

# Weijia Cao

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🌐 <https://weijiacao.github.io/>

## EDUCATION

**New York University**, New York, NY, United States

2021 – 2023

M.A. in Experimental Psychology

Emphasis on Cognitive Neuroscience

Advisor: David Poeppel, Ph.D.

Thesis: *Memory for taxonomic and thematic conceptual relations*

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, WI, United States

2017 – 2021

B.A. in Psychology & B.A. in Statistics (double-major)

Minor in French

**University of California, Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA, United States

2016

Summer Sessions

Enrolled coursework: Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Introductory Psychology

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

**Poeppel Lab, New York University**, New York, NY, United States

2021 – 2023

Research Assistant, *Advisor: David Poeppel*

- Led and conducted studies focused on understanding memory for linguistic information and cross-modal stimuli
- Collaborated on behavioral and human electrophysiological (MEG) experiments to study music perception and cognition
- Collaborated on behavioral and human electrophysiological experiments to study real-time somatosensory feedback in speech production using auditory feedback perturbation

**Cognitive Development & Media Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, WI, United States

Research Assistant, *Advisor: Heather Kirkorian*

2020 – 2021

- Calibrated and analyzed eye gaze and visual fixation data
- Collaborated on behavioral experiments to study the relationship between children's cognitive development and media interactivity

## AWARDS & HONORS

Master's Research Conference Second Place Finish, New York University

2022

Germaine Mercier Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2021

Larkin Burl Price Memorial Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2020

Undergraduate Scholarship for Summer Study, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019

Fall 2018 Dean's List, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019

## SELECTED CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Thematic relations outperform taxonomic relations in a cued recall task (submitted)

2023

*Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

The mnemonic basis of taxonomic and thematic conceptual relations (accepted)

*International Conference on Learning and Memory*, Huntington Beach, CA, United States.

2023

The mnemonic basis of taxonomic and thematic conceptual relations

*Master's Research Conference*, New York, NY, United States.

2022

The effect of interactivity on toddler's object retrieval: Comparing the live and video situations

*Undergraduate Symposium*, Madison, WI, United States.

2021

## MANUSCRIPTS

**Cao, W.\***, Raccach, O.\*, Chen, P., & Poeppel, D. (In prep). The mnemonic basis of taxonomic and thematic conceptual relations.

Raccach, O.\*, Seltenreich, M.\*, **Cao, W.**, & Poeppel, D. (In prep). Scale-driven perceptual abilities determine scale selection cross-culturally.

## SKILLS & OTHER

**Programming:** Python, PsychoPy, PsychoJS, PyTorch, MATLAB, NumPy, scikit-learn, GitHub

**Data Analysis:** R, SPSS, MS Excel, Regression Analysis

**Neuroimaging:** MEG

**Visual Fixation Coding:** Datavyu, GazeTag

**Language:** English, Chinese, French (proficient)

**Technical coursework:** Mathematical Tools for Neural and Cognitive Science, Probability, Applied Regression Analysis, Nonparametric Statistics, Machine Learning and Statistical Pattern Classification, Deep Learning and Generative Models

**Technical course projects:** Deep-Learning Based Speech Emotion Recognition (CNN, RNN, Transformer Neural Networks), Machine-Learning Based Authorship Identification in Web Fictions (kNN, C4.5 Decision Tree, Random Forests, Multinomial Naive Bayes, Bagging)

**Other:** Musical instruments (gu zheng, recorder), video editing (Adobe Premiere), audio editing (Audacity, Adobe Audition)

**OUTREACH &  
SERVICE**

Teaching Assistant, *Advanced Psychological Statistics*

New York University, New York, NY, United States

**2023**

Chair of Event Planning Department, *Yuan-Shan Study Society*

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, United States

**2019 – 2021**

Student Member and Volunteer Language Tutor, *Chinese Language and Culture Club*

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, United States

**2017 – 2018**