

Megan Finnegan

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2018 - current **Psychology, Ph.D.**, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Clinical-Community.*
Minor - Statistics
- 2015 - current **Neuroscience, Ph.D.**, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.*
Major - Computational Neuroscience; Minors - Machine Learning and Neuroimaging
- 2012 - 2015 **Cognitive Science, B.S.**, *University of California, Merced.*

Publications

- 2018 Laurent, H. K., Wright, D., **Finnegan, M.**, "Mindfulness-Related Differences in Neural Response to Own Infant Negative versus Positive Emotion Contexts". In: *Developmental cognitive neuroscience*.
- 2017 Carlile, S., Ciccarelli, G., Cockburn, J., Diedesch, A. C., **Finnegan, M. K.**, Hafter, E., Henin, S., Kalluri, S., Kell, A. J., Ozmeral, E. J., "Listening Into 2030 Workshop: An Experiment in Envisioning the Future of Hearing and Communication Science". In: *Trends in Hearing* 21, p. 2331216517737684.
- 2016 Husain, F. T., Tai, Y., **Finnegan, M. K.**, "Emotional Processing and Non-Auditory Based Interventions in Tinnitus". In: *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups 1.7. invited, not peer-reviewed*, pp. 13–23.
- Warlaumont, A. S., **Finnegan, M. K.**, "Learning to Produce Syllabic Speech Sounds via Reward-Modulated Neural Plasticity". In: *PLoS one* 11.1.
- 2014 **Finnegan, M.** "Mental illness in a petri dish". In: *NAMI Merced Spring Newsletter*. (commentary on reductionism in undergraduate education of psychiatric disorders), *invited, not peer-reviewed*.
- Finnegan, M.** "Not your average refrigerator magnet". In: *NAMI Merced Fall Newsletter*. (analysis of the current state of rTMS technology in treating MDD), *invited, not peer-reviewed*.

Posters/Presentations

- 2018 **Finnegan, M.**, Kern, S., Newberry, D., Heller, W., Laurent, H., *Addressing the atlas concordance problem in fMRI*. Annual Convention for the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, California.
- Laurent, H., **Finnegan, M.**, Kern, S., *Relations between mothers' neural response to their infant's positive emotion and risk for psychopathology*. Society for Research in Psychopathology, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2017 **Finnegan, M.**, Khan, F., Meno, C., Tai, Y., Menard, C., Husain, F., *Assessing the Effectiveness of Mindfulness-Based Therapy in the Management of Distressing Tinnitus*. ASHA 2017 Convention, Los Angeles, California.
- Finnegan, M.**, Schweizer, T., *Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy*. Presence Medical Center, Champaign Illinois (*invited*).

- Husain, F., **Finnegan, M.**, Khan, F., *Mindfulness-Based Therapies for Communication Disorders: Emerging Directions in Research*. ASHA 2017 Convention, Los Angeles, California.
- 2015 **Finnegan, M.**, Warlaumont, A., *Parameter and Speed Comparisons of the Articulatory Synthesizers used by DIVA and Praat*. University of California, Merced: Research Week Poster Competition.
- 2014 **Finnegan, M.** *Emergence of canonical babbling in neural networks: A model for language acquisition*. University of California, Merced: NSF Undergraduate Research Fellowship Summary Presentation.
- Warlaumont, A., **Finnegan, M.**, "Linking infant communication behavior to neurophysiology using computational modeling". In: *17th World Conference of Psychophysiology*. Hiroshima, Japan.

Awards

- Trainee Professional Development Award**, *Society for Neuroscience*, San Diego, 2018.
- Mary Jane Neer Scholarship**, *University of Illinois*, Champaign-Urbana, 2018.
- Listening into 2030**, Berkeley, California, 2016.
Travel Grant funded by Google, NSF, and Starkey Hearing Technologies
- Irl H. Marshall Scholarship**, *University of Illinois*, Champaign-Urbana, 2016.
- Elaine Paden Award**, *University of Illinois*, Champaign-Urbana, 2015.
- Illinois Distinguished Fellowship**, *University of Illinois*, Champaign-Urbana, 2015.
- Outstanding Graduating Undergraduate Student Award**, *University of California*, Merced, 2015.
School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
- NSF Undergraduate Research Mentorship Fellowship**, *University of California*, Merced, 2014.
for research in computational biology
- Chancellor's Honors**, *University of California*, Merced, 2013,2015.
- Dean's Honors**, *University of California*, Merced, 2012–2014.

Assistantships

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign **Librarian (Web Development)**, DRUPAL SITE CREATOR, under supervision of Dr. Dolores Albarracin, Fall 2018.
Creating the next generation of the UIUC Psychology Department website. Involved in site configuration, theming, and content management.
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign **Programmer**, NEUROIMAGING EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN, under supervision of Dr. Karen Rudolph, Summer 2018.
Created a Python version of an fMRI social evaluation task for use at the Beckman Institute Bioimaging Center. Served as supervisory expertise in updating a MATLAB version of a similar experiment for behavioral piloting.
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign **MATLAB Programming Workshop**, TEACHING ASSISTANT, under supervision of Dr. Alejandro Lleras, Summer 2017.
Designed class website and organized lab section of a MATLAB programming workshop for graduate students. Provided supplementary lectures and feedback on in-class assignments.

University of California, Merced **Emergence of Communication Lab**, RESEARCH ASSISTANT, under supervision of Dr. Anne Warlaumont, 2013–2015.

Utilized spiking neural networks to model the emergence of canonical babbling in infants through reinforcement based learning. Developed code to analyze and visualize network data, created new reinforcement policies, designed human listening experiments and documented and maintained existing code.

Modesto Junior College, California **Introduction to Abnormal Psychology**, TEACHING ASSISTANT, under supervision of Lee Kooler, MA, MFT, Spring 2012.

Graded student term papers and mid-semester assignments. Held regular office hours for tutoring and compiled a local mental health resource directory to assist future semesters in term projects.

Oakton Community College, Illinois **Honors Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research**, RESEARCH ASSISTANT, under supervision of Gary Mines, PhD, Fall 2006.

Worked under an NSF-funded chemistry internship on determining the three-dimensional structure of ostrich lysozyme. Developed a protocol for isolating lysozyme from albumen samples.

Undergraduate Mentoring

2017 Kay, E., Zimmerman, B., **Finnegan, M.**, Husain, F., *Assessing differences in grey matter anatomy after mindfulness-based practice in tinnitus patients*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Service

Interdisciplinary Graduate Society, UIUC, IL, 2016-current.

Officer serving in a "graduate-focused student community at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, connecting all disciplines, with emphasis on joining historically unrelated departments."

Computational Neuroscience Club, UIUC, IL, 2016-current.

Co-founded and current primary organizer for a group focused on exploring the information processing properties of the brain and mind. Activities center around a weekly journal club with explicit focus on encouraging interdisciplinary insights and collaborations.

Brain Awareness Day, UIUC, IL, 2016,2018.

Booth volunteer engaging young children in activities designed to foster an interest in neuroscience.

Mindfulness Instructor Practicum, UIUC, IL, Fall 2016 - Summer 2018.

Co-lead mindfulness training courses, including groups focused on drug and alcohol relapse prevention and childbirth and parenting (*practicum training supervised by Dr. Chris Menard and Dr. Heidemarie Laurent*).

Crisis Intervention Training, Fresno, CA, Champaign, IL, 2014,2016,2018.

Volunteered with NAMI in crisis intervention training programs, focused on teaching deescalation tactics to first responders when approaching individuals in mental health crises.

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Merced, CA, 2013.

Co-authored Building Healthy Communities grant application awarded to NAMI, Merced, that allowed mental illness awareness and suicide prevention workshops to be presented to all freshman high school students in Merced County for the 2014-2015 school year.

Catholic Charities, Intake Specialist and Case Manager, 2010 - 2011.

Determined eligibility and provided assistance to clients in applying for human services relief.