

Alon Hafri

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Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral research fellow, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD) 2019 – present
Departments: Cognitive Science; Psychological & Brain Sciences
Advisors: Drs. Michael Bonner, Chaz Firestone, and Barbara Landau

Education

Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA) 2013 – 2019
Department: Psychology
Advisors: Drs. Russell Epstein and John Trueswell
Committee: Drs. Nicole Rust (chair) and Konrad Kording
Thesis: Event structure in vision and language
Certificates:

- IGERT Traineeship in Complex Scene Perception
PIs: Drs. David Brainard and Kostas Daniilidis
- CTL Teaching Certificate (UPenn Center for Teaching and Learning)

B.A. Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) May 2007
Major: Music
GPA: 3.92 / 4.00

Grants and Awards

NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship ([SPRF](#)) 2020
NEI Postdoctoral Travel Award for Vision Sciences Society Meeting 2019
Cold Spring Harbor Genetics & Neurobiology of Language Course Summer 2018
NIH T32 Institutional Predoctoral Research Training Grant 2015 – 2016
PI: Dr. Diego Contreras; *Research Area:* Vision
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship April 2015
National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship (declined award) April 2015
Travel Award for Vision Sciences Society Meeting 2015

Manuscripts

1. **Hafri, A.**, Gleitman, L.R., Landau, B., & Trueswell, J.C. (in prep). When word and world meet: Intuitive correspondence between visual and linguistic symmetry [working title].
2. **Hafri, A.**, Bonner, M.F., Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (in prep). A model of semantic structure predicts cortical responses to verbs in naturalistic language [working title].
3. De Freitas, J.*, **Hafri, A.***, Yamins, D.L.K., Alvarez, G.A. (in prep). Learning to recognize objects provides category-orthogonal features for social inference and moral judgment [working title]. * *co-first authors*
4. **Hafri, A.**, Wadhwa, S., Bonner, M.F. (under review). “Honey, I shrunk the scene”: Decoupling the impact of distance from content on memory for scene boundaries. [<https://psyarxiv.com/hy3qs>]
5. **Hafri, A.**, Landau, B., Bonner, M.F., & Firestone, C. (under review). A phone in a basket looks like a knife in a cup: The perception of abstract relations. [<https://psyarxiv.com/jx4yg>]

Publications

1. **Hafri, A.***, Boger, T.*, & Firestone, C. (in press). Melting ice with your mind: Representational momentum for physical states. *Psychological Science*. * *co-first authors*
2. **Hafri, A.**, & Firestone, C. (2021). The perception of relations. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.
3. Caplan, S., **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C. (2021). Now you hear me, later you don't: The immediacy of linguistic computation and the representation of speech. *Psychological Science*, 32(3), 410-423.
4. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Strickland, B. (2018). Encoding of event roles from visual scenes is rapid, spontaneous, and interacts with higher-level visual processing. *Cognition*, 175, 336-52.
5. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (2017). Neural representations of observed actions generalize across static and dynamic visual input. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 37(11), 3056-3071.
6. **Hafri., A.**, Papafragou, A., & Trueswell, J.C. (2013). Getting the gist of events: Recognition of two-participant actions from brief displays. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 142(3), 880-905.

7. Trueswell, J.C., Medina, T.N., **Hafri, A.**, & Gleitman, L.R. (2013). Propose but verify: Fast mapping meets cross-situational word learning. *Cognitive Psychology*, 66(1), 126-156.

Refereed Conference Proceedings

1. **Hafri, A.**, Gleitman, L.R., Landau, B., & Trueswell., J.C. (2021). When word and world meet: Intuitive correspondence between visual and linguistic symmetry. In *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Vienna, Austria.
2. Caplan, S., **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C. (2019). Now you hear me, later you don't: Speech processing does not involve acoustic maintenance. In *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Montreal, Canada.
3. Wehry, J., **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C. (2019). The end's in plain sight: Implicit association of visual and conceptual boundedness. In *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Montreal, Canada.
4. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J. C., & Strickland, B. (2016). Extraction of event roles from visual scenes is rapid, automatic, and interacts with higher-level visual processing. In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Philadelphia, PA.
5. Trueswell, J.C., Kaufman, D., **Hafri, A.**, & Lidz, J. (2012). Development of parsing abilities interacts with grammar learning: Evidence from Tagalog and Kannada. In *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Conference Talks

1. **Hafri, A.**, Gleitman, L.R., Landau, B., & Trueswell., J.C. (2021). When word and world meet: Intuitive correspondence between visual and linguistic symmetry. Talk presented at the *43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Vienna, Austria.
2. **Hafri, A.**, & Firestone, C. (2021). Real versus imagined in visual memory. Talk presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness*, May June 14-17, 2021.
3. **Hafri, A.**, Boger, T., & Firestone, C. (2021). Melting ice with your mind: Representational momentum in state-space. Talk presented at the *2021 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, May 21-26, 2021.
4. Wadhwa, S., **Hafri, A.**, & Bonner, M.F. (2021). "Honey, I shrunk the scene": Changing perceived distance alters memory for scene boundaries. Talk presented at the *2021 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, May 21-26, 2021.

