

## Shari Liu

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Psychology  
Harvard University  
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### EDUCATION

#### Harvard University

Ph.D. in Psychology (2016- expected 2020)  
A.M. in Psychology (2014-2016)

#### Dartmouth College

A.B. in Psychology, *summa cum laude* (2010-2014)

### Publications

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Liu, S.**, Brooks, N. B. & Spelke, E. S. (2019). Origins of the concepts cause, cost, and goal in prereaching infants. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(36), 17747-17752. doi:[10.1073/pnas.1904410116](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1904410116)

**Liu, S.**, \*Gonzalez, G., & Warneken, F. (2018). Worth the wait: Children trade off delay and reward in self- and other-benefiting decisions. *Developmental Science*, e12702. doi:[10.1111/desc.12702](https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12702)

**Liu, S.**, Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Spelke, E. S. (2017). Ten-month-old infants infer the value of goals from the costs of actions. *Science*, 358(6366), 1038-1041. doi:[10.1126/science.aag2132](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aag2132)

**Liu, S.**, & Spelke, E. S. (2017). Six-month-old infants expect agents to minimize the cost of their actions. *Cognition*, 160, 35-42. doi:[10.1016/j.cognition.2016.12.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2016.12.007)

Parkinson, C., **Liu, S.**, & Wheatley, T. (2014). A common cortical metric for spatial, temporal, and social distance. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 34(5), 1979-1987. doi:[10.1523/jneurosci.2159-13.2014](https://doi.org/10.1523/jneurosci.2159-13.2014)

#### REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**Liu, S.**, Cushman, F. A., Gershman, S. J., Kool, W., & Spelke, E. S. (2019). Hard choices: Children's understanding of the cost of action selection. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Liu, S.**, McCoy, J. P., & Ullman, T. D. (2019). People's perceptions of others' risk preferences. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Liu, S.**, Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Spelke, E. S. (2017). What's worth the effort: Ten-month-old infants infer the value of goals from the costs of actions. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

#### UNDER REVIEW & IN PREPARATION

**Liu, S.**, Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Spelke, E. S. (Under review). Dangerous ground: Thirteen-month-old infants are sensitive to peril in other people's actions. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/rvydk>

**Liu, S.**, & Warneken, F. (In prep). Rational optimism in children's social reasoning.  
\* = student advisee

## Conference Presentations

### TALKS

**Liu, S.** [symposium chair], Brooks, N. B., & Spelke, E. S. (January 2020). Prereaching infants' understanding of others as causal agents. In "Making things happen: How infants and children understand agents' interventions on the physical world". Symposium to be conducted at the 10th annual *CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD20)*, Budapest, Hungary.

**Liu, S.**, Cushman, F., Gershman, S., Kool, W., & Spelke, E. S. (July 2019). Hard choices: Children's understanding of the cost of action selection. Slide session conducted at the 41st annual meeting of the *Cognitive Science Society*, Montreal, Canada.

**Liu, S.**, McCoy, J., & Ullman, T. (July 2019). Perceptions of others' risk preferences. Slide session conducted at the 41st annual meeting of the *Cognitive Science Society*, Montreal, Canada.

**Liu, S.**, Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Spelke, E. S. (July 2018). Infants use risk and effort to infer what agents value. In "Effort and Persistence Across Early Development". Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *International Congress on Infant Studies (ICIS)*, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

**Liu, S.**, Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Spelke, E. S. (July 2017). What's worth the effort: Ten-month-old infants infer the value of goals from the costs of actions. Slide session conducted at the 39th annual meeting of the *Cognitive Science Society*, London, UK.

**Liu, S.**, \*Gonzalez, G., & Warneken, F. (April 2017). Children weigh the costs and rewards in altruistic decision-making. In Children's Reasoning about the Costs and Rewards of Prosocial Decisions. Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)*, Austin, TX, USA.

Parkinson, C., **Liu, S.**, & Wheatley, T. (April 2013). A common cortical metric for spatial, temporal and social distance. In Social Networks & Reward. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the *Social & Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)*, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Parkinson, C., **Liu, S.**, & Wheatley, T. (December 2012). The neural representation of psychological distance. Slide session conducted at the *Harvard University Social Brain Sciences Symposium*, Cambridge, USA.

### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Liu, S.**, Brooks, N. B., & Spelke, E. S. (October 2019). Origins of the concepts *cause*, *cost*, and *goal* in prereaching infants. Poster to be presented at the biennial meeting of the *Cognitive Development Society (CDS)*, Louisville, KY, USA.

**Liu, S.**, \*Aguirre, A., Cushman F. A., Gershman, S. J., Kool, W., and Spelke, E. S. (October 2017). Children's sensitivity to the cost of action selection. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Cognitive Development Society (CDS)*, Portland, OR, USA.

**Liu, S.**, Ullman, T. D., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Spelke, E. S. (April 2017). Ten-month-old infants infer value from effort. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)*, Austin, TX, USA.

**Liu, S.**, Brooks, N. B., & Spelke, E. S. (May 2016). Pre-reaching infants expect causal agents to act efficiently without motor training. Poster presented at the biennial *International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS)*, New Orleans, LA.

