Alicia M Chen

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ph.D. Cognitive Science — 2022 -
Advisor: Rebecca Saxe

Harvard College
A.B. with high honors, Chemistry & Physics — 2022
Language citation in Modern Standard Arabic

Journal articles

Chen, A.M.*, Hofer, M.*, Poliak, M., Levy, R., & Zaslavsky, N. (submitted). Discrete and systematic communication in a continuous signal-meaning space. [link]

Chen, A.M., & Saxe, R. (under review). Generous acts have contrasting meanings in equal versus hierarchical social relationships. [link]

Chen, A.M., Palacci, A., Vélez, N., Hawkins, R.D.*, & Gershman, S.J.* (2024). A hierarchical Bayesian model of adaptive teaching. *Cognitive Science.* [link]

Vélez, N., **Chen, A.M.**, Burke, T., Cushman, F.A., & Gershman, S.J. (2023). Teachers recruit mentalizing regions to represent learners' beliefs. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.* [link]

Hernandez-Nunez, L., **Chen, A.M.**, Budelli, G., Berck, M.E., Richter, V., Rist, A., ... & Samuel, A.D. (2021). Synchronous and opponent thermosensors use flexible cross-inhibition to orchestrate thermal homeostasis. *Science Advances.* [link]

Refereed proceedings papers

Chen, A.M., & Saxe, R. (2024). How taking turns communicates desired equality in social relationships. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.* [link]

Chen, A.M., & Saxe, R. (2023). People have systematic expectations linking social relationships to patterns of reciprocal altruism. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.* [link]

Refereed abstracts

Chen, A.M.*, Hofer, M.*, Poliak, M., Levy, R., & Zaslavsky, N. (2024). Discreteness and systematicity emerge to facilitate communication in a continuous signal-meaning space. Talk presented at the *15th International Conference on the Evolution of Language.*

Chen, A.M.*, Hofer, M.*, Poliak, M., Levy, R., & Zaslavsky, N. (2022). The emergence of discrete and systematic communication in a continuous signal–meaning space. Poster presented at the *44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.*

Awards and funding

Hurford prize for best student oral presentation, Evolang XV — 2024
Computationally-Enabled Integrative Neuroscience Training Program — 2023
Harvard College Research Program (HCRP) Fellowship — 2018, 2019, 2021
John Harvard Scholar (top 5% of class) — 2020
Herchel Smith-Harvard Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship — 2020
Dean's Summer Research Award — 2019
Critical Language Scholarship, US Department of State — 2018

Invited talks

Crockett lab, Princeton	2024
CogLunch, MIT	2023
Cikara/Cushman/Greene joint lab meeting, Harvard	2023
Human Cooperation Lab+, MIT Sloan	2023
Cognition, Brain, and Behavior seminar, Harvard	2023

Teaching

MIT

9.012 Cognitive Science	S 2024
9.66 Computational Cognitive Science	F 2023

Harvard

Chemistry S-17 Principles of Organic Chemistry	Summer 2020
Phys Sci 3 Electromagnetism, Circuits, Waves, Optics, and Imaging	S 2020
Physics 15a Introductory Mechanics and Relativity	F 2018

Other teaching

Women in Tech instructor, Paper Airplanes	F 2020, S 2021
Chinatown Afterschool Counselor, Philips Brooks House Association	S 2020

Mentoring

Andrew Palacci, Harvard '25	2022
MIT Brain and Cognitive Sciences Application Assistance Program	2022 -
Summer Research Opportunities at Harvard (SROH) program	2022

Reviewing and service

Ad hoc reviewing

Cognitive Science
Open Mind

Conference reviewing

Cognitive Science Society	2024

Other

Community of Practice, MIT Brain and Cognitive Sciences	2024-

Last updated October 2024