



Education & Training

Post-Doctoral Fellow <i>Carnegie Mellon University</i> <i>Verstynen Cognitive Axon Lab</i>	2017-
PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	2011-2016
B.S. in Neuroscience <i>University of Nebraska at Omaha</i>	2009-2011
General Studies <i>Western Nebraska Community College</i>	2006-2009

Dissertation

A biologically motivated synthesis of accumulator and reinforcement learning models for describing adaptive decision-making [[PDF](#)]

Pitt Advisor: Dr. Julie Fiez

CMU Advisor: Dr. Timothy Verstynen

Publications

Dunovan, K. and Wheeler, M.E. (In Review). *The before and after pictures of expectation: pre and post-sensory bias in inferior temporal cortex.*

Dunovan, K. & Verstynen, T. *Dual learning mechanisms drive adaptive inhibitory control.* *bioRxiv* (2017). doi:10.1101/153676 [[PDF](#)]

Dunovan, K. and Verstynen, T. (2016). *Believer-Skeptic meets Actor-Critic: Rethinking the role of basal ganglia pathways during decision-making and reinforcement learning.* *Frontiers in Neuroscience.* doi: 10.3389 [[PDF](#)]

Dunovan, K., Lynch, B., Molesworth, T., & Verstynen, T. (2015). *Competing basal ganglia pathways determine the difference between stopping and deciding not to go.* *eLife, 4, 1-24.* doi: 10.7554 [[PDF](#)]

Dunovan, K., Tremel, J.J., & Wheeler, M.E. (2014). *Prior probability and feature predictability interactively bias perceptual decisions*. *Neuropsychologia*, 61, 210-221. [[PDF](#)]

Posters

Dunovan, K. and Verstynen, T., *A biologically- constrained hybridization of reinforcement learning and accumulator models for adaptive decision-making* at Society for Neuroscience 2016. [[PDF](#)]

Dunovan, K., Molesworth, T., Verstynen, T., *The difference between stopping and deciding not to go: behavioral, imaging and modeling evidence* at Society for Neuroscience 2014. [[PDF](#)]

Wheeler, M.E., Dunovan, K. E., and Tremel, J. T., *Prior expectations bias hemodynamic activity before and during perceptual decisions: evidence from diffusion modeling and fMRI* at Society for Neuroscience 2014.

Dunovan, K., Tremel, J. T. and Wheeler, M. E. *Transient prior probabilities affect choice bias during temporally extended perceptual decision-making* at Society for Neuroscience 2012.

Mentoring

Matthew Clapp, Undergraduate Summer Program in Neural Computation Trainee University of South Carolina	Summer 17
Jacqueline Hon, Undergraduate CMU Neuroscience	2017-
Necati Alp Muyesser, Undergraduate Program in Neural Computation Fellow CMU Math	2016-
Jeremy Huang, Undergraduate CMU Computer Science	Summer 16
Brian Krainer, Undergraduate Program in Neural Computation Fellow CMU Cog. Science, Computer Science	2014-2016
Ashley Senders, Undergraduate Pitt Psychology, Neuroscience	2012-2013

Honors & Awards

CNBC McClelland Award	2016
Graduate Student Representative	2011-2012
Multimodal Neuroimaging Training Program	2011
Psi Chi President	2010-2011
Psi Chi Honors Society	2009-2011
Dean's List status	2009-2011
Chancellor's List status	2010

Teaching

TA, MNTP DSI module	Summer 15
TA, MNTP DSI module	Summer 14
Instructor, Cog. Psych. Lab	Spring 14
TA, Biopsychology	Fall 13
TA, Sensation and Perception	Fall 13
TA, MNTP fMRI module	Summer 13
TA, MNTP fMRI module	Summer 12
TA, Introduction to Psychology	Spring 12
TA, Research Methods	Fall 11

Methods & Languages

Computational Models of RL & Decision-Making
Attractor and Neural Network Models of Basal Ganglia
Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)
Behavioral Data Analysis & Psychophysics

Languages:

Python (fluent), MATLAB (mid-level), Shell (mid-level)