**Liu, S.**, & Spelke, E. S. (January 2016). Continuous representations of action efficiency in infancy. Poster presented at the *CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD16)*, Budapest, Hungary.

**Liu, S.**, & Spelke, E. S. (October 2015). Six-month-old infants represent action efficiency on a continuous scale. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Cognitive Development Society (CDS)*, Columbus, OH, USA.

**Liu, S.**, & Warneken, F. (October 2015). Rational optimism in children's social reasoning. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Cognitive Development Society (CDS)*, Columbus, OH, USA.

Parkinson, C., **Liu, S.**, & Wheatley, T. (April 2013). A common neural encoding of spatial and semantic distance. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS)*, San Francisco, USA.

Parkinson, C., **Liu, S.**, & Wheatley, T. (October 2012). Multivoxel pattern analysis reveals a domain-general neural encoding of psychological distance. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Society for Neuroscience (SfN)*, New Orleans, USA.

Parkinson, C., **Liu, S.**, & Wheatley, T. (October 2012). Multivoxel pattern analysis reveals a domain-general neural encoding of psychological distance. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Society for Social Neuroscience (SfN satellite event)*, New Orleans, USA.

## Fellowships and Awards

2019 Knox Fund Large Grant, Harvard University (\$3500)  
2016-20 Restricted Funds Small Grant (x5), Harvard University (\$500)  
2016-19 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)  
2019 Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Sophomore Tutorial)  
2019 George W. Goethals Teaching Prize (Sophomore Tutorial)  
2018 Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Social Psychology)  
2017 Cognitive Science Society Student Travel Award  
2017 Society for Research in Child Development Student Travel Award  
2014 Stimson Research Grant, Harvard University (\$1000)  
2014 Phi Beta Kappa, Dartmouth College  
2014 Escobosa Family Honors Thesis Prize in Psychology, Dartmouth College  
2014 Nickerson 1964 Psychological and Brain Sciences Prize, Dartmouth College  
2014 James O. Freedman Presidential Scholar, Dartmouth College  
2014 Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

## Teaching

2019-20 Co-Supervisor, Senior Thesis (Harvard PSY 991)  
2014-19 Guest Lecturer, Lab in Early Cognitive Development (Harvard PSY 1652r)  
2019 Teaching Assistant, Brains Minds and Machines Summer School  
2019 Course Instructor, Sophomore Tutorial (Harvard PSY 971)  
2018 Teaching Fellow, Social Psychology (Harvard PSY 15)  
2017 Co-Supervisor, Independent Research (Harvard PSY 910r)

## Professional Service

2019-20 Co-organizer, Harvard-Yale Workshop in Developmental Psychology  
2018-9 Co-organizer, Developmental Studies Seminar (Harvard)  
Reviews: Cognition, Cognitive Science, Cognitive Science Society, Developmental Science,  
Journal of Emerging Investigators, Journal of Experimental Child Psychology,  
Trends in Cognitive Sciences

**Selected  
Research Talks**

2019 Department of Psychology Colloquium, Stanford  
2019 Ma Lab, NYU  
2019 Computational Cognitive Science Group, MIT  
2019 Snedeker Lab, Harvard  
2019 Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, MIT  
2019 Early Childhood Cognition Lab, MIT  
2019 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard  
2018 Visual Attention Lab, Harvard Medical School  
2018 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard  
2017 Early Childhood Cognition Lab, MIT  
2017 Cognition, Brain and Behavior Research Seminar, Harvard  
2017 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard  
2016 Boston Area Psychology Graduate Student Symposium, Northeastern  
2016 Center for Brain Minds and Machines Annual Retreat, MIT  
2016 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard  
2016 Boston Area Moral Cognition Group, Harvard  
2015 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard

**Student  
Advisees**

Aracely Aguirre (Harvard, Spring 2015-2017)  
Amelia Andrews (Tufts, Spring-Summer 2017)  
Hannah Becker (Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2015)  
— Research Assistant, Harvard  
Kendall Carr (Wesleyan, Summer 2019)  
— Current graduate student, Wesleyan University  
Sara Dablouk (University of Bath, Fall 2018-Summer 2019)  
Spencer Daus-Haberle (Bates, Summer 2016)  
Daisy Evariz (Harvard, Spring 2018-Spring 2019)  
Nensi Gjata (Harvard, Summer 2018-present)  
Gorana Gonzalez (University of Florida, Fall 2015)  
— Current graduate student at UMass Amherst  
Juliet Isselbacher (Harvard, Spring 2019)  
Caroline Kerwin (Harvard, Fall 2015-Fall 2017)  
Kexin Que (University of Bath, Fall 2019)  
Jane Rhee (Harvard, Fall 2019)  
Jordyn Ricard (Northwestern University, Summer 2018)  
Chrystal Spencer (Rutgers, Summer 2017)  
— McNair Scholar, Rutgers  
Akshita Srinivasan (University of Hyderabad, Summer 2017-2018)  
— Current graduate Student at Harvard  
Connie Wong (University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2015)

**Technical  
Skills**

**Programming:** R, Python, C, JavaScript  
**Statistics:** R  
**Graphics:** Illustrator, Blender