

SOLENA DAVINE MEDNICOFF

Ph.D Candidate ◊ Curriculum Vitae

Department of Cognitive Sciences ◊ University of California

smednico@uci.edu ◊ solena-mednicoff.com

EDUCATION

- University of California, Irvine** 2015 - Present
Ph.D. in Cognitive Sciences *Expected: 2021*
with an emphasis in Cognitive Neuroscience
Advisors: Dr. Charles Chubb & Dr. Greg Hickok
- University of California, Irvine** 2015 - 2017
M.S. in Cognitive Neuroscience
- University of Nevada, Reno** 2011 - 2015
B.S. in Neuroscience, Minor in Piano Performance
Advisor: Dr. Michael A. Webster
Thesis: Ensemble coding within and across musical instruments

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Social Media Marketing Graduate Student Researcher** 2019 - Present
UCI Graduate Division *UC Irvine*
- Create content and strategic marketing campaigns for the UC Irvine Graduate Division Social Media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube.
 - Manage work-flows and logistics with the communications team to implement content from user engagement analyses.
 - Construct A/B tests across multiple ad campaigns.
 - Develop user engagement analyses through statistical modelling based on performance amongst the platforms.
 - Build reports for marketing campaign performance to share with University leadership and stakeholders.
- Graduate Student Researcher** 2015 - Present
Chubb/Wright Lab, Auditory & Language Neuroscience Lab *UC Irvine*
- Why do we perceive emotions in music and speech? My research examines the sensitivity of the human auditory system to tonality and emotional content in music and speech. Over the course of my degree, I have garnered experience in fMRI techniques through analyzing neural data and networks to model and explain unanswered questions within the music, speech, and auditory domains.
 - Gained experience in psychoacoustics, statistical analyses, Monte Carlo simulations, modeling, coding through Matlab, as well as analyzing audio- and spectrograms through Praat.
 - Built and studied the behavior of neural networks in classes like Computational Neuroscience and coded classifiers for multivariate pattern analyses in fMRI data analysis.
 - Managed research assistants and organized team work for multiple ongoing research projects within the labs.
- Center for Hearing Research Predoctoral Fellow** 2016 - 2018
T32 Trainee *UC Irvine*
- Made connections and worked with other researchers and principle investigators to collaborate on current and future projects.
 - Invited and organized the schedule for a speaker for the Center for Hearing Research (CHR) 2017-2018 Seminar Series

- Gave audiometric (hearing) tests to seniors and contributed to the CHR 2017 Sound Minds Newsletter.
- Presented my research to various audiences with different research backgrounds.

Research Internship

May 2014 - July 2014

Research Assistant

Cleveland Clinic: Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

- Collected and recorded semantic and phonemic fluency speech data to investigate the relationship between brain trauma and cognitive functioning in professional boxers and mixed martial artists in collaboration with Dr. Charles Bernick and Dr. Sarah Banks.
- Results showed a positive correlation between semantic fluency and hippocampal volumes, and a negative correlation between exposure and semantic fluency after repetitive traumatic brain injuries.
- Administered Montreal Cognitive Assessments to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's patients to test for any cognitive impairments

Undergraduate Researcher

2013 - 2015

Visual Perception Lab

University of Nevada, Reno

- Learned how to work cohesively in a research setting and developed basic skills in experimental design and data collection.
- Designed my own project that became my Honors Undergraduate Thesis and lead my own research team with three fellow undergraduate peers.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduate Student Research Fellowship

