

# 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

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.**, Wadhwa, S., Bonner, M.F. (in prep). Scene memory is shaped by perceived distance: a causal manipulation of boundary extension [working title].
3. **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].
4. 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*
5. **Hafri, A.\***, Boger, T.\*, & Firestone, C. (under review). Dynamic representation of physical states. \* *co-first authors*
6. **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.  
[\[https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jx4yg\]](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jx4yg)

## Publications

1. **Hafri, A.**, & Firestone, C. (2021). The perception of relations. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.
2. 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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. **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.
4. 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.**, Boger, T., & Firestone, C. (2021). Melting ice with your mind: Representational momentum in state-space. Talk to be presented at the *2021 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, May 21-26, 2021.
2. Wadhwa, S., **Hafri, A.**, & Bonner, M.F. (2021). "Honey, I shrunk the scene": Changing perceived distance alters memory for scene boundaries. Talk to be presented at the *2021 Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting*, May 21-26, 2021.
3. 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*.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **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.

7. **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.
8. **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.
9. 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.
10. 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). The perception of relations between objects. Invited talk presented at the Cognitive Neuropsychology Lab, Harvard University (virtual), March 25, 2021.
2. **Hafri, A.** (2021). The perception of relations between objects. Invited talk presented at the LaPsyDÉ, Sorbonne University (virtual), March 5, 2021.

3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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:*

- Shreya Wadhwa      Independent lab research projects (JHU)      2019 – present
- Jon Wehry      Honors thesis, Psychology (U. of Pennsylvania)      2017 – