
Kess L Folco

folkess@gmail.com
kessand@iu.edu

EDUCATION

Indiana University Bloomington, 2017-present

Psychological and Brain Sciences pre-doctoral candidate
Student Academic Appointee

Overall GPA: 4.0

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, 2010-2016

Bachelor of Sciences in Psychology

Undergraduate Honors Thesis: *Comparing search for schematic words and faces: Evidence for parallel and unlimited capacity processing of these two categories*

Overall GPA: 3.47

Psychology GPA: 3.53

Joliet Junior College, 2009-2010

Dual credit enrollment during high school

Overall GPA: 4.0

HONORS AND AWARDS

2011

Dean's List (Spring Semester)

2012

Dean's List (Spring Semester)

2016

Vision, Cognition, and Human Perception Division Award:
Christopher Wickens Award

2016

Distinction in Psychology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Visual perceptual processes and behaviors that influence perceptual and behavioral decision making
- Individual differences in perceptual behaviors and how these differences affect development
- How attention, control of attention, and expertise modulate perceptual abilities
- Modeling perceptual processes like visual expertise and selective visual attention

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Folco, K.L., Fridberg, D.J., Arcurio, L.R, Finn, P.R. Heiman, J. R., James, T. W. (2021). Neural mechanisms of sexual decision-making in women with alcohol use disorder. *Psychopharmacology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-021-05815-w>

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Buetti, S., Ng, G. J. P., Sanders, K. L., Hur, J., & Heller, W. (2016, November). Distortions in Time Perception: Individual Differences and Sense of Control. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

Sanders, K. L. & James, Thomas W. (2018, October). Alcoholic Drink Preferences Modulate Acquired Salience. Poster presented at the Indiana University graduate research symposium, Bloomington, Indiana.

- Sanders, K. L., & James, T. W. (2019, May). Alcoholic drink preferences modulate acquired salience. *Journal of Vision*, 19(10), 30a-30a.
- Sanders, K. L. & James, Thomas W. (2019, October). Distinct BOLD signal time course profiles found for sensation, reward, and perception in social alcohol drinkers. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, Illinois.
- Michaels, A. N., Folco, K. L., & James, T. W. (2020, March). Part Vs. Whole Face Recognition in Typically-Developing Individuals Informs ASD Emotion Recognition. In *APS Virtual Poster Showcase*. PSYCHOLOGICALSCIENCE.
-

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017-present *PhD Student*
Perception and Neuroimaging Laboratory
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Responsibilities: Design and program behavioral and neuroimaging experiments. Train undergraduates about research process at all stages from collecting data and the ethics of human subjects research to experimental display programming and analysis. Appropriately analyze behavioral and neuroimaging data. Projects to date include four completed visual behavioral tasks, which are being composed into a manuscript. Currently two behavioral tasks, a functional imaging task, and diffusion data analysis are ongoing
Faculty Advisor: Thomas W. James, Ph.D
- 2015-2017 *Honors Thesis*
Valence modulates visual search for words and schematic faces
Human Attention Laboratory
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Responsibilities: Design, program, and run experiments investigating the hypothesis based on pilot data from an undergraduate honors thesis that valence modulates visual search. Data collection involves instructing participants on a computerized visual ratings task or a visual search task and monitoring their performance. Sample sizes planned for visual ratings and visual search are 30 and 20, respectively
Faculty Advisors: Simona Lleras-Buetti, Ph.D. and Alejandro Lleras, Ph.D
- 2015-2017 *Independent Research*
Change detection during blinks versus blanks
Eye-Tracking Laboratory
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Responsibilities: Design and run experiments investigating the cost of blinking on change detection. Data collection involves operating EyeLink II eye-tracking system and monitoring participants' eye movements while they complete a computerized change detection task. Complete processing and analysis of data files. Sample sizes are 16 for two experiments; 32 total participants.
Faculty Advisor: David Irwin, Ph.D.
- 2013-2015 *Research Assistant*
Human Attention Laboratory
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Responsibilities: Prepared materials for new experiments, communicated with graduate students and faculty for project assignments and priorities, collaborated with the psychology building technology personnel to keep lab computers functioning, and coordinated with other research assistants for use of lab space. Executed a wide variety of data collection methods including recruiting specific populations, coordinating multi-session paid behavioral experiments, recruiting and training for fMRI experiments, assisting with fMRI data collection, eye tracking, and basic behavioral data collection on computerized tasks. Composed explicit instructions and trained next generation of research assistants to continue data collection on a long-term project.

Faculty Advisors: Simona Buetti-Lleras, Ph.D. and Alejandro Lleras, Ph.D.

2014-Present

Lab Member

**Relational Perception and Thinking Laboratory
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL**

Responsibilities: Discuss ongoing projects, provide feedback on practice presentations, and participate in intellectual discourse.

Faculty Advisor: John Hummel, Ph.D.

2014-Present:

Research Assistant

**Eye Tracking Laboratory
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL**

Responsibilities: Prepare experimental documentation, help participants feel comfortable in laboratory setting and ensure they are fully informed of task requirements, conduct sensitive studies involving air puff near the eye region, keep records of participants, and handle cash flow. Maintain regular communication with faculty and graduate students about progress, conditions, and any issues in the lab.

Faculty Advisor: David Irwin, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-present

Student Academic Appointee, Teaching Assistant

**Psychological and Brain Sciences
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN**

Instructors: Sharlene Newman, Ph.D. (Fall 2017), Thomas W. James, Ph.D. (Spring 2018), Anna Kalinovsky, Ph.D. (Fall 2018, 2019), Bennett Bertenthal, Ph.D. (Spring 2020, 2021, Fall 2020)

2011-2014

Administrative Assistant

**Institute of Aviation, 2011-2013; Talbot Hall, 2013-2014
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL**

Responsibilities: File sensitive documents, type mailing lists, answer phones, create course binders, complete assorted copying, and do other minor office tasks

Supervisor: Laura Gerhold, B.S.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

2010-2012

Member, Precision Flight Team, UIUC

2010-2012

Member, Women in Aviation, UIUC

2010-2012

Member, Career Fair Planning Committee, UIUC

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2018-Present *Tutor*, Volunteers In Tutoring Adult Learners, Bloomington, IN
2017 *Research mentor*, Harmony High School, Bloomington, IN
2015-2017 *Reader*, Illinois Radio Reader, Urbana, IL
2010-2012 *Kennel Assistant*, Champaign County Humane Society, Champaign, IL

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Upper-Level Psychology UIUC:

Coursework GPA: 3.82

Statistical Methods I and II, Cognitive Psychophysiology, Developmental
Psycholinguistics, Measurement and Test Development Lab, Neural Network
Modeling Lab, Models of Decision and Choice

REFERENCES

Thomas W. James

Perception and Neuroimaging Lab
Psychological and Brain Sciences
1101 E. 10th St.
Bloomington, IN 47405-7007
Phone: (812) 856-0841
Email: thwjames@indiana.edu

Peter Finn

Finn Lab
Psychological and Brain Sciences
1101 E. 10th St.
Bloomington, IN 47405-7007
Phone: (812) 855-9548
Email: finnp@indiana.edu

Bennet Bertenthal

Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab
Psychological and Brain Sciences
1101 E. 10th St.
Bloomington, IN 47405-7007
Phone: (812) 856-0958
Email: bbertent@indiana.edu