

Daniel John Levitas

EDUCATION

Indiana University

PhD Candidate (Expected 2021)

Advisor: Dr. Thomas James

University of Maryland, College Park

B.S., Psychology & B.A., History (double major)

GPA: 3.42

May 2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Laboratory of Cognition & Emotion

Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Luiz Pessoa

Research Topic: Investigating interactions between appetitive and aversive processing in healthy human adults using behavioral and brain imaging techniques.

Jan 2016-July 2017

College Park, MD

Projects:

- Working on an fMRI study that investigates the integration of positive and negative information in human brain. Programmed the task in PsychoPy, and analyzed behavioral ratings data using Python.
- Assisted with behavioral studies that investigated: (1) influence of performance-based monetary rewards on emotional distractors during perception and (2) influence of simultaneous positive and negative distractor stimuli on task performance.
- Assisted with fMRI data collection for other ongoing projects in the lab that included
- screening participants for MR safety and helping during scan sessions.
- Supervise undergraduate research assistants in day to day tasks.

Developmental Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab

Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Redcay

Research Topic: Examining the neural and cognitive development of social processing in typically developing individuals and those with ASD using fMRI

May 2015-July 2017

College Park, MD

Projects:

- Analyzed resting-state data of 1,112 participants from the Autism Brain Imaging Data Exchange (ABIDE) to compare functional heterogeneity and organization in the right temporo-parietal junction (rTPJ) between typically developing children (TD) and those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Used Analysis of Functional Neuroimages (AFNI) scripts to preprocess data, and Surface Mapping (SUMA) for surface-based analyses.
- Comparing social-cognitive networks and motivations between TD and ASD children using a real-time social paradigm. Programmed fMRI task and two behavioral tasks with PsychoPy and performed an item analysis on behavioral pilot data to assess feasibility of the paradigm before scanning individuals.
- Operate MRI scanner, safety screen participants, and run behavioral sessions.

Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL)

Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Catherine Doughty

Research Topic: Development and validity of cognitive tasks designed to predict foreign language acquisition proficiency for government employees.

Feb 2015-Dec 2015

College Park, MD

Projects:

- Conducted test-retest reliability studies on CASL-designed cognition tasks that predict foreign language acquisition proficiency. Proctored sessions of up to 16 participants per session, which included ensuring no cheating, and assisting participants with questions. Scored and analyzed data using R.

Decision, Attention, and Memory Lab

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Michael Dougherty

Research Topic: Effects of training on working memory.

Projects:

- Assisted in fMRI study to assess the efficacy of working memory training between a control group and group with 20 hours of training that occurred between the first and second scan. Ran scan sessions and analyzed behavioral data using Matlab.

June 2012-June 2013

College Park, MD

WORK EXPERIENCE

CoStar Group

Research Associate II

Responsibilities: Researched information on commercial real estate properties, current market trends, and analytics in the Chicago market for a company portfolio generating \$530,000 annual revenue

Oct 2013-Feb 2015

Washington, DC

University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center

Operations Assistant

Responsibilities: Repairing and maintaining gym equipment in a timely manner; manage outdoor fields for recreational and organized team sports' use.

June 2011-Aug 2013

College Park, MD

POSTERS

Moraczewski, D., **Levitas, D.**, Redcay, E. (May 2016) Atypical functional heterogeneity of the right temporo-parietal junction in ASD. Presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research in Baltimore, MD.

PUBLICATIONS

Alkire, D., **Levitas, D.**, Warnell, K. R., & Redcay, E. (2018). Social interaction recruits mentalizing and reward systems in middle childhood. *Human brain mapping*, 39(10), 3928-3942.

AWARDS AND ADVANCED TRAINING

Maryland Neuroimaging Center MRI operator training	2016
Maryland Neuroimaging Center Level 2 training	2016
Principles of FMRI I Coursera course	
2016	
Analysis of Functional Neuroimages (AFNI) Bootcamp	2016
Research Associate II Promotion	2014
University Academic Honors (Dean's List) for 5 terms	2009-2012

SKILLS

Neuroimaging software tools (AFNI, SUMA, FreeSurfer)

Programming (Python, PsychoPy, R, Unix/Linux, Matlab)

Microsoft Office suite

<https://github.com/dlevitas>