

Ezra Wingard

he / him

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EDUCATION

B.A., Psychology, Cognitive Science with Honors and Minor in French, *State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego* 2023

- Honors thesis: The Impact of Biases in Facial Recognition Artificial Neural Networks ([thesis](#))
- Advisors: Theo Rhodes and John K. Lindstedt

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Brain Research Across Development Lab (PI: Caitlin Hudac) 2024 - Present
University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

- Design and implement E-Prime experimental tasks using E-Basic script, creating three novel cognitive neuroscience tasks and refining two existing paradigms
- Recruit and retain participants for a longitudinal study, managing outreach and tailoring participant experiences
- Develop and maintain several REDCap databases, ensuring accurate documentation and compliance to study protocols
- Oversee general lab management, including recordkeeping, financial oversight of grant funds, and procuring equipment
- Manage and mentor up to 12 interns, garnering co-authored presentations and publications to disseminate research data

Volunteer Researcher, Study of Trauma, Adolescents, Relationships, & Resilience (PI: Michelle Brown) 2023 - Present
University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina

- Author and refine introduction, methods, and results sections for research papers
- Assist with literature reviews and ensured all documents adhered to APA formatting, including tables and datasets
- Identify and evaluate suitable journals for publication, considering impact factors and submission requirements
- Ensure accuracy and consistency of results by re-running analyses on two separate datasets using R

Data Collector JKLAB (PI: John K. Lindstedt) 2022
SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York

- Assisted in a Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master's student project to rene spatial audio perception for online meetings
- Recruited and collected data using SONA Systems, ensuring strict adherence to lab guidelines and procedures
- Created and refined experimental stimuli, and implemented basic JavaScript syntax for task execution
- Collaboratively organized project information to meet deadlines and ensure accurate data collection

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (PI: Sien Hu) 2021 - 2023
SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York

- Developed a comprehensive script to analyze behavioral functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data, focusing on reaction time dynamics in control and aphantasic participants
- Conducted extensive literature reviews to understand fMRI methods and data collection techniques
- Assisted in the dissemination of fMRI results and began drafting a manuscript for publication before graduation
- Completed a safety exam and earned certification to use the 3T CABIN MRI machine at the University of Rochester

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Relationships Across Development Lab (PI: Matthew Dykas) 2020 - 2021
SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York

- Recruited participants through SONA Systems for a COVID-based research study, conducting all sessions via Zoom
- Followed extensive protocols to ensure accurate data collection
- Presented initial research findings through a poster presentation at SUNY Oswego's annual research symposium
- Collaborated with a cohort of undergraduate students to organize data, evenly distribute tasks, and manage workload

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Wingard, E.M.**, Cheever, A. Importance of Inclusion in Science. 2024
 Article published through the Brain Research Across Development Lab website. ([article](#))
- Nelson, C.M., **Wingard, E.M.**, & Hudac, C.M. Characterizing Friendships And Other Relationships in Autistic Adolescents. 2024
 Talk at The Love Conference, Denver, CO. ([slides](#))
- Hersey, J., Morgan, A., Cheever, A., Nelson, C.M., **Wingard, E.M.**, & Hudac, C.M. Exploring Nonverbal Communication Differences Among Individuals in Romantic Partnerships: A Neuroscientific Perspective. 2024
 Poster at Discover USC, Columbia, SC. Won 2nd place poster award for the section. ([poster](#))
- McCune, M., Turner, B., Vidal, L., Nelson, C.M., **Wingard, E.M.**, & Hudac, C.M. The Adolescent Brain: Quantifying the Relationship Between Social Awareness and Perception of Upright and Inverted Faces. 2024
 Poster at Discover USC, Columbia, SC. ([poster](#))
- Khan, M., Patel, M., Tuppale, B., **Wingard, E.M.**, Nelson, C.M., & Hudac, C.M. The Effect of Sleep Quality as Measured by Couple's Sleep Performance in Charades. 2024
 Poster at Discover USC, Columbia, SC. ([poster](#))
- Johnson, M., **Wingard, E. M.**, Nelson, C.M., & Hudac, C.M. Do I Know You? Brain Responses to Familiar and AI-Generated Faces. 2024
 Poster at Discover USC, Columbia, SC. ([poster](#))
 Poster at Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Conference (SANS), Toronto, Canada. 2024
- Wingard, E.M.** The Impact of Biases in Facial Recognition Artificial Neural Networks. *Illuminate NRHC*, 5, 25-32. 2023
 Paper published through the Northeast Regional Honors Conference (NRHC) journal, *Illuminate*. ([paper](#))
 Poster at Northeast Regional Honors Conference (NRHC), Pittsburgh, PA. ([poster](#))
 Talk at Quest Week, Oswego, NY. ([slides](#)) 2023
- Wingard, E.M.** French Polynesia: Flora and Fauna. 2023
 Talk at Quest Week (French Forum), Oswego, NY. ([slides](#))
- Dykas, M., **Wingard, E.M.** Does Making Narcissists 'Feel Bad' Make Them Want to Be Better People? 2021
 Poster at Quest Week, virtual. ([poster](#))

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer Camp Arts Instructor 2024

New Bethel Foundation, Lexington, South Carolina

- Designed and implemented lesson plans tailored to the developmental stages and motor skills of children aged 5-17
- Facilitated interactive art sessions, encouraging hands-on participation and exploration of artistic concepts
- Implemented effective classroom behavior management strategies to maintain an orderly learning environment

Animal Care Technician 2023 - 2024

Carolina Wildlife Center, Columbia, South Carolina

- Administered precise doses of medication and formula to local animal species, ensuring their health and well-being
- Documented meticulous records of medication administration, dietary requirements, and behavioral observations
- Cared for over 70 native species daily while adhering to strict safety protocols to minimize stress and ensure comfort

Students Helping Oz Peers (SHOP) Coordinator 2022 - 2023

SUNY Oswego Dean of Students Office, Oswego, New York

- Supervised four interns and over 80 student volunteers annually, ensuring smooth day-to-day operations
- Optimized the inventory recordkeeping system and streamlined workflows, achieving a 10% reduction in clerical errors
- Managed statistical data and organized information for effective dissemination to the Advisory Board Committee

Clubhouse Specialist Substitute

2022 - 2023

Oswego County Opportunities, Oswego, New York

- Facilitated group activities, ensuring adherence to protocols to maintain a safe and structured environment for youth
- Implemented behavior management techniques to foster an inclusive space for participants between 12-21 years old
- Built trust with small groups by addressing individual needs and providing focused support with life skills and wellbeing

Peer Specialist

2019 - 2022

Oswego County Opportunities, Oswego, New York

- Designed and customized lesson plans to effectively educate youth aged 15-21 on sexual health
- Developed comprehensive training materials and delivered public trainings on diverse topics, including sexual health and LGBTQ+ identities
- Researched and distributed vital information about HIV/AIDS to historically vulnerable communities, maintaining adherence to prevention and effective health outcomes

SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP**Peer Support & Social Group Facilitator**

2024 - Present

Harriet Hancock Center, Columbia, South Carolina

- Facilitate and lead group discussions on topics pertaining to supporting transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary communities
- Oversee and create connections with community partners for educational and experiential opportunities
- Collaborate with Communications Coordinator to create social media posts and boost engagement

*To the University of South Carolina***Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopment Research Center (CAN) Trainee Committee**

2024 - Present

- Organize and execute events tailored for diverse campus audiences, including undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and early-career scientists
- Facilitate group discussions, effectively moderating meetings to transform stakeholder feedback into actionable strategies
- Collaborate with faculty from multiple departments to design and implement informative and engaging events

Advisory Board Member, Ph.D. Candidate, Rhys Dreeszen-Bowman

2024 - 2025

- Actively participate in team meetings, contributing innovative ideas and offering collaborative feedback on research methodologies and interview questions
- Assisted in developing a community-focused media resource aimed at supporting transgender South Carolinians
- Engaged in outreach initiatives, boosting community awareness and participation in dissertation research

Thesis Advisee, Ph.D. Candidate, Mariana Foster

2024

- Provided expert guidance on inclusive language concerning transgender populations, ensuring survey measures were respectful and accurate for dissertation research
- Collaborated with the Ph.D. candidate to review and refine survey instruments, enhancing validity and reliability for capturing diverse gender experiences
- Offered insights on current best practices in inclusive research methodologies, ensuring alignment with ethical standards

*To the State University of New York at Oswego***President, Vice President, Cognitive Science Club**

2023

- Moderated group activities and discussions to spark interest in the field of cognitive science
- Directed and planned activities for club meetings, focusing on topics related to cognitive science and related fields

Member, Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

2022

- Actively participated in campus discussions on health, counseling, and prevention methods
- Suggested strategic improvements to health services and resources, focusing on enhancing student wellness

President, Vice President, Queer Trans Outreach Center (QTOC)

2021—2023

- Coordinated campus-wide events to promote inclusion and equity for students (e.g., [GLSEN's](#) Day of Silence)
- Strategized with the university's presidential cabinet members to ensure accessibility for LGBTQ+ campus members

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

TransTech Social x Linux Foundation Training & Certification Scholarship (\$600)	2024
Student Travel Award (\$325)	2023
Merit Scholarship, SUNY Oswego	2019-2023

HONORS, AWARDS, AND CERTIFICATES

Distinguished Cognitive Science Senior Award	2023
Excellence in French Award	2023
President's List	2019, 2020, 2023
Dean's List	2021 - 2022
Pi Delta Phi, SUNY Oswego	2023
Psi Chi, SUNY Oswego	2023
CITI Social & Behavioral Researchers Certificate	
CITI Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Certificate	

LANGUAGE, SKILLS, AND TECHNIQUES

Certified to use CABIN 3T MRI at University of Rochester	<i>Communication</i> - Canva, Copywriting, Academic Writing, Presentation, Project Management
<i>Data Analysis</i> - Python, R (tidyverse), SPSS, MATLAB	
<i>Electroencephalogram (EEG)</i> - E-Prime, E-Basic, NetStation, REDCap Database Management, ECG lead/EEG net placement	<i>Data Management</i> - Microsoft Excel. Data Cleaning, Data Visualization, Machine Learning, Database Design
<i>Machine Learning</i> - Prolog, PyTorch, TensorFlow	<i>Backend</i> - Node.js, Java, Problem Solving
<i>Frontend</i> - HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Git	
French – Near Fluent (CEFR C1 Level - “Advanced Low”)	
<i>Biology/Animal Care</i> - Pipette, Medication & Injection Administration, Special Diet Preparation, Recordkeeping	

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

TransTech Social	Pi Delta Phi, Psi Chi	Cognitive Science Society	Social and Affective Neuroscience Society
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