

Megan Finnegan

Curriculum Vitae

Education

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, PH.D., NEUROSCIENCE, 2015 -
University of California, Merced, B.S., COGNITIVE SCIENCE, 2012 - 2015.

Publications

- 2018 Laurent, H. K., Wright, D., **Finnegan, M.**, "Mindfulness-Related Differences in Neural Response to Own Infant Negative versus Positive Emotion Contexts". In: *Developmental cognitive neuroscience*.
- 2017 Carlile, S., Ciccarelli, G., Cockburn, J., Diedesch, A. C., **Finnegan, M. K.**, Hafter, E., Henin, S., Kalluri, S., Kell, A. J., Ozmeral, E. J., "Listening Into 2030 Workshop: An Experiment in Envisioning the Future of Hearing and Communication Science". In: *Trends in Hearing* 21, p. 2331216517737684.
- 2016 Husain, F. T., Tai, Y., **Finnegan, M. K.**, "Emotional Processing and Non-Auditory Based Interventions in Tinnitus". In: *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups* 1.7, pp. 13–23.
- Warlaumont, A. S., **Finnegan, M. K.**, "Learning to Produce Syllabic Speech Sounds via Reward-Modulated Neural Plasticity". In: *PLoS one* 11.1.
- 2014 **Finnegan, M.** "Mental illness in a petri dish". In: *NAMI Merced Spring Newsletter*. (commentary on reductionism in undergraduate education of psychiatric disorders, invited but not peer reviewed).
- Finnegan, M.** "Not your average refrigerator magnet". In: *NAMI Merced Fall Newsletter*. (analysis of the current state of rTMS technology in treating MDD, invited but not peer reviewed).

Posters/Presentations

- 2017 **Finnegan, M.**, Khan, F., Meno, C., Tai, Y., Menard, C., Husain, F., *Assessing the Effectiveness of Mindfulness-Based Therapy in the Management of Distressing Tinnitus*. ASHA 2017 Convention, Los Angeles, California.
- Husain, F., **Finnegan, M.**, Khan, F., *Mindfulness-Based Therapies for Communication Disorders: Emerging Directions in Research*. ASHA 2017 Convention, Los Angeles, California.
- 2015 **Finnegan, M.**, Warlaumont, A., *Parameter and Speed Comparisons of the Articulatory Synthesizers used by DIVA and Praat*. University of California, Merced: Research Week Poster Competition.
- 2014 **Finnegan, M.** *Emergence of canonical babbling in neural networks: A model for language acquisition*. University of California, Merced: NSF Undergraduate Research Fellowship Summary Presentation.
- Warlaumont, A., **Finnegan, M.**, "Linking infant communication behavior to neurophysiology using computational modeling". In: *17th World Conference of Psychophysiology*. Hiroshima, Japan.

Awards

Travel Grant, *Berkeley, California*, LISTENING INTO 2030, 2016.

funded by Google, NSF, and Starkey Hearing Technologies

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IRL H. MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP, 2016.

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, ELAINE PADEN AWARD, 2015.

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, ILLINOIS DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP, 2015.

University of California, Merced, OUTSTANDING GRADUATING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD, 2015.

nominated in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

University of California, Merced, NSF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP FELLOWSHIP, 2014.

for research in computational biology

University of California, Merced, CHANCELLOR'S HONORS, 2013,2015.

University of California, Merced, DEAN'S HONORS, 2012–2014.

Assistantships

University of **MATLAB Programming Workshop**, TEACHING ASSISTANT, under supervision of Dr. Illinois, Alejandro Lleras, Summer 2017.

Urbana-Champaign Designed class website and organized lab section of a MATLAB programming workshop for graduate students. Provided supplementary lectures and feedback on in-class assignments.

University of **Emergence of Communication Lab**, RESEARCH ASSISTANT, under supervision of Dr. California, Anne Warlaumont, 2013–2015.

Merced Utilized spiking neural networks to model the emergence of canonical babbling in infants through reinforcement based learning. Developed code to analyze and visualize network data, created new reinforcement policies, designed human listening experiments and documented and maintained existing code.

Modesto **Introduction to Abnormal Psychology**, TEACHING ASSISTANT, under supervision of Lee Junior College, Kooler, MA, MFT, Spring 2012.

California Graded student term papers and mid-semester assignments. Held regular office hours for tutoring and compiled a local mental health resource directory to assist future semesters in term projects.

Oakton **Honors Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research**, RESEARCH ASSISTANT, under supervision of Gary Mines, PhD, Fall 2006.

Community College, Illinois Worked under a chemistry internship on determining the three-dimensional structure of ostrich lysozyme. Developed a protocol for isolating lysozyme from albumen samples.

Undergraduate Mentoring

2017 Kay, E., Zimmerman, B., **Finnegan, M.**, Husain, F., *Assessing differences in grey matter anatomy after mindfulness-based practice in tinnitus patients*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Employment

California Department of Fish and Game, LABORATORY ASSISTANT, 2007–2008.

Aided in various phases of sediment, water, and biological samples extraction of analytes for contaminant quantification.

2001 Nimbus Rd., Ste. F, Gold River, CA 95670, Supervisor: David Gilman, (916) 358-0320

Consumnes River College, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, 2007.

Responsible for setting up video feed for broadcast during live televised classes.

8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823, Supervisor: Chris Beck, (916) 691-7289

San Joaquin Delta College, COMPUTER TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT, 2003.

Responsible for maintenance of existing computer systems and construction of new desktop computers.

Aided in networking phases for construction of a new electron microscopy teaching facility.

5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton, CA 95207, Supervisor: Darcie Palmer, (209) 954-5795

Service

Interdisciplinary Graduate Society, UIUC, IL, 2016-current.

Officer serving in a "*graduate-focused student community at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, connecting all disciplines, with emphasis on joining historically unrelated departments.*"

Computational Neuroscience Club, UIUC, IL, 2016-current.

Co-founded a group focused on exploring the information processing properties of the brain and mind. Activities center around a weekly journal club with explicit focus on encouraging interdisciplinary insights and collaborations.

Mindfulness Instructor Practicum, UIUC, IL, Fall 2016 - Summer 2017.

Attended practicum led by Dr. Chris Menard and Dr. Heidemarie Laurent, which included co-leading 45-minute introductory group for 16 weeks and co-leading MT, MBCT, MBRP groups.

Suicide and Violence Prevention Training, Fall 2016.

Attended training led by Elaine Shpungin

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Merced, CA, 2013.

Co-authored Building Healthy Communities grant application awarded to NAMI, Merced, that allowed mental illness awareness and suicide prevention workshops to be presented to all freshman high school students in Merced County for the 2014-2015 school year.

Programming Languages and APIs

Proficient MATLAB
 Some C, JAVA, Python, R,
 Experience Bash Scripting, OpenGL
 With