

Sami R. Yousif

CURRICULUM VITAE

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022- MindCORE Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology
University of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION

2022	Yale University	Ph.D.	Cognitive Psychology
2019	Yale University	M.Phil.	Cognitive Psychology
2018	Yale University	M.A.	Cognitive Psychology
2016	Emory University	B.A.	Psychology

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

2022 James B. Grossman Dissertation Prize
2021 Allan Shelden, III Memorial Fellowship
2020 Elsevier/Vision Research Travel Award
2020 William Kessen Teaching Award
2019 Yale Conference Travel Fellowship
2018 Cognitive Science Society Travel Award
2018 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
2016 Charles Elias Shepard Scholarship
2016 Emory University Tutor of the Year
2016 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
2015 SIRE Independent Travel Grant (Child Development Society)
2015 SIRE Independent Research Grant (2D shape representations)
2015 SIRE Independent Travel Grant (Vision Sciences Society)
2014 SIRE Independent Research Grant (Geometry and navigation)

PUBLICATIONS AND REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Yousif, S. R. (In press). Redundancy and reducibility in the formats of spatial representations. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.

Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2022). Quantity perception: The forest and the trees. *Cognition*. [Reply to Park's 2021 commentary in *Cognition*]

Aboody, R., Yousif, S. R., Sheskin, M., and Keil, F. C. (2022). Says who? Children evaluate informants' sources when deciding whom to believe. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

Yousif, S. R., Alexandrov, E., Bennette, E., Aslin, R. N., and Keil, F. C. (2022). Children estimate area using an 'Additive-Area Heuristic'. *Developmental Science*.

Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2022). Understanding 'Why': How implicit questions shape explanation preferences. *Cognitive Science*. 46. e13091.

Yousif, S. R. (2021) Numerosity, Area-osity, Object-osity? Oh my. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. [Commentary on Clarke and Beck's *The Number Sense Represents (Rational) Numbers*]

Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Knobe, J. (2021). Teleology beyond explanation. *Mind and Language*.

Liefgreen, A., Yousif, S. R., Keil, F. C., & Lagnado, D. A. (2021). Motive on the mind: Explanatory preferences at multiple stages of the legal-investigative process. *Cognition*, 217, 104892.

- Yousif, S. R., Rosenberg, M. D., and Keil, F. C. (2021). Using space to remember: Short-term spatial structure spontaneously improves working memory. *Cognition*, 214, 104748.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2021). How we see area and why it matters. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 25, 554-557.
- Lin, Q., Yousif, S. R., Chun, M. M., and Scholl, B. J. (2021). Visual memorability in the absence of semantic content. *Cognition*, 212, 104714.
- Bennette, E., Keil F. C., and Yousif S. R. (2021). A ubiquitous illusion of volume: Are impressions of 3D volume captured by an 'Additive Heuristic'? *Perception*, 50, 462-469.
- Aulet, L., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S. F. (2021). Spatial-numerical associations from a novel paradigm support the Mental Number Line account. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 74, 1829-1840.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2021). The shape of space: Evidence for spontaneous but flexible use of polar coordinates in visuospatial representations. *Psychological Science*, 32, 573-586.
- Yousif, S. R., Aslin, R. N., and Keil, F. C. (2020). Judgments of spatial extent are fundamentally illusory: 'Additive-area' provides the best explanation. *Cognition*, 205, 104439.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2020). Area, not number, dominates estimates of visual quantities. *Scientific Reports*, 10, 1-13.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2020). Illusory causal connections and their effect on subjective probability. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 404-410). Cognitive Science Society.
- Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2020). Implicit questions shape information preferences. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 1265-1271). Cognitive Science Society.
- Yousif, S. R., Chen, Y. C., and Scholl, B. J. (2020). Systematic angular biases in the representation of visual space. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 82, 3124-3143.
- Yousif, S. R., Aboody, R., and Keil, F. C. (2019). The illusion of consensus: A failure to distinguish between 'true' and 'false' consensus. *Psychological Science*, 30, 1195-1204.
- Ayzenberg, V., Chen, Y., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S. F. (2019). Skeletal representations of shape in human vision: Evidence for a pruned medial axis model. *Journal of Vision*, 19, 1-21.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2019). The 'Additive-Area Heuristic': An efficient but illusory means of visual area approximation. *Psychological Science*, 30, 495-503.
- Yousif, S. R. and Scholl, B. J. (2019). The one-is-more illusion: Sets of discrete objects appear less extended than equivalent continuous entities in both space and time. *Cognition*, 185, 121-130.
- Yousif S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2018). When in doubt: Using confidence and consensus as 'summary statistics' of collective knowledge. In T.T. Rogers, M. Rau, X. Zhu, & C. W. Kalish (Eds.), Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 2741-2746). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Yousif, S. R. and Lourenco, S. F. (2017). Are all geometric cues created equal? Children's use of distance and length for reorientation. *Cognitive Development*, 43, 159-169.
- Cheung, C.N., Ayzenberg, V., Diamond, R.F.L., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S.F. (2015). Probing the mental number line: A between-task analysis of spatial-numerical associations. In D.C. Noelle, R. Dale, A.S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C.D. Jennings, & P.P. Maglio (Eds.), Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 357-362). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

MANUSCRIPTS

- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (Under review). Subjective probability in a causal world: Biases in judging disjunctive events.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (Under review). Binding information to discrete objects improves retention in working memory.
- Joo, S., and Yousif, S. R. (Under revision). Are we teleologically essentialist?
- Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (Under revision). Understanding 'How': Two kinds of mechanistic explanations underlie known explanation preferences.
- Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (In prep). Children's understanding of the pragmatics of 'why' questions.
- Yousif, S. R. (In prep). 'Decoding' spatial representation: Evidence for a network-like cognitive map.

Joo, S., Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., and Knobe, J. (In prep). *No privileged link between intentionality and causation: Generalizable effects of agency in language.*

POPULAR PRESS

Yousif, S. R., Aboody, R., and Keil, F. C. (2020, February 3). The illusion of consensus. *Social Change Lab*. Retrieved from <http://www.socialchangelab.net/blog/>*

Yousif, S. R., Aboody, R., and Keil, F. C. (2019, September 26). The illusion of consensus. *Character and Context*. Retrieved from <http://www.spsp.org/news-center/blog>*

*This work was also featured on an episode of the *Data Skeptic* podcast

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Yousif, S. R., McDougale, S. D., and Rutledge, R. B. (2022, July). *A task-general model of human randomization*. Poster to be presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Sherman, B. E., Yousif, S. R., Reiner, C. and Keil, F. C. (2022, July). *The speed of statistical perception*. Poster to be presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Joo, S., Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., and Knobe, J. (2022, July). *No privileged link between intentionality and causation: Generalizable effects of agency in language*. Talk to be presented at the 44th Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. [Winner of the Cognitive Science Society Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award]

Joo, S., Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., and Knobe, J. (2022, May). *Does causality matter? Impressions of agency influence judgments of both causal and non-causal sentences*. Talk to be presented at the 2nd annual Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) conference.

Yousif, S. R. and McDougale, S. D. (2022, May). *Common coordinate systems for perception and action*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS).

Zhang, X. Y., and Yousif, S. R. (2022, May). *Psychological ownership captures visual attention*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS).

Yousif, S.R., Aslin, R. N., and Keil, F.C. (2022, April). *Systematic errors in children's estimation of cumulative area*. Poster presented at the 2022 Biennial Cognitive Development Society Conference.

Joo, S., Yousif, S.R., and Keil, F.C. (2022, April). *Do children have an intuitive belief in God(s)? Children's teleological explanation preferences and intentional design*. Talk presented at the 2022 Biennial Cognitive Development Society Conference.

Joo, S., Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., and Knobe, J. (2022, January). *Does causality matter? Impressions of agency influence judgments of both causal and non-causal sentences*. Talk presented at the 2nd annual Agency and Intentions in Language (AIL2) workshop.

Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2021, July). *'Decoding' the locus of spatial representation from simple localization errors*. Poster presented at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2021, July). *What is a 'mechanism'? A distinction between two sub-types of mechanistic explanations*. Poster presented at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2021, June). *Why questions are ambiguous: How implicit questions shape explanation preferences*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), Princeton, NJ.

