

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Psychological and Brain Sciences

Advised by Chaz Firestone

– Thesis: “Cognitive consequences of visual complexity” (in-progress)

Johns Hopkins

2019–2022(expected)

M.A. Psychological and Brain Sciences

Advised by Chaz Firestone

Johns Hopkins

2017–2019

M.S. Cognitive Neuroscience

Advised by Jin-yan Wang

Chinese Academy of Sciences

2013–2016

– Thesis: “Investigation of Pain-related attentional bias and its regulations”

LL.B International Politics

Nanjing University

2009–2013

PUBLICATIONS

- Sun, Z., Firestone, C. (2021). Speaking and seeing: How verbal “description length” encodes visual complexity. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.
- Sun, Z., Firestone, C. (2021). Curious objects: How visual complexity guides attention and engagement. *Cognitive Science*, 45(4), e12933.
- Sun, Z., Firestone, C. (2020). Optimism and pessimism in the predictive brain. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 24, 683-685.
- Sun, Z., Firestone, C. (2020). The dark room problem. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 24, 346-348.
- Fan, L., Sun, Y. B., Sun, Z.K., Wang, N., Luo, F., Yu, F., Wang, J. Y. (2018). Modulation of auditory sensory memory by chronic clinical pain and acute experimental pain: a mismatch negativity study. *Scientific Reports*, 8(1), 1-13.
- Sun, Z.K., Wang, J.-Y. and Luo, F. (2016). Experimental Pain Induces Attentional Bias That Is Modified by Enhanced Motivation: An Eye Tracking Study. *European Journal of Pain*, 20(8), 1266-1277.

Manuscripts in preparation

- Sun, Z., Firestone, C.. The simple and the beautiful: An aesthetic preference for medially complex stimuli.
- Sun, Z., Firestone, C.. The evolution of complexity in visual memory.
- Sun, Z., Yu, Q. Not too simple, not too complex: The Goldilocks principle drives visual attention and memory.
- Sun, Z., Firestone, C.. Cognitive consequences of visual complexity.

PRESENTATIONS

- Sun, Z., Han, S., & Firestone, C. (May 2021). The evolution of complexity in visual memory. **Talk** given at the 21th annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Online
- Sun, Z., & Firestone, C. (June 2020). The simple and the beautiful: An aesthetic preference for medially complex stimuli. **Poster** given at the 20th annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Online
- Halberda, J., Yu, Q., Sun, Z., & Firestone, C. (June 2020). Not too simple, not too complex: The Goldilocks principle drives discrimination and search. **Poster** presented at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Online
- Sun, Z., & Firestone, C. (November 2019). Speaking about seeing: How verbal descriptions encode visual complexity. **Talk** given at the 27th annual meeting of Object Perception, Attention, Memory (OPAM), Montreal, Canada.
— Award of Best Talk
- Sun, Z., & Firestone, C. (November 2019). Speaking about seeing: How verbal descriptions encode visual complexity. **Poster** presented at the 19th Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, FL.
— Travel Award
- Sun, Z., & Firestone, C. (May 2018). Curious objects: Preattentive processing of object complexity. **Talk** given at the 18th annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, FL.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Clark Collaborative Award** 2021
 - Award to students who initiate cross-lab collaborative projects
The complexity of coding, Johns Hopkins
- **The Mary Ainsworth Award** 2021
 - Annual award to an outstanding female student, Johns Hopkins
- **The Robert S. Waldrop Junior Investigator’s Award** 2019
 - Annual award to a graduate student who has demonstrated
exceptional scholarly progress in pre-dissertation graduate research, Johns Hopkins
- **Best Talk Award** 2019
 - Talk given at the annual meeting of Object Perception, Attention, and Memory, Montreal
- **VSS Student Travel Award** 2019
- **Collaborative Research Award** 2018
 - Department award to support a project of Goldilocks principle in memory, Johns Hopkins
- **Graduate Student Award** 2015; 2016
 - Chinese Academy of Sciences

TEACHING

- **Real World Human Data (TA)** Spring 2020
Johns Hopkins University
- **Methods in Experimental Psychology (TA)** Fall 2019
Johns Hopkins University
- **Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (TA)** Spring 2019
Johns Hopkins University
- **Introduction to Social Psychology (TA)** Fall 2018
Johns Hopkins University

SKILLS

- **Programming**
Python, JavaScript, Matlab, R
- **Analysis**
behavioral data, eye tracking data, fMRI data

TRAINING

- **Summer School**
Neuromatch Academy - Computational Neuroscience
(Interactive track)

SERVICE

- Early Career Colloquium Selection Committee** Johns Hopkins
Student organizer Fall 2020
- Summer Internship Program** Johns Hopkins
Mentor, Vision Group Summer 2019
 - Project: Shape bias and complexity bias
 - Mentee: Subin Han, Cognitive Science Department, JHU
- Department Colloquium Committee** Johns Hopkins
Student organizer Fall 2019