

Celia Fernández Ford

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EDUCATION

UC Berkeley, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute Berkeley, CA

Ph.D. in Neuroscience, expected Spring 2022

❖ Thesis Advisor: Dr. Joni Wallis

Brown University, Providence, RI

Sc.B. in Cognitive Neuroscience, May 2017

❖ Honors Thesis: "Task Switching, or Task Integration? Learning working memory gating policies in dual-task settings."

Thesis Advisor: David Badre, Ph.D.

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2018 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)

2018 Milton I. and Florence Mack Neurology Research Fund, 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

2013 National Hispanic Merit Scholar

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

2017 Sigma Xi Associate Member

2016 Deep Learning Hackathon First Prize, Brown Initiative in Computation in Brain and Mind

2013 Salutatorian, Timber Creek High School

RESEARCH

University of California, Berkeley: Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, Berkeley, CA

❖ Dissociating neural circuits driving model-based and model-free learning, 2018-present

Principal Investigator: Dr. Joni Wallis

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

❖ Honors Thesis: Learning working memory gating policies in dual-task settings, Summer 2016-Spring 2017

Principal Investigator: Dr. David Badre, **Mentor:** Dr. Apoorva Bhandari

❖ Learning and transfer of working memory gating policies, Fall 2015-Fall 2016

Principal Investigator: Dr. David Badre, **Mentor:** Dr. Apoorva Bhandari

❖ Dynamic control of declarative memory decisions, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Principal Investigator: Dr. David Badre, **Mentors:** Dr. Justin Cox, Dr. Jason Scimeca

University of Chicago: Department of Psychology, Chicago, IL

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

PRESENTATIONS

"Task Switching, or Task Integration? Learning working memory gating policies in dual-task settings." Honors Thesis Defense at Brown University. Providence, RI, May 2017.

"Visual Reasoning in Humans and Artificial Neural Networks." Oral presentation and demonstration at the Deep Learning Hackathon. Providence, RI, August 2016.

"Multitasking: Task Switching, or Task Integration?" Poster presentation at the Brown University Summer Research Symposium. Providence, RI, August 2016.

"Status Judgments as a Function of the Interaction Between Facial Dominance and Social Context." Poster presentation at the Chicago Research Symposium (CRS). Chicago, IL, August 2015.

"Status Judgments as a Function of the Interaction Between Facial Dominance and Social Context." Oral presentation at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium (LANS). Stamford, CT, July 2015.

TEACHING

University of California, Berkeley: Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Berkeley, CA

- ❖ **Graduate Student Instructor: Drugs and the Brain, Fall 2018**
Led weekly discussion and review sections, created online review materials, and graded assignments and exams.

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

- ❖ **Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Programming, Spring 2017**
Empowered life sciences students to develop computational thinking skills and MATLAB proficiency. Helped create weekly tutorials, lab activities, and homework assignments, held weekly office hours, and graded projects.

Brown University: Department of Neuroscience, Providence, RI

- ❖ **Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Neuroscience, Fall 2016**
Instructed weekly small group recitation sections and large-scale exam review sessions, held weekly office hours, and graded exams.

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

- ❖ **Teaching Assistant: Computational Cognitive Science, Spring 2016**
Contributed to curriculum development, helped design weekly homework assignments, held weekly office hours, and graded assignments and final exam.

OUTREACH EFFORTS & SERVICE

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

- ❖ **Volunteer Instructor, Fall 2017 – present**
Travels to Bay Area elementary schools twice per month to engage first grade students in a one-hour lesson: "Our Brains Sensing Our World." Students learn how the brain processes sensory input, while gaining a broad understanding of the scientific method and being introduced to a diverse group of young scientists.

Neuroscience Boot Camp, University of California, Berkeley

❖ **Coordinator**, Fall 2018

Organized 10-day orientation program for incoming neuroscience graduate students.

Thriving in Science, University of California, Berkeley

❖ **Peer Group Facilitator**, Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Scheduled meetings and facilitated small group discussion among graduate students and postdoctoral researchers about impostor syndrome, failure, resilience, and mental health in academia.

Women in Science and Engineering, Brown University

❖ **Mentor**, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Matched with first-year student interested in cognitive science and helped her navigate the process of studying science as a woman at Brown and as an underrepresented minority in STEM.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

95.5 WBRU-FM, Providence, RI

❖ **Intern Director (Rock Department)**, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

❖ **Disc Jockey (Rock Department)**, Fall 2013 – Spring 2017

Drive-time on-air personality: interview credits include Cage the Elephant, M83, The 1975, The Last Shadow Puppets, Bastille, Wolf Alice, Young the Giant, BØRNS.

Brown University Office of Residential Life, Providence, RI

❖ **Community Assistant**, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

❖ **Women Peer Counselor**, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP), Davidson, NC

❖ **Residential Counselor**, Summer 2014

Classic Rock School of Music, Orlando, FL

❖ **Piano and Violin Instructor**, Spring 2012 – Summer 2013