Liefgreen, A., Yousif, S. R., Lagnado, D., and Keil, F. C. (2021, June). *Whodunnit? A 'motive' preference at multiple stages of the legal-investigative process*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), Princeton, NJ.

Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2021, May). *Binding information to discrete objects improves retention in working memory*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS).

Reiner, C., Yousif, S. R., Sherman, B. E., and Keil, F. C. (2021, May). *Common structure underlying visual and non-visual judgments of randomness*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS).

Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2021, April). *How Children Understand the Pragmatics of 'Why' Questions*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD).

- Yousif, S. R., Aslin, R. N., and Keil, F. C. (2020, November). *'Additive area' better explains area judgments than both veridical and scaling models*. Talk presented at the Object Perception, Attention, and Memory meeting.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2020, July). *Illusory causal connections and their effect on subjective probability*. Talk presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Joo, S., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2020, July). *Implicit questions shape information preferences*. Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Liefgreen, A., Yousif, S. R., Keil, F. C., and Lagnado, D. (2020, July). *I don't know if you did it, but I know why: A 'motive' preference at multiple stages of the legal-investigative process*. Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2020, May). *Interactions between the 'visuospatial sketchpad' and the 'phonological loop': task-irrelevant spatial structure benefits working memory, in spite of explicit rehearsal*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS).
- Bennette, E., Yousif, S. R., and Keil, F. C. (2020, May). *An illusion of volume: Perceived volume is best approximated by the sum of objects' dimensions*. Poster accepted at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS). [Retracted due to COVID-19]
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2019, November). *Evidence for size-invariant polar representations of visual space*. Poster presented at the Object Perception, Attention, and Memory meeting, Montreal, QC.
- Yousif, S. R., Alexandrov, E., Bennette, E., Aslin, R. N., and Keil, F. C. (2019, October). *Children approximate area using an 'Additive-Area Heuristic'*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY.
- Aboody, R., Yousif, S. R., Sheskin, M., and Keil, F. C. (2019, October). *Says who? Children consider informants' sources when deciding whom to believe*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY.
- Yousif, S. R., Alexandrov, E., Bennette, E., and Keil, F. C. (2019, July). *Perceived area plays a dominant role in visual quantity estimation*. Talk presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, QC.
- Lin, Q., Yousif, S. R., Scholl, B. J., and Chun, M. M. (2019, May). *Image memorability is driven by visual and conceptual distinctiveness*. Talk presented at the Manhattan Area Memory Meeting (MAMM), Princeton, NJ.
- Yousif, S. R., Chen, Y-C., and Scholl, B. J. (2019, May). *Systematic biases in the representation of visual space*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Lin, Q., Yousif, S. R., Scholl, B. J., and Chun, M. M. (2019, May). *Image memorability is driven by visual and conceptual distinctiveness*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Yousif, S. R., Aboody, R., and Keil, F. C. (2018, July). *Any consensus will do: The failure to distinguish between 'true' and 'false' consensus*. Talk presented at the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI. [Winner of the Cognitive Science Society Travel Award]
- Yousif, S. R. and Keil, F. C. (2018, July). *When in doubt: Using confidence and consensus as 'summary statistics' of collective knowledge*. Poster presented at the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
- Lin, Q., Yousif, S. R., Scholl, B. J., and Chun, M. M. (2018, May). *Visual memorability in the absence of semantic content*. Talk presented at the Manhattan Area Memory Meeting (MAMM), New York City, NY.
- Yousif, S. R., Chen, Y-C., and Scholl, B. J. (2018, May). *The origin of spatial biases: Memory, perception, or action?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Lin, Q., Yousif, S. R., Scholl, B. J., and Chun, M. M. (2018, May). *Visual memorability in the absence of semantic content*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Yousif, S. R. and Lourenco, S. F. (2017, October). *Modularity of geometric processing? Children's reorientation behavior as a case study*. In N. S. Newcombe (Chair), *The development of spatial reorientation: An old puzzle, a new formulation*. Symposium conducted at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.
- Aulet, L. S., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S. F. (2017, July). *Numbers uniquely bias spatial attention: a novel paradigm for assessing Spatial-Numerical Associations*. Talk presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, London, UK.
- Yousif, S. R. and Scholl, B. J. (2017, May). *The one-is-more illusion: Sets of discrete objects appear less extended than equivalent continuous entities in both space and time*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.

