

## CURRICULUM VITAE

# LAURA CACCIAMANI, PH.D.

California Polytechnic State University  
Building 47, Room 23M  
1 Grand Ave.  
San Luis Obispo, CA

Lcacciam@calpoly.edu  
805-756-2703 (work)  
814-229-3179 (home)  
www.lauracacciamani.com

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Psychology & Child Development  
*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA* 2016-Present

**Lecturer**, Department of Psychology (part-time)  
*California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA* 2015-2016

---

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Postdoctoral Fellowship** 2014-2016  
*The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, CA*

Project: “Rehabilitation of working memory representations in the congenitally blind”  
Preceptor: Dr. Lora T. Likova

**Ph.D. in Psychology, Minor in Neuroscience** 2014  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

Focus: Cognition & Neural Systems  
Dissertation: “Beyond conscious object perception: Processing & inhibition of the groundside”  
Dissertation advisor: Dr. Mary A. Peterson (major), Dr. Paige E. Scalf (minor)

**M.A. in Psychology** 2010  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

Focus: Cognition & Neural Systems  
Master’s thesis: “Holding faces in working memory interferes with face discrimination”  
Thesis advisor: Dr. Mary A. Peterson

**B.S. in Psychology and Biological Sciences** 2009  
*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA*

Graduated as a Science & Humanities Scholar, with College Honors  
Honors thesis: “Real-world processing of word-referent pairs in adults”  
Honors thesis advisor: Dr. Eric Thiessen

---

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Principal Investigator**, Multisensory Perception Lab 2016-Present  
*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA*

Investigating how our various senses work together to produce a complete understanding of the world around us

**Postdoctoral Fellow**, Likova Lab 2014-2016  
*The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, CA*

Used fMRI and behavioral techniques to study tactile perception and memory in the blind

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Visual Cognition Lab 2009-2014  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

Examined the neural underpinnings of visual object perception using fMRI and behavior

**Honors Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Infant Cognition Lab 2007-2009  
*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA*

Investigated adults' ability to learn novel objects under varying levels of ambiguity

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Courses taught

**California Polytechnic State University**  
Sensation & Perception

Fall 2016, Win. 2017

**California State University, East Bay**  
Human Learning & Cognition Laboratory  
Cognitive Processes

Fall 2015, Spr. 2016, Sum. 2016  
Win. 2016

**The University of Arizona**  
Sensation & Perception  
Introduction to Psychology (Teaching Assistant)

Sum. 2013, Spr. 2014, Sum. 2014  
Fall 2009, Spr. 2010

### Guest lectures

**The University of Arizona**

Cognitive Psychology (Lecture: "Visual perception")	Sum. 2014
Sensation & Perception (Lecture: "The retina")	Fall 2013
Cognitive Psychology (Lecture: "Visual perception")	Spr. 2013
Biopsychology (Lecture: "The action potential")	Fall 2012
Introduction to Psychology (Lecture: "Biopsychology")	Sum. 2012
Introduction to Psychology (Lecture: "Visual perception")	Sum. 2010

---

## MENTORING EXPERIENCE

**Arizona Assurance Volunteer Mentor** 2012-2014  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

Mentored 2 low-income minority freshmen during their transition to college (in-person meetings 2-4 times per semester)

**Undergraduate Research Supervisor** 2009-2014  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

Supervised a total of 13 undergraduate research assistants in laboratory research projects

---

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- Cacciamani, L., & Likova, L. T.** (2016). Tactile object familiarity in the blind brain reveals the supramodal perceptual-mnemonic nature of the perirhinal cortex. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, 10*(92), 1-11.
- Likova, L. T., Tyler, C. W., **Cacciamani, L.**, Mineff, K., & Nicholas, S. (2016). The cortical network for braille writing in the blind. *Human Vision and Electronic Imaging, 16*, 1-6.
- Cacciamani, L.**, Scalf, P. E., & Peterson, M. A. (2015). Neural evidence for competition-mediated suppression in the perception of a single object. *Cortex, 72*, 124-139.
- Cacciamani, L.**, Mojica, A. J., Sanguinetti, J. L., & Peterson, M. A. (2014). Semantic access occurs outside of awareness for the groundside of a figure. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics, 76*(8), 2531-2547.
- Cacciamani, L.**, Ayars, A. A., & Peterson, M.A. (2014). Spatially rearranged object parts can facilitate perception of intact whole objects. *Frontiers in Psychology: Perception Science, 5*(82), 1-11.
- Peterson, M. A., **Cacciamani, L.**, Mojica, A. J., & Sanguinetti, J. L. (2012). Meaning can be accessed for the groundside of a figure. *Journal of Gestalt Theory, 34*(3), 297-314.
- Peterson, M. A., **Cacciamani, L.**, Barense, M. D., & Scalf, P. E. (2012). The perirhinal cortex modulates V2 activity in response to the agreement between part familiarity and configuration familiarity. *Hippocampus, 22*, 1965-1977.
- Salvagio, E., **Cacciamani, L.**, & Peterson, M. A. (2012). Competition-strength-dependent ground suppression in figure-ground perception. *Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics, 74*, 964-978.