2019 - 2021

UC Irvine, Graduate Division

Associate Dean Fellowship

Fall 2018

UC Irvine, School of Social Sciences

Graduate Student Travel Award

May 2018

UC Irvine, School of Social Sciences

SEMPRE Student Travel Award

April 2018

International Conference for Music Perception & Cognition

Center for Hearing Research Project Funding

October 2017

UC Irvine, Center for Hearing Research

NIH Sponsored fMRI Training Program

August 2017

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Rapid Grant Award

Fall 2016

UC Music Experience Research Community Initiative

T32 NIH-NRSA Predoctoral Training Fellowship

2016 - 2018

UC Irvine, Center for Hearing Research

1st Place Poster Award 2015 Winner

April 2015

Western Regional Honors Conference

Honors Undergraduate Research Award

October 2014

University of Nevada, Reno

First Place Poster Psi Chi Research Fair

May 2014

University of Nevada, Reno

Millenium Scholarship

2011 - 2015

University of Nevada, Reno

Barringere Scholarship for music performance

2011 - 2015

University of Nevada, Reno

Albert, Henry, & Edith Scholarship

2011 - 2013

University of Nevada, Reno

PAPERS

Conference Proceedings

- **Mednicoff, S.**, Mejia, S., Rashid, J., and Chubb, C. (2018). The effects of tone duration in discriminating major/minor modes. *Proceedings for the 15th International Conference for Music Perception and Cognition*, Montreal, Quebec, CA, July 23-28, 2018.

Manuscripts

- **Mednicoff, S.**, Mejia, S., Rashid, J., and Chubb, C. (2018) “Many listeners cannot discriminate major or minor tone-scrambles regardless of presentation rate.” *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. (Accepted Sept. 10, 2018).
- **Mednicoff, S.** and Chubb, C. “Discriminating major/minor modes revisited: does training help?” (Under Review). *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.

TALKS

- Chubb, C., Dean, T., **Mednicoff, S.**, Ho, J., Waz, S., Douthitt C., Comishen, K., Adler, S. (2019, August) What tone-scramble experiments reveal. Talk presented by C. Chubb at the 2019 Society for Music Perception and Cognition Conference, New York City, NY.
- **Mednicoff, S.** Mejia, S., Rashid, J., and Chubb, C. (2018, July). The effects of tone duration in discriminating major/minor modes. Talk presented at the 15th International Conference for Music Perception and Cognition, Montreal, Quebec, CA.
- **Mednicoff, S.** (2018, January). The effects of tone duration in discriminating major/minor modes. Third Year Pre-advancement talk at the Cognitive Sciences Department, UC Irvine.
- **Mednicoff, S.** (2017, January). Bimodal Distribution of Performance in Discriminating Major/Minor Modes. Journal Club Presentation at Center for Hearing Research, UC Irvine.
- **Mednicoff, S.** (2016, April). Your Brain as a Musician. Speech presented at the Las Vegas Academy Piano Institute 2016 Sharing is Caring Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

POSTERS

- **Mednicoff, S.** and Chubb, C. (2019, Sept). *Discriminating Major/Minor Modes Revisited: Does Training Help?* Poster presented at the SoCal Hearing Conference, Irvine, CA.
- Huynh, M., Hwang, S., Ho, J., **Mednicoff, S.**, Chubb, C., Hickok, G. (2019, May). *Assessing Emotional Processing in People with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA.
- Pham, N., Lopez, E., Gonzalez, K., Ho, J., **Mednicoff, S.**, and Chubb, C. (2018, May). *Pitch Discrimination in Tone Sequences and Speech Production*. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA.
- **Mednicoff, S.** and Chubb, C. (2017, Aug). *Discriminating Major/Minor Modes Revisited: Does Training Help?* Poster presented at the Society for Music Perception and Cognition conference, San Diego, CA.
- Mejia, S., **Mednicoff, S.**, Rashid, J., and Chubb, C. (2017, May). *Effects of Tone Duration in Tonality Perception*. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA.
- **Mednicoff, S.**, Skiba, R.M., and Webster, M. (2015, Aug). *Ensemble coding within and across musical instruments*. Poster presented at the 2015 Society for Music Cognition and Perception Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Ara, J., **Mednicoff, S.**, and Webster, M. (2015, May). *Adaptation and compensation in anomalous trichromacy*. Poster presented at the 2015 Visual Sciences Society Conference, St. Pete Beach, FL.

- **Mednicoff, S.**, Skiba, R.M., and Webster, M. (2015, April). *Ensemble coding in music perception*. Poster presented at the 2015 Undergraduate Research Poster Conference, Reno, NV.
- **Mednicoff, S.**, Skiba, R.M., and Webster, M. (2015, April). *Ensemble coding within and across musical instruments*. Poster presented at the 2015 Western Regional Honors Conference, Reno, NV. (1st Place in Poster Competition)
- Banks, S., **Mednicoff, S.** and Bernick, C. (2015, Feb). *Verbal Fluency and Brain Health in Boxers and Mixed Martial Arts Fighters*. Poster presented at the 2015 International Neuropsychological Society Annual Meeting Denver, CO.
- Sternberg, H., **Mednicoff, S.**, Goto, K., Mac, A., Tregillus, K., Kingdom F.A.A., and Webster, M.A. (2014, May). *Painted faces: Misperceiving shading as pigmentation*. Poster presented at the Psi Chi, Undergraduate Research Fair, Reno, NV. (1st Place in Poster Competition)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC Irvine

Instructor

Psychology Fundamentals 9B, Psychology and Social Behaviors 11B

Teaching Assistant

Abnormal Psychology, Writing about Memory, Psychology of Social Behaviors, Psych. Research Methods

University of Nevada, Reno

Discussion Group Peer Leader

Neuroscience Fundamentals

MENTORING

UC Irvine

2016 - Present

I have mentored 10 undergraduate students on various research projects:

- **Amanda Marquiz** (January 2019 - Present) Received a fellowship through the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) at UC Irvine for the project: “Similarities and dissociations in predisposed individuals to learning music and scale-sensitivity.” Current position: Cognitive Sciences Major/ Research Assistant
- **Olivia Capizzi** (2018 - Present) Received a fellowship award through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) at UC Irvine for the project: “Harmonic Structure and the Discrimination of Major/Minor Modes.” Current position: Music Major/ Research Assistant
- **Luis Zambrano** (2018 - Present) Received a fellowship award through UROP at UC Irvine for the project: “Harmonic Structure and the Discrimination of Major/Minor Modes.” Current position: Music Major/ Research Assistant
- **Nellie Kwang** (2017 - Present) Received a fellowship award through UROP at UC Irvine for the project: “Harmonic Structure and the Discrimination of Major/Minor Modes.” Current position: Cognitive Sciences Major/ Research Assistant
- **Suyeon Hwang** (2018 - 2019) Received a fellowship award through UROP at UC Irvine for the project: “Assessing emotional processing in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.” Current position: Graduate Student at University of Illinois
- **Melissa Huynh** (2017 - Present) Received a fellowship award through UROP at UC Irvine for the project: “Assessing emotional processing in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.” Current position: Cognitive Sciences Major/ Research Assistant
- **Nguyen Pham** (2017 - 2018) Co-author on one poster. Current position: Cognitive Sciences Major/ Research Assistant
- **Elvira Lopez** (2017 - 2018) Co-author on one poster. Current position: Cognitive Sciences Major/ Research Assistant

- **Karen Gonzalez** (2016 - 2018) Co-author on one poster. Current position: Cognitive Sciences Major/ Research Assistant
- **Stephanie Mejia** (2016 - 2017) Received a fellowship award through UROP at UC Irvine for the project: “The Effect of Tone Duration on Discriminating Major/Minor Modes.” Co-authored a poster and manuscript. Current position: Director at Global Connect @ UC Irvine

SKILLS

Programming Languages	Matlab, L ^A T _E X, Praat, R, Python
Software & Tools	BrainVoyager, Microsoft Office, SPSS, JASP, Audacity, Photoshop
Languages	English (native), Spanish (conversational)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Writing Center Consultant 2014 - 2015
University Writing Center *University of Nevada, Reno*

- Assisted undergraduate and graduate students in every stage of the writing process.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Society for Music Perception and Cognition
Society for Education and Music Psychology Research
International Society for Music Perception and Cognition
International Society for Music Information Retrieval
Women in Music Information Retrieval (WiMIR)
Nu Rho Psi - International Honors Society for Neuroscience