- Yousif, S. R., Norman, E. M., and Lourenco, S. F. (2017, April). *Spatial development in a sample of Samoan children*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD), Austin, TX.
- Yousif, S. R., Ayzenberg, V., and Lourenco, S.F. (2016, May). *Spatial memory demands modulate shape representations*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Ayzenberg, V., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S. F. (2016, May). *The medial axis as a robust model of object representation*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Nag, S., Ayzenberg, V., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S. F. (2016, May). *Target detection within a two-dimensional shape: A test of the medial axis model of object recognition*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Yousif, S. R. and Lourenco, S. F. (2015, December). *Tapping into two-dimensional shape representation*. Talk presented at the SIRE Fall Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA.
- Yousif, S. R. and Lourenco, S. F. (2015, October). *Flexibility of geometric processing: Evidence from reorientation*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.
- Cheung, C., Ayzenberg, V., Diamond, R.F.L., Yousif, S. R., and Lourenco, S. F. (2015, July). *Probing the mental number line: a between-task analysis of spatial-numerical associations*. Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Pasadena, CA.
- Yousif, S. R., Ayzenberg, V., and Lourenco, S. F. (2015, May). *Reorientation in three-dimensional space: is distance the key?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Yousif, S. R. and Lourenco, S.F. (2015, April). *Global geometry in reorientation: children rely on more than discrete cues to navigate*. Talk presented at the SIRE Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA.
- Yousif, S. R. and Lourenco, S.F. (2015, April). *Geometry in navigation: How children use the features of the space to reorient*. Poster presented at the SIRE Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2019	<i>Introduction to Psychology (Chun)</i> , Teaching Fellow
Fall 2018	<i>Introduction to Cognitive Science (Scholl)</i> , Teaching Fellow
Spring 2018	<i>Developmental Psychology (Keil)</i> , Teaching Fellow
Fall 2017	<i>Introduction to Cognitive Science (Scholl)</i> , Teaching Fellow
2014-2016	<i>Quantitative Theory and Methods</i> (Introductory Stats), Peer Tutor (Emory)
2013-2016	<i>Quantitative Theory and Methods</i> (Introductory Stats), Peer Mentor (Emory)

LECTURES & TALKS

Experimental Philosophy Group (Jean Nicod Institute, Brent Strickland), May 2022, (Agency in language)
 Guest Lecture (Tools for academic success, Yale), February 2022 (Research & time management)
 Lab for the Developing Mind (New York University, Dillon), October 2021 (Format of spatial representation)
 The Developing Minds Lab (University of Pennsylvania, Brannon), April 2021 ('Additive-Area Heuristic')
 Causality in Cognition Lab Meeting (Stanford University, Gerstenberg), January 2021 (Explanation)
 Spatial Cognition Lab Meeting (Emory University, Lourenco), June 2020 (Format of spatial representation)
 UM6P School of Collective Intelligence, May 2020 (False consensus)
 University College London, Causal Cognition Lab, March 2020 (Explanation)
 University of British Columbia, Developmental Brown Bag, March 2019 (Case studies in spatial cognition)
 Yale Psychology Interview Day Talk, January 2019 (Case studies in spatial cognition)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

2014-2016	Lab Manager, Spatial Cognition Lab Advisor: Stella Lourenco, Ph.D.	Emory University
2015-2016	EPASS (Tutoring/Mentoring) Program Coordinator Supervisor: Julie Loppacher	Emory University

Memberships

Cognitive Science Society, Vision Sciences Society, Cognitive Development Society, Association for Psychological Science

Ad Hoc Reviewing

Psychological Science; Cognition; Cognitive Science; Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics; Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition; Acta Psychologica; Open Mind; Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications