

# SOPHIE(XING) SU

1W 6286 Cates Avenue, University City, MO  
(607-379-4627) ◇ s.sophie@wustl.edu

## EDUCATION

---

### Washington University in Saint Louis

Ph.D. in Psychology

Master in Psychology

Advisor: Dr. Jeff Zacks

Completed Cognitive, Computational and Systems Neuroscience (CCSN) Pathway

Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis

*Aug 2021 - May 2026*

GPA:3.97

### Cornell University

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Economics

*cum laude* in Psychology, Distinction in all subjects

*July 2017 - May 2019*

GPA:3.799

### China University of Political Science and Law

Majored in Applied Psychology

\*Transferred to Cornell University after sophomore year

*September 2015 - June 2017\**

GPA 4.03, Top 10% of the class

## GRANTS & AWARDS

---

- Departmental Dissertation Grant, Psychological and Brain Sciences – \$1,000 2025
- Travel Awards, The McDonnell Center for Systems Neuroscience– \$500x 2025
- Departmental Research Grant, Psychological and Brain Sciences – \$1,000 2024
- Psychonomics Graduate Conference Award – \$1,000 2022
- The College of Arts Sciences, Cornell University Dean’s list 2017–2019
- Cornell Undergraduate Research Grant – \$500 2018–2019
- Cornell Summer Experience Grant – \$3,000 Summer 2018
- College Student Research Grant, Ministry of Education of China – \$1,200 2017–2018
- National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China – \$500 2016

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- Su, X., & Zacks, J. M. (preprint). *Acting Out at the Movies: Enacting Actions Enhances Memory For Action Descriptions But Does Not Improve Memory or Segmentation of Movies*. [https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jb32n\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jb32n_v1)
- Su, X., Bezdek, M. A., Nguyen, T. T., Hall, C. S., & Zacks, J. M. (2025). Predictive looking and predictive looking errors in everyday activities. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.
- Su, X., & Swallow, K. M. (2024). People can reliably detect action changes and goal changes during naturalistic perception. *Memory & Cognition*, 1–19.

- Koirala, N., Perdue, M. V., **Su, X.**, Grigorenko, E. L., & Landi, N. (2021). Neurite density and arborization is associated with reading skill and phonological processing in children. *NeuroImage*, 241, 118426.
- Koirala, N., Kleinman, D., Perdue, M. V., **Su, X.**, Villa, M., Grigorenko, E. L., & Landi, N. (2021). Widespread effects of dMRI data quality on diffusion measures in children. *Human Brain Mapping*.

## INVITED TALKS

---

- 2025 Dr. Les Loschky's Visual Cognition Laboratory Lab Meeting, Kansas State University
- 2025 Cognitive, Computational and Systems Neuroscience Mini-Retreat, Washington University in Saint Louis

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

- Su, X., Upadhyayula, A. (2025, May). Semantic Information Shapes Gaze Patterns During Naturalistic Movie Viewing. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Su, X., Cohn, J., Zacks, J. (2024). Action Enhances Memory of Descriptions but Not Memory or Segmentation of Movies. Poster presented at Psychonomics Conference, Boston, MA.
- Su, X., Bezdek, M., Nguyen, T., Hall, C., Zacks, J. (2024, May). Predictive Looking and Predictive Looking Errors in Everyday Activities. Talk presented at Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Su, X., Bezdek, M., Nguyen, T., Hall, C., Zacks, J. (2022, Dec). Predictive Looking and Predictive Looking Errors in Everyday Activities. Poster presented at Psychonomics Conference, Boston, MA.