5. **Hafri, A.** (2021). When word and world meet: Intuitive correspondence between visual and linguistic symmetry. Talk presented at the *12th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. May 18-21, 2021.
6. Boger, T., **Hafri, A.**, & Firestone, C. (2020). Melting ice with your mind: Representational momentum in state-space. Talk presented at the *28th Object Perception, visual Attention, and visual Memory Conference*.
7. Caplan, S., **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C. (2019). Now you hear me, later you don't: Speech processing does not involve acoustic maintenance. Talk presented at the *41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Montreal, Canada.
8. Wehry, J., **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C. (2019). Implicit association of visual and conceptual boundedness. Talk presented at the *41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Montreal, Canada.
9. **Hafri, A.**, Strickland, B., Papafragou, A., & Trueswell, J. C. (2017). Rapid and Spontaneous Encoding of Event Structure from Visual Scenes: Implications for Language Acquisition. Talk presented at the *42nd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. November 3–5, 2017.
10. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J. C., & Strickland, B. (2017). Extraction of event roles from visual scenes is rapid, automatic, and interacts with higher-level visual processing. Talk presented at the *2017 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, St. Pete Beach, Florida, May 19-24, 2017.
11. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J. C., & Strickland, B. (2016). Extraction of event roles from visual scenes is rapid, automatic, and interacts with higher-level visual processing. Talk presented at the *38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Philadelphia, PA.
12. Trueswell, J.C., Medina, T.N., **Hafri, A.**, & Gleitman, L.R. (2012). Propose but verify: Fast mapping meets cross-situational word learning. Talk presented at the *2012 Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 15-18, 2012.
13. Trueswell, J.C., Kaufman, D., **Hafri, A.**, & Lidz, J. (2011). Development of parsing abilities interacts with grammar learning: Evidence from Tagalog and Kannada. Talk presented at the *36th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, Boston, MA, November 4-6, 2011.

Conference Posters

1. **Hafri, A.**, Wadhwa, S., & Bonner, M.F. (2020). "Honey, I shrunk the scene": Perceived spatial scale alters memory for scene boundaries. Poster presented at the *28th Object Perception, visual Attention, and visual Memory Conference*.

2. **Hafri, A.**, Bonner, M.F., & Firestone, C. (2020). Visual predictions from physical relations. Poster presented at the *2020 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*.
3. **Hafri, A.**, Landau, B., Bonner, M.F., & Firestone, C. (2019). When a phone in a basket looks like a knife in a cup: Perception and abstraction of visual-spatial relations between objects. Poster presented at the *2019 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, St. Pete Beach, Florida, May 17-22, 2019.
4. **Hafri, A.**, Bonner, M.F., Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (2018). Brains on books: Event-structure semantics predict cortical responses to naturalistic language. Poster presented at the 2018 Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, C.A., Nov 3-7, 2018.
5. De Freitas, J., **Hafri, A.**, Yamins, D. L. K., & Alvarez, G. A. (2018). From pixels to moral judgment: Extracting morally relevant information in minds and machines. Poster co-presented at the *2018 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, St. Pete Beach, Florida, May 18-23, 2018.
6. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (2017). Neural representations of observed actions generalize across static and dynamic visual input. Poster presented at the *2017 Rovereto Workshop on Concepts, Actions, Objects*, Rovereto, Italy, May 4-7, 2017.
7. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (2016). Format-independent cortical representations of interactive events. Poster presented at the *2016 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, St. Pete Beach, Florida, May 13-18, 2016.
8. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (2015). Neural representations of human interactions. Poster presented at the *2015 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, St. Pete Beach, Florida, May 15-20, 2015.
 - Selected for a Travel Award
9. **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Epstein, R.A. (2014). Neural representations of human interactions. Poster presented at the *2014 Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C., Nov 15-19, 2014.
10. **Hafri, A.**, Papafragou, A., & Trueswell, J.C. (2012). Getting the gist of events: Recognition of two-participant actions from brief displays. Poster presented at the *2012 Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 15-18, 2012.
11. **Hafri, A.**, Papafragou, A., & Trueswell, J.C. (2011). The gist of events: Implications for language production and scene description. Poster presented at the *24th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, Stanford, CA, March 24-26, 2011.
12. Medina, T.N., **Hafri, A.**, Trueswell, J.C., & Gleitman, L.R. (2010). Propose but verify: Fast mapping meets cross-situational word learning. Poster presented at the *35th Annual*

Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA, November 5-7, 2010.

