

Celia Fernández Ford

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EDUCATION

UC Berkeley, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, Berkeley, CA

Ph.D. in Neuroscience, expected 2023

Brown University, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences, Providence, RI

Sc.B. in Cognitive Neuroscience, May 2017

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2019** Bay Area Society for Neuroscience Travel Fellowship
- 2019** RLDM (Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making) Travel Fellowship
- 2018** National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2018** Milton I. and Florence Mack Neurology Research Scholarship, University of California, Berkeley
- 2017** Marian Diamond Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley
- 2016** Samuel Nabrit Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University
- 2015** Leadership Alliance Scholar, University of Chicago

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2017** Magna Cum Laude, Brown University
- 2017** CLPS Premium for Excellence in Cognitive Neuroscience, Brown University
- 2017** Honors in Cognitive Neuroscience, Brown University
- 2016** Deep Learning Hackathon First Prize, Brown Initiative in Computation in Brain and Mind
- 2013** National Hispanic Merit Scholar
- 2013** Salutatorian, Timber Creek High School

MEMBERSHIPS

2018 - Society for Neuroscience

2017 - Sigma Xi

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UC Berkeley, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Graduate Student Researcher**, Fall 2017 – present
Principal Investigator: Dr. Joni Wallis
Project: Neuronal mechanisms of hidden state inference

Brown University, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Fall 2014 – Spring 2017
Principal Investigator: Dr. David Badre
Thesis: "Task switching, or task integration? Learning working memory gating policies in dual-task settings."

Projects: Learning and transfer of working memory gating policies (Fall 2015 – Fall 2016); Dynamic control of declarative memory decisions (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015)

University of Chicago, Department of Psychology, Chicago, IL

- ❖ **Leadership Alliance Scholar**, Summer 2015
Principal Investigator: Dr. Jasmin Cloutier
Project: Influence of context and social dominance on rapid trait judgements

TEACHING

UC Berkeley, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Graduate Student Instructor**, Spring 2020
Neurobiology of Disease, Instructors: Dr. Robin Ball, Dr. Helen Bateup, & Dr. Stephan Lammel
- ❖ **Graduate Student Instructor**, Fall 2018
Drugs and the Brain, Instructor: Dr. David Presti

Brown University, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Science, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Teaching Assistant**, Spring 2017
Introduction to Programming, Instructor: Dr. Thomas Serre
- ❖ **Teaching Assistant**, Spring 2016
Computational Cognitive Science, Instructor: Dr. Thomas Serre

Brown University, Department of Neuroscience, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Teaching Assistant**, Fall 2016
The Brain: Introduction to Neuroscience, Instructors: Dr. John Stein & Dr. Michael Paradiso

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Ford, C., & Wallis, J. (2021, January). Nonhuman primates use hidden-state inference during reversal learning (Virtual poster). Society for Neuroscience. Online.

Ford, C., & Wallis, J. (2019, October). Exploring interactions between model-based and model-free reinforcement learning systems in nonhuman primates (Poster). Society for Neuroscience. Chicago, IL.

Ford, C., & Wallis, J. (2019, July). Dissociating model-based and model-free reinforcement learning in a nonhuman primate model (Poster). Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making. Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Ford, C. (2017, May). Task switching, or task integration? Learning working memory gating policies in dual-task settings (Undergraduate honors thesis), Brown University. doi: 10.7301/Z03F4N19.

Ford, C., Bhandari, A., and Badre, D. (2016, August). Multitasking: Task Switching, or Task Integration? (Poster). Brown University Summer Research Symposium, Providence, RI.

Ford, C., & Bayer, P. (2016, August). Visual Reasoning in Humans and Artificial Neural Networks (Oral presentation and demonstration). Deep Learning Hackathon, Providence, RI.

Ford, C., Li, T., & Cloutier, J. (2015, July). Status judgments as a function of the interaction between facial dominance and social context (Oral presentation and poster). Leadership Alliance National Symposium (LANS), Samford, CT.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Carry the One Radio (podcast host, executive board member)

- ❖ “Young Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Katherine Hatcher.” October 2020
- ❖ “Young Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Nancy Padilla.” September 2020
- ❖ “Of Brains and Machines.” July 2020
- ❖ “Women in Science: Dr. Flora Rutaganira.” March 2020

Berkeley Science Review (contributing writer)

- ❖ “2020’s wake up calls stir action in STEM.” September 2020

Massive Science (contributing writer)

- ❖ “Brain waves with the same beat as ‘Call Me Maybe’ induce dissociative states.” November 2020
- ❖ “A bit of obligation binds us together, but too much breeds resentment.” June 2020
- ❖ “Mice’s brains fight enemy cells by talking directly to their spleens.” May 2020

OUTREACH & ACADEMIC SERVICE

ULAB (Undergraduate Laboratory @ Berkeley): Psychology & Cognitive Sciences, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Graduate Student Advisor**, Fall 2019 – present
Advises undergraduates on self-guided research projects and facilitates scientific literacy workshops.

Graduate Student Mentorship Program, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Mentor**, Fall 2019 – present
Meets monthly with first-year graduate student to discuss lab rotations and transitioning to grad school.
- ❖ **Graduate Student Coordinator**, Fall 2018 – present
Matches mentors and mentees and organizes networking events.

Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS), Community Resources for Science, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Volunteer Instructor**, Fall 2017 – present
Teaches one-hour hands-on lesson, *Our Brains Sensing Our World*, to first-grade students at public schools in Berkeley, Oakland, and Richmond.

Neuroscience Boot Camp, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Graduate Student Coordinator**, Fall 2018 – Fall 2019
Organizes 10-day orientation program for incoming neuroscience graduate students.

Thriving in Science, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Peer Group Facilitator**, Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
Led small group discussions among early-career researchers about mental health in academia.

Women in Science and Engineering, Brown University, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Mentor**, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016
Guided first-year cognitive science undergraduate through STEM curriculum and navigating challenges faced by women and underrepresented minorities.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

95.5 WBRU-FM, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Intern Director**, Rock Department, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
- ❖ **Drive-Time Personality (DJ)**, Rock Department, Fall 2013 – Spring 2017

Office of Residential Life, Brown University, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Community Assistant**, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
- ❖ **Women's Peer Counselor**, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP), Davidson, NC

- ❖ **Residential Counselor**, Summer 2014