## TEACHING & MENTORING

---

**Instructor** 2024  
*Washington University in St. Louis*

- Selected Topics in Psychology

**Teaching Assistant** 2022–2023  
*Washington University in St. Louis*

- Introduction to Psychology (2023)
- Psychology of Learning (2022)
- Genes, Environment, and Behavior (2022)

**Mentoring**  
*2021–2024*

- Neuromatch Academy – Led Python sessions for 12 graduate students (Jul–Aug 2021)
- Undergraduate Research Mentor: Jeremy Cohn (2023–2024)

## SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

- Volunteer for the Amazing Brain Carnival SciFest, Saint Louis Science Center (2024)
- Social Committee Member, Psychology Department, WashU (2022–2023)

- Conference Volunteer, psychonomics society(2024)
- Ad Hoc Reviewer: Cognition, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review
- Student Member: Psychonomic Society, APS, Society for Neuroscience

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

---

### **Dynamic Cognition Laboratory**

*PhD Researcher*

August 2021 - present

*Principal Investigator: Dr.Jeff Zacks*

- Explore the relationship between event performance and event perception.
- Model prediction in visual dynamic cognition by integrating state of the art static and dynamic saliency prediction models and real people gaze patterns.
- Investigate the role of context in event perception by stimulating prediction using the extended structured event memory model in various contexts.

### **Haskins Laboratories**

*Research Associate*

August 2019 - present

*Principal Investigator: Dr.Nicole Landi*

- Design the research plan; select, employ and assess various machine learning algorithms to identify anatomical features that are correlated to reading abilities
- Create and maintain a REDCap database of more than 2000 participants' behavior, genetics, and neuroimaging information using R and Bash script for the *Imaging Genetics in Specific Reading Disability (SRD): Meta- and Mega-analyses* project
- Work under Dr.Nabin Koirala to build an automated MRI imaging quality check pipeline by employing bash and Freesurfer scripts and building regression models using R
- Preprocess, clean, restructure and reformat neuroimaging data for future analysis using customized bash scripts on high performance computing linux clusters
- Reorganize, restructure and standardize behavior data of more than 2000's participants across different sites
- Organize weekly lab meeting of research ideas and progress

### **Attention, Memory & Perception lab at Cornell University**

*Honors Thesis Student*

Jan 2018- May 2019

*Principle Investigator: Dr.Khena Swallow*

- Developed research question, study design, and experiment stimuli under the supervision of Dr.Khena Swallow
- Coded experiment stimuli using Matlab, administered the experiments to 120 Undergraduate students and analyzed the behavior data collected using R
- Presented this project at the 2019 Cornell Undergraduate Psychology Conference
- Coded event segmentation cues in experiment stimuli using Cowlog
- Participated in weekly lab meeting, presented research ideas and literature reviews

### **Child's Witness & Cognition Lab at Cornell University**

*Research Assistant*

Jan 2018 - August 2018

*Principle Investigator: Dr.Stephen J. Ceci*

- Worked under Dr.Kayla Burd to compare different types of verdict procedures and the impact of requiring reasoned verdicts on the jury's decision making process
- Edited the mock case used in the experiment by counterbalancing various cognitive cues using Qualtrics
- Coded and analyzed mock jurors' qualitative data to determine the impact of jury verdict procedure on jurors' decision making and judgement

### **SNAP lab at Stanford University**

*Summer Research Assistant*

June 2018 - August 2018

*Principle Investigator: Dr.Ian Gotlib*

- Analyzed fornix Diffusion tensor imaging data to explore the relationship of fornix development and early life stress using R
- Assisted with magnetic Resonance Imaging data acquisition, quality check and preprocessing using neuroimaging processing software such as Freesurfer and MrDiffusion
- Assisted Dr.Tiffany Ho with generating, editing fornix diffusion tensor imaging data of 200 adolescents
- Assisted Dr.Emily Dennis with identifying amygdala and hippocampus of 2-years old's magnetic Resonance Imaging structure imaging

**Wang's lab at China University of Political Science and Law**

June 2016 - June 2017

*Research Assistant*

*Principle Investigator: Dr.Guofang Wang*

- Conducted an independent study on the relationship between social media use and political polarization
- Developed the experiment using E-Prime, collected survey data from 400 participants using Qualtrics
- Analyzed the data using SPSS, co-wrote the project report

## REFERENCES

---

Dr.Jeff Zacks, Washington University in Saint Louis

Email: jzacks@wustl.edu, 314-935-8454

Dr. Zachariah M Reagh , Washington University in Saint Louis

Email: zreagh@wustl.edu,314-935-5176