### **Book Chapters**

- Peterson, M. A., & **Cacciamani, L.** (2013). Toward a dynamical view of object perception. In Z. Pizlo & S. Dickinson (Eds.), *Shape Perception in Human and Computer Vision: An Interdisciplinary Perspective* (pp. 443-457). London: Springer.

### **Manuscripts Under Review**

- Cacciamani, L., & Likova, L. T.** (under review). Memory-guided drawing training increases Granger causal influences from the perirhinal cortex to V1 in the blind. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*.

### **Manuscripts In Preparation**

- Cacciamani, L., & Likova, L. T.** (in prep). Transfer of learning in the blind: Enhancement of spatial-cognitive abilities through drawing.
- Cacciamani, L., Wager, E., Peterson, M. A., & Scalf, P.E.** (in prep). Age-related changes in functional connectivity between the perirhinal cortex and the visual cortex.

---

## SELECTED CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Cacciamani, L., Likova, L. T.** (2016, November). Memory-guided drawing training increases Granger causal influences from the perirhinal cortex to V1 in the blind. Society for Neuroscience Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Cacciamani, L., Likova, L. T.** (2016, May). The role of the perirhinal cortex in tactile perception and memory in the blind. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Cacciamani, L., Likova, L. T.** (2015, October). The role of the perirhinal cortex in tactile perception and memory in the blind. Society for Neuroscience Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Cacciamani, L., Wager, E., Peterson, M. A., & Scalf, P. E.** (2014, November). Connectivity between the perirhinal cortex and the visual cortex in young and older adults. Society for Neuroscience Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Cacciamani, L., Scalf, P. E., & Peterson, M. A.** (2014, May). Competition-based ground suppression in extrastriate cortex and the role of attention. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, St. Pete Beach, FL. *Journal of Vision*, 14(10), 45-45.
- Cacciamani, L., Scalf, P. E., & Peterson, M. A.** (2013, November). Evidence of top-down mediated ground suppression in extrastriate cortex. Society for Neuroscience Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Cacciamani, L., Mojica, A. J., Sanguinetti, J. L., & Peterson, M. A.** (2013, May). Accessing meaning for the groundside of a figure: How long does it last? Vision Sciences Society Meeting, Naples, FL. *Journal of Vision*, 13(9): 71. doi:10.1167/13.9.71
- Scalf, P. E., **Cacciamani, L., Barense, M. D., & Peterson, M. A.** (2013, May). Representation of object parts and wholes in V2 modified by medial temporal lobe structures. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, Naples, FL. *Journal of Vision*, 13(9): 1002. doi:10.1167/13.9.1002
- Cacciamani, L., Mojica, A. J., Sanguinetti, J. L., & Peterson, M. A.** (2012, December). Accessing meaning for the groundside of a figure: How long does it last? University of Arizona & Arizona State University Cognitive Science Conclave, Phoenix, AZ.
- Cacciamani, L., Scalf, P.E., Barense, M.D., & Peterson, M.A.** (2012, October). The perirhinal cortex modulates V2 activity in response to the agreement between part familiarity and configuration familiarity. Society for Neuroscience Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Cacciamani, L., Mojica, A. J., Sanguinetti, J. L., & Peterson, M. A.** (2012, May). Meaning can be accessed for the groundside of a figure. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, Naples, FL. *Journal of Vision*, 12(9), 305; doi:10.1167/12.9.305
- Cacciamani, L. & Peterson, M. A.** (2011, May). Interference from a working memory task provides evidence for a fronto-temporal face perception network. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, Naples, FL. *Journal of Vision*, 11(11): 657. doi:10.1167/11.11.657
- Cacciamani, L. & Peterson, M. A.** (2010, November). Holding faces in working memory interferes with face discrimination but not object discrimination. OPAM Conference, St. Louis, MO.

