

# Yao Zhao

imyaozhao@gmail.com ❖ Baltimore, Maryland

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## EDUCATION

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**University of California, Irvine**

**Sept. 2018 – Mar. 2021**

*B.A., Psychology*

*Irvine, CA*

- *Summa cum laude*
- Relevant coursework: Statistics, fMRI Research & Lab, Human Memory, Cognitive Neuroscience, Brain Disorders, Human Neuropsychology, Metacognition, Abnormal Psychology

## TECHNICAL & PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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- BrainVoyager (fMRI data analysis)
- Trained MRI tech
- TMS methods
- Human research subject experience
- MATLAB
- Mendeley
- Bash scripting
- Brain Imaging Data Structure (BIDS)
- SPSS, Microsoft Office
- Windows, macOS, and Linux server
- Inventory, ordering, and wet lab management
- Fluent in English and Chinese

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**IRTA Postbac**

**July 2022 – Present**

Kahnt Lab, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA/NIH)

PI: Thorsten Kahnt, Ph.D.

*Baltimore, MD*

**Research Study Assistant**

**July 2021 – June 2022**

Kahnt Lab, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

PI: Thorsten Kahnt, Ph.D.

*Chicago, IL*

- Assisted with currently on-going project investigating olfaction and the role of orbitofrontal cortex in learning, decision making, and reward behavior
  - MRI tech; operated scanner to safely obtain brain images
  - Hands-on TMS experience
  - Setup of custom-built olfactometer (odor delivery system)
- Helped in experimental design, piloting subjects, and troubleshooting MATLAB code for a new project
- Managed inventory, ordering, and lab safety and compliance with university standards

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

**Jan. 2020 – June 2021**

Visual Perception and Neuroimaging Lab, School of Social Sciences, UC Irvine

PI: Emily Grossman, Ph.D.

*Irvine, CA*

- Independently performed data analysis for on-going, NSF-funded project investigating structural and functional architecture that shape neural tuning within the human posterior superior temporal sulcus
- Experience working individually and in a team of four, working with and without deadlines
- Assisted on multiple other projects involving identifying unique activation patterns in pSTS for actions, and whether if “cueing” a subject about upcoming action strengthens connectivity between IFG and pSTS
  - Contributed via preprocessing, organization of raw data and data analysis

**Course Assistant / Reader****Oct. 2020 – Dec. 2020**

for PSYCH 119 – fMRI Research Lab

*Irvine, CA*

- Assisted instructor in answering students' technical questions about fMRI research techniques in BrainVoyager
- Graded and made answer keys for weekly lab assignments

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Jing Wang CPA, Torrance, CA. *Accounting Intern.*****May 2017 – Feb. 2018**

- Data entry of multiple clients' finances into Excel spreadsheets, organized bank statements, wrote patent descriptions, and worked with accounting software to document business' expenses

**Efficient Power Conversion (EPC), El Segundo, CA. *Summer Intern.*****June 2015 – Sept. 2015**

- Conducted a small research project on GaN semiconductors and the properties of them, and created a PowerPoint presentation based on my findings which was presented to the entire office, including the CEO

**HONORS & AWARDS**

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**Order of Merit Award****June 2021**

- For academic excellence, original research, leadership activities, and service contributions to the School of Social Sciences, UCI campus, or community.

**Dean's Honor List****Sept. 2018 – Mar. 2021**

- For maintaining above a 3.5 GPA with 12 course units.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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- fMRI & TMS methods
- Decision making
- Olfaction
- Substance abuse
- Reward
- Learning
- Clinical applications
- Psychopathology & brain disorders