

ALEXA BECKER

Email: agb5621@psu.edu

[Google Scholar](#)

[OSF](#)

ORCID iD: [0000-0001-9178-9876](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9178-9876)

Moore Building
University Park, PA 16801

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Penn State – University Park, Psychology Expected May 2027
- M.S.** Penn State – University Park, Psychology Expected May 2024
- B.A.** Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Psychology, Cognitive Science May 2022
Summa Cum Laude
Thesis: “The Effects of Recency on Immediate Visual Recognition: A Revisitation of Sternberg (1966)”
Advisor: Dr. Arnold L. Glass

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant August 2022 – Present
Penn State – University Park, PA
Cognitive Aging and Neuroimaging Laboratory
Primary Investigator: Dr. Nancy Dennis

- Cleaning and analyzing behavioral data in Excel, RStudio
- Preprocessing neuroimaging data in fMRIPrep and SPM12
- Running univariate and multivariate statistical analyses in SPM12
- Scanning MRI participants
- Writing and editing manuscripts

Undergraduate Research Assistant October 2019 – May 2022
Rutgers University – New Brunswick, NJ
Learning & Memory Laboratory
Primary Investigators: Dr. Arnold L. Glass and Dr. Margaret Ingate

- Analyzed behavioral data in RStudio, Google Colab, JASP
- Created univariate activation contrasts of neuroimaging data in FSL
- Designed experiments in PsychoPy, Pavlovia, Qualtrics
- Distributed virtual experimental materials to subject pools and assisted in troubleshooting errors
- Implemented and supervised experiments conducted in an MRI scanner
- Ran in-person and remote behavioral experiments with human subjects
- Wrote and edited manuscripts

PUBLICATIONS

Pre-Registrations

Carpenter, C. M., **Becker, A.**, Levy, A., Dennis, N. A. (September 16, 2022).
Understanding the neural mechanisms underlying the benefits of unitization on
associative memory in young and older adults.
<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/HYZTP>

Journal Publications

Kang, M., Norman, M., **Becker, A.**, Zhou, W., Wang, T., Xuan, S., Glass, A. L.
(2023). Response assignment influences visual recognition. *Attention, Perception, &
Psychophysics*, 85, 1179-1198. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-023-02702-8>

Becker, A., Kang, M., Glass, A. L. (2021). Changing Verbal Label Assignments
Selects the Memory System for Responses in an Immediate Visual Recognition Task.
Aresty Rutgers Undergraduate Research Journal, 1(3).
<https://doi.org/10.14713/arstyrurj.v1i3.166>

Posters

Becker, A. (2022, April 11) The Effects of Recency on Immediate Visual
Recognition: A Revisitation of Sternberg (1966). *Rutgers Annual Psychology Honors
Thesis Poster Presentation*.

Becker, A., Amin, K., Glass, A. L., Ingate, M., Kang, M. (2021, March 5-6). Mood,
Music, and Memory. *Eastern Psychological Association Virtual Conference*.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

CITI Certified in Social and Behavioral Human Subjects Research

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

Valid August 2022 – August 2025

CPR/AED/First Aid Certified

American Red Cross

Valid August 2021 – August 2023

State Seal of Biliteracy in Italian

New Jersey Department of Education

June 2018, no exp.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Henry Rutgers Scholar Award

May 2022

Recognizes graduating seniors who have completed outstanding independent research projects leading to an interdepartmental thesis or a thesis in their major field of study.

Marilyn Shaw Award for Research Promise

April 2022

Awarded to the Rutgers senior psychology major who shows the most promise of a creative and productive career in research.

Honors Research Scholar in Psychology

April 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE –PENN STATE-UNIVERSITY PARK

Teaching Assistantships

Psychology 270 – Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

Spring 2023

Psychology 260 – Neurological Bases of Human Behavior

Fall 2022

SKILLS

Programming Languages: R (intermediate), Java (basic), JavaScript (basic), Python (basic)

Software: RStudio (intermediate), PsychoPy (intermediate), MS Excel (intermediate), FSL (intermediate), MATLAB (basic), fMRIprep (basic), SPM12 (intermediate)

Online Platforms: Pavlovia, Qualtrics, Google Suite, SONA online subject pool

LANGUAGES

English: Native

Italian: Intermediate Listener, Novice Speaker, Intermediate Reading and Writing