

# Catherine M. Carpenter

Student at The Pennsylvania State University

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## **Education**

### **Ph.D. Psychology**

Expected May 2025

The Pennsylvania State University – University Park, PA

### **M. S. Psychology**

May 2022

The Pennsylvania State University – University Park, PA

### **B.S. Psychology, Biology Minor**

The Pennsylvania State University – University Park, PA

May 2020

## **Study Abroad**

City, University of London, London, England

Study Abroad program, Spring 2019

## **Research Experience**

### **Graduate Student**

August 2020 - Present

Cognitive Aging and Neuroimaging Laboratory: *The Pennsylvania State University*

*PI: Nancy Dennis*

- Programming tasks in PsychoPy, Using online interfaces such as Pavlovia and Prolific to collect data
- Writing and editing manuscripts
- Working with the IRB
- Scheduling and scanning fMRI participants on NIH grant
- Preprocessing in fMRIPrep and SPM12, univariate and multivariate analyses in SPM12
- Study design for NSF and R56 grant
- Programming and developing analyses for neuroimaging data in MATLAB, SPM12, FSL
- Overseeing a team of undergraduate research assistants

### **Co-Investigator**

May 2018 - Present

*Elon University*

*PI: Amy Overman*

- fMRI scanning and analysis on NIH and RO1 grant in collaboration
- R56 grant for behavioral and neuroimaging project in collaboration

**Co-Investigator**

September 2022 - Present

*The Pennsylvania State University**PI: Frank Hillary*

- Breadth project on healthy aging, traumatic brain injury and resting state functional connectivity
- Developing skills in resting state network analysis

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

December 2017 – August 2020

*Cognitive Aging and Neuroimaging Laboratory: The Pennsylvania State University**PI: Nancy Dennis*

- Administration of behavioral and neuroimaging tests to both younger and older adults
- Collection fMRI data in both older and younger adults
- Preprocessing and modeling of MRI data using SPM12 implemented in MATLAB
- Behavioral data analysis using SPSS
- Programming with E-Prime and MATLAB
- Managed research team of 3 to 5 undergraduate research assistants
- Worked on NIH funded grant in conjunction with a research team at Elon University
- Stimulus design
- Writing manuscripts
- Foundational lab duties: maintenance of participating database, calling and recruiting older adults, management of SONA

**Peer-Reviewed Publications***Note: \* indicates co-authors*

- 1) Kurkela, K., **Carpenter, C. M.**, Babu, H., Chamberlain, J., & Dennis, N. A. (2021). [The effect of memory cue duration on performance in the directed forgetting paradigm in healthy aging](#). *Aging, neuropsychology and cognition*.
- 2) Dennis, N. A., Overman, A. A., **Carpenter, C. M.**, and Gerver, C. R. (2022). [Understanding associative false memories in aging using multivoxel pattern analyses](#). *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*.
- 3) **Carpenter, C. M.**, Webb, C., Overman, A. A., & Dennis, N. A. (2022). [Contextual similarity negatively affects associative memory performance in both younger and older adults](#). *Memory*.
- 4) \*Ricupero, S., \***Carpenter, C. M.**, Steinkrauss, A., Gerver., C. R., Chamberlain., J. D., Overman., A. A. & Dennis, N., A. (2023). [Neural distinctiveness and reinstatement of hippocampal representations supports associative unitization](#). *Brain Research*

- 5) **Carpenter, C. M.** & Dennis, N. A. (2023). Does unitization really function like items? [The role of time and interference on item and associative memory processes](#). *Memory and Cognition*.
- 6) **Carpenter, C. M.** & Dennis, N. A. Neural similarity of schematic information overrides new information, irrespective of target or lure information. *Accepted at Memory for False Memory special issue pending revisions*.
- 7) Steinkrauss, A. C., **Carpenter, C. M.**, Tarkenton, M. K., Overman, A. A. & Dennis, N. A. (2023). Neural Distinctiveness and discriminability in core network representations support associative unitization. *Aging Brain*.
- 8) Dennis, N. A.\*, **Carpenter, C. M.\*** & Becker, A. A\*. Review of the neural correlates and representations of unitization. Invited CABN Review.

## **Chapters**

- 9) Dennis, N. A., Chamberlain, J. D., & **Carpenter, C. M.** Chapter: 10 False memories. *SAGE handbook of cognitive and systems neuroscience*. (2023).

## **In Prep Publications:**

- 1) Steinkrauss, A. C., **Carpenter, C. M.**, Overman, A. A. & Dennis, N. A. Logical orientation and proximity work together to promote associative memory in older adults (Submitted).

## **Pre-prints**

- 1) [Dennis, N.\\*](#), [Carpenter, C. M.\\*](#), & [Becker, A.\\*](#) (2023, September 21). Examining the neural basis of unitization: A review.
- 2) [Steinkrauss, A. C.](#), [Carpenter, C. M.](#), [Tarkenton, M. K.](#), [Overman, A. A.](#) & [Dennis, N. A.](#) (2023, May 16). Neural Distinctiveness and discriminability in core network representations support associative unitization. *Accepted at Aging Brain*.
- 3) [Dennis, N.](#), [Chamberlain, J.](#), & [Carpenter, C. M.](#) (2022, August 31). False Memories: What Neuroimaging Tells Us About How We Mis-remember the Past.
- 4) [Carpenter, C. M.](#), [Webb, C.](#), [Overman, A. A.](#), & [Dennis, N.](#) (2022, February 24). Within-category similarity negatively affects associative memory performance in both younger and older adults. Now published at *Memory*.
- 5) [Carpenter, C. M.](#), & [Dennis, N.](#) (2022, June 14). Does unitization really function like items? The role of time and interference on item and associative memory processes. Now published at *Memory and Cognition*.
- 6) Dennis, N. A., Overman, A. A., Carpenter, C. M., & Gerver, C. R. (2021). Understanding associative false memories in aging using multivariate analyses. *bioRxiv*, 2021-07. Now published in *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*.

## **Pre-Registrations**

- 1) Carpenter, C. M., & Dennis, N. A. (2022, March 25). Similarity of neural representations of schematic targets and lures predict memory performance at retrieval in older adults. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/MTD8R>
- 2) Dennis, N.A., Steinkraus, A. C., Carpenter, C.M., Chamberlain, J. D. Understanding the contributions of individual differences to domain-general and domain-specific components of false memories in both young and older adults. ([OSF preregistration](#)).
- 3) Dennis, N. A., Overman, A. A., Levy, A., Becker, A., Carpenter, C. M. (2022, November 3). Understanding the neural mechanisms underlying the benefits of unitization on associative memory in younger and older adults. <https://osf.io/hyztp>
- 4) Carpenter, C. M., Mullin, H., Cwiek, A., Carter, E., Vervoordt, S., Lan, G., ... Hillary, F. (2023, August 1). Reproducibility of subcortical memory networks in healthy aging and after brain injury. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/5KX9W>

## **Posters**

- 10) **Carpenter, C. M.** & Dennis, N. A. (March 2023). Neural similarity of schematic information overrides new information, irrespective of target or lure information. Poster to be presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2023.
- 9) Steinkrauss, A. C., **Carpenter, C. M.**, Overman, A. A., & Dennis., N. A. (November 2022). Unitization Paradigm using Gestalt Principles Enhances Memory Recognition in Aging. Presented at Psychonomics 2022.
- 8) **Carpenter, C. M.**, Thomas., A. & Dennis, N. A. (March 2022). Memory supports as we age: How unitization functions over time and interference in younger and older adults. Poster presented at Cognitive Aging Conference 2022.
- 7) **Carpenter, C. M.**, Gerver, C. R., Overman, A. A. & Dennis, N. A (March 2021). Age-Related increases in associative false alarms: A representational similarity analysis of hits and misses at retrieval. Poster presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2021.
- 6) Gerver, C. R., Overman, A. A., **Carpenter, C. M.**, Cowan, J., Jenkins, C. & Dennis, N. A (March 2021). Encoding-retrieval congruency affects the neural processing of associative recollection in young and older adults. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2021.
- 5) **Carpenter, C.** & Babu, H. (2020, April 9). The effect of memory cue duration on directed forgetting performance in healthy aging. Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Conference, State College, PA, United States (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).

4) Babu, H. & **Carpenter, C.** (2020, April 9). Contextual interference negatively impacts associative memory across age. Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Conference, State College, PA, United States (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).

3) **Carpenter, C.**, Babu, H., Kurkela, K., & Dennis, N. A. (2020). The effect of memory cue duration on directed forgetting performance in healthy aging. Poster to be presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19)

2) Babu, H., **Carpenter, C.**, Webb, C., Overman, A., Dennis, N. A. (2020). Contextual interference negatively impacts associative memory across age. Poster to be presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19)

1) Chamberlain, J., Hultman, C., Martinez, V., **Carpenter, C.**, Overman, A., Dennis, N. A. (2019). Configuration manipulation impacts neural patterns in medial temporal lobe in associative memory retrieval. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Annual Meeting.

## **Grants & Awards**

*T32 NIH Aging Pathways Predoctoral Fellow*

2023 - 2025

- Primary Advisor: Nancy Dennis
- Secondary Advisor: Janine Kwapis
- 2-year research fellowship integrating aging research from a psychological and biological perspective

*University of Utah's Advanced Statistical Methods in Neuroimaging  
& Genetics Course Fellowship*

2023

*Mona Bird Shipley Memorial Scholarship – Honorable Mention*

2019

*Costello Family Memorial Scholarship in Psychology*

2019

*Liberal Arts Enrichment Funding*

SU 2019- FA 2019

*Dean's List*

FA 2017 – SP 2020

## **Teaching Experience – The Pennsylvania State University**

### ***Teaching Assistant***

Psych 490 – Debunking Myths about the Brain

FA 2020 & FA 2021

Psych 452 – Learning and Memory

FA 2020, 2022 & SP 2021

Psych 490 – False Memories

FA 2021

Psych 452 – Learning and Memory

FA 2022

Psych 490 – Happy and Healthy Brain

FA 2022

Psych 478 – Clinical Neuropsychology

SP 2023

### **Professional Memberships**

- Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2020-current
- Psychonomic Society 2022-current

### **Leadership and Involvement**

#### *The Pennsylvania State University*

- Cognitive Area Graduate Liaison 2022-current
- Participants Across the Lifespan Database Graduate Coordinator 2022-current
- Invited Guest Panelist Fall 2022
  - Undergraduate Research Involvement talk

### **Software Proficiencies**

MATLAB, R, Linux, CONN Toolbox, PsychoPy, Qualtrics, SPM12, FSL, fMRIprep, Microsoft Programs, E-Prime, SPSS, Pavlovia and Prolific