**Cacciamani, L., Salvagio, E. M., & Peterson, M. A. (2010, May).** Target discrimination performance reveals that competition for figural status entails mutual inhibition. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, Naples, FL. *Journal of Vision, 10(7)*: 1195. doi:10.1167/10.7.1195

---

## CONFERENCE TALKS

Likova, L. T., Tyler, C. W., **Cacciamani, L.**, Mineff, K., & Nicholas, S. (2015). Effect of familiarity on Braille writing and reading in the blind: From graphemes to comprehension. Vision Sciences Society Meeting, St. Pete Beach, FL. (talk given by LTL)

**Cacciamani, L., Scalf, P.E., & Peterson, M. A. (2013).** Inhibitory competition and feedback in figure-ground perception: fMRI evidence. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (talk given by MAP)

**Cacciamani, L., & Peterson, M. A. (2010).** Holding faces in working memory interferes with face discrimination but not object discrimination. Configural Processing Consortium, St. Louis, MO.

---

## HONORS & AWARDS

**Rachel C. Atkinson Postdoctoral Fellowship** (2 years of support) 2014  
*The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, CA*

**College of Science Galileo Circle Scholar Award** (\$1,000) 2013  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*  
Prestigious award for “the University’s finest undergraduate and graduate science students”

**Graduate & Professional Student Council Travel Grant** (\$250, \$330, \$400) 2010, 2011, & 2012  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

**Women in Science & Engineering Travel Grant** (\$300) 2010 & 2012  
*The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

**Senior Leadership Recognition Award** (\$100) 2009  
*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA*  
Award recognizing seniors who have demonstrated outstanding University leadership

**Honors Undergraduate Research Grant** (\$200) 2009  
*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA*

**Rho Lambda Women’s Honor Society Induction** 2008  
*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA*

**Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Award** (\$300) 2008  
*American Psychological Association Conference, Boston, MA*  
Awarded for outstanding research poster at the annual APA conference

**Margaret Morrison Outstanding Female Scholarship** (\$5,600) 2007  
*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA*

**Horatio Alger Pennsylvania Scholarship** (\$2,600) 2005  
*Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans*  
State award for students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity

---

## SERVICE

### Departmental

<b>Faculty advisor</b> , Psi Chi (volunteer) <i>California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	2016-Present
<b>Member</b> , Diversity Committee (volunteer) <i>California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	2016-Present
<b>Member</b> , Orientation Training Committee (volunteer) <i>The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i>	Summer 2014
<b>Student-faculty liaison</b> , Cognition & Neural Systems Graduate Program (elected) <i>The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i>	2013-2014
<b>Member</b> , Psychology Colloquium Committee (invited) <i>The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i>	2012-2014
<b>Graduate student representative</b> , Faculty Search Committee (invited) <i>The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i>	Spring 2011

### Institutional

<b>Prospective student interviewer</b> , Undergraduate Admissions (alumni volunteer) <i>Carnegie Mellon University (serving remotely)</i>	2009-Present
<b>Member</b> , Community Outreach Committee (volunteer) <i>The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, CA</i>	2015-2016
<b>Travel grant judge</b> , Graduate & Professional Student Council (volunteer) <i>The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</i>	Summer 2012
<b>“Andrew Ambassador” Campus Tour Guide</b> , Undergraduate Admissions (invited) <i>Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA</i>	2007-2008

### Community

<b>Member</b> , Low-Vision Support Group (volunteer) <i>The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, CA</i>	2015-2016
---	-----------

---

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Teaching of Psychology	2015-Present
Association for Psychological Science	2015-Present
Society for Neuroscience	2010-Present
Vision Sciences Society	2009-Present

---

## **PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

<b>“Mindful Educator” Community of Practice</b> <i>Center for Teaching, Learning, &amp; Technology, Cal Poly</i>	Fall 2016 - Present
<b>“Getting a Good Launch for New(er) Faculty” Learning Community</b> <i>Center for Teaching, Learning, &amp; Technology, Cal Poly</i>	Fall 2016 - Present