbilt undergraduate
- January 2012 – June 2012*: grader for Dr. Ford Ebner, "Structure and Function of the Cerebral Cortex"

SELECTED EXTRACURRICULARS

- December 2012 – present*: PenPal with a Purpose, science outreach to local middle school
- August 2012 – present*: Vanderbilt Club Rowing graduate assistant coach
- September 2006 – June 2009*: Stanford Varsity Women's Rowing, 2009 NCAA national team champions
- September 2008 – June 2009*: Stanford University residential computing consultant