13. Göksun, T., Hirsh-Pasek, K., Golinkoff, R.M., Shallcross, W.L., Misitzis, Y., & **Hafri, A.** (2009). How do preschoolers express cause in gesture and speech? Poster presented at the *Society for Research on Child Development*, Denver, CO, April 2-4, 2009.

Invited Talks

1. **Hafri, A.** (2021). Real versus imagined in visual memory. Invited talk presented at the Liad Mudrick Lab, Tel Aviv University (virtual), August 3, 2021.
2. **Hafri, A.** (2021). The perception of relations between objects. Invited talk presented at the UMD Linguistics Department (virtual), May 11, 2021.
3. **Hafri, A.** (2021). The perception of relations between objects. Invited talk presented at the Language Comprehension Lab (PI: Wittenberg), UCSD (virtual), April 14, 2021.
4. **Hafri, A.** (2021). The perception of relations between objects. Invited talk presented at the Cognitive Neuropsychology Lab (PI: Caramazza), Harvard University (virtual), March 25, 2021.
5. **Hafri, A.** (2021). The perception of relations between objects. Invited talk presented at the LaPsyDÉ, Sorbonne University (virtual), March 5, 2021.
6. **Hafri, A.** (2021). “Honey, I shrunk the scene”: Changing perceived distance alters memory for scene boundaries. Invited talk presented at the Joint PAC/SCANN Lab, University of Florida (virtual), February 4, 2021.
7. **Hafri, A.** (2018). Rapid extraction of event information from visual scenes. Invited talk presented at the Johns Hopkins Vision Group, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, February 2, 2018.
8. **Hafri, A.** (2017). Extraction of morally relevant information from visual scenes. Invited talk presented at the Morality, Language, and Thought Workshop, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France, July 24, 2017.

Other Research Experience

Research Assistant	Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (Philadelphia, PA) <i>PI:</i> Dr. Russell Epstein (U. of Pennsylvania)	2012 – 2013
Lab Manager	Language Development & Processing Lab (Philadelphia, PA) <i>PIs:</i> Drs. John Trueswell and Lila Gleitman (U. of Pennsylvania)	2009 – 2012
Research Assistant	Temple Infant Lab (Ambler, PA) <i>PI:</i> Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek (Temple University)	2008 – 2009

Teaching

Experience:

- Teaching Assistant Introduction to Perception Spring 2015
- Teaching Assistant Introduction to Cognitive Science Fall 2014
- Teaching Assistant Introduction to Psychology Fall 2012

Mentoring:

- Tal Boger Independent lab research project (JHU, Firestone) 2020 – 2021
 - Co-mentorship (with Firestone) led to co-first-author publication in *Psychological Science*
 - We co-delivered conference talks (OPAM 2020, VSS 2021)
- Shreya Wadhwa Independent lab research projects (JHU, Bonner) 2019 – present
 - She won a competitive Provost's Undergraduate Research Award (2020) for mentored work
 - We co-authored a manuscript submission and co-delivered conference talk (VSS 2021)
- David Schwitzgebel Independent lab research projects (JHU, Firestone) 2019 – present
 - Co-mentorship (with Firestone)
 - Started a PhD program (2021) at the Institut Jean Nicod (Paris) with Brent Strickland
- Jon Wehry Honors thesis, Psychology (U. of Pennsylvania) 2017 – 2018
 - We co-authored a conference submission and conference talk (CogSci 2019)
- Russell Legate-Yang High school student Summer 2016

Public Engagement

- Experiment Leader of activities for underserved children at the Community Science Carnival (Philadelphia, PA), August 2014
- Journal Club Leader on multivariate pattern analysis at the Penn Neuroscience Boot Camp (Philadelphia, PA), July 2014
- Activity Leader at Science After Hours at the Franklin Institute Science Museum (Philadelphia, PA), July 2014

Professional Service

Ad hoc reviewer:

- Brain and Cognition
- Cerebral Cortex
- Cognition
- Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications
- Cognitive Science

- Cognitive Sciences Society (abstract reviewer)
- eLife
- Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
- Journal of Neuroscience
- Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience
- Psychological Science
- Visual Cognition

Professional memberships:

- Cognitive Sciences Society
- Psychonomic Society
- Vision Sciences Society