

Vael Gates

email: vaelgates@gmail.com
website: <http://vaelgates.com>
outreach site: <http://womenincocosci.com>
location: University of California, Berkeley

Education

University of California, Berkeley, PhD student in Neuroscience, 2016-present
Advisor: Prof. Tom Griffiths (Psychology, Cognitive Science)

University of Cambridge, Master of Philosophy in Biological Science (Psychology), 2015-2016
Advisor: Dr. Zoe Kourtzi (Experimental Psych.), one-year research (not taught) program
Thesis: "Impact of Task Structure on Strategies in Statistical Learning"

Wellesley College, Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience 2011-2015
Magna cum laude (GPA: 3.82/4.00), departmental honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi
Advisor: Prof. Bevil Conway (Neuroscience)
Thesis: "Neural Correlates of the Bezold-Brücke Perceptual Color Shift"

Publications

**Previously, published under M.A. Gates*

Gates, M.A., Veuthey, T.L., Tessler, M.H., Smith, K.A., Gerstenberg, T., Bayet, L., and Tenebaum, J.B. (2018). Tiptoeing around it: Inference from absence in potentially offensive speech. *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

J.F. Fisac, **M.A. Gates**, J.B. Hamrick, C. Liu, D. Hadfield-Menell, M. Palaniappan, D. Malik, S.S. Sastry, T.L. Griffiths, and A.D. Dragan (2017). Pragmatic-Pedagogic Value Alignment. *International Symposium on Robotics Research*. Awarded second place for the Blue Sky Paper awards.

Gates, M.A., Suchow, J.W., and Griffiths, T.L. (2017). Empirical tests of large-scale collaborative recall. *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Selected for oral presentation.

Gagin, G., Bohon, K.S., Butensky, A., **Gates, M.A.**, Hu, J.Y., Lafer-Sousa, R., Pulumo, R.L., Qu, J., Stoughton, C.M., Swanbeck, S.N. and Conway, B.R. (2014). Color-detection thresholds in rhesus macaque monkeys and humans. *Journal of vision*, 14(8), 12.

Awards

Data on the Mind Summer Workshop, UC Berkeley, June 2017

Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines (CBMM) Summer Course, Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, MA, *Aug. 2017*

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2017

BAIR First-Year Travel Stipend, Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research Lab, *2016*

Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention, Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, *2014*

Beckman Scholar, Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, *2014-2015*

Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines (CBMM) Summer Undergraduate Research Program, M.I.T., *Summer 2014*

Broader Impacts

Online Resources

Science Outreach Website Developer, *Summer 2016-Present*

Science outreach website aimed at undergraduates in science, especially female undergraduates and undergraduates in computational cognitive science: <http://womenincocosci.com>

Public Engagement

Interactive science activities

Volunteer Scientist in Elementary Schools, Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS), *2017-present*

With a group of four other female scientists, developed and volunteer monthly to teach a science lesson on the brain and senses to first-graders in Berkeley.

- Copy editor for the Berkeley Science Review, April 2017 edition, UC Berkeley, *Apr. 2017*
- Science Café (Cambridge Festival of Science) and volunteering at hands-on interactive activities (Cambridge Festival of Science), University of Cambridge, *Mar. 2016*
- Volunteer at the Cambridge Hands-On Summer Roadshow (two-day event), UK, *July 2016*

Career event talks

- Psi Chi Graduate Panel: 1-hour panel with USF students, University of California San Francisco, *Oct. 2017*
- Volunteer at Girls Advancing in STEM (GAINS) Conference 2017: 30-minute panel and 1-hour career mixer with high school women, Stanford University, *Apr. 2017*
- Multiple 3-minute talks describing job (scientist) with 13-14 year-olds, *, *Mar. 2016*
- 15-minute talks leading an activity and describing job (scientist) with 14-15 year-olds, *, *Apr. 2016*
- Career day activities with 11-12 year-olds, *, *Apr. 2016, twice in May 2016, June 2016*
- *Locations: Bassingbourn, Cambourne, and Chesterton Village Colleges (England)

Mentoring

Adaptive Brain Lab, *2015-2016*: Harry Potts (undergraduate), Zena Ahmed (undergraduate)

Conway Lab, *2012-2016*: Erica Wu (high school), Anran Li (undergraduate), Patricia Grahmann (undergraduate), Jessica Keleman (undergraduate), Isabelle Rosenthal (undergraduate), Eileen Cho (undergraduate), Evelyn Lee (undergraduate), Galen Chuang (undergraduate), Hannah Schmidt (undergraduate), Youngju Choi (high school)

Teaching

Graduate Student Instructor for CogSci131, UC Berkeley, *Spring 2018*

Taught two 25-student sections weekly, for Cognitive Science 131: Computational Models of Cognition. Worked with a team of six other GSIs and the instructor.

Math Tutor for the Prison University Project, San Quentin State Prison, *Summer 2017*

Tutored a student in elementary algebra. The Prison University Project offers a liberal arts education, included college and college-preparatory classes, to people incarcerated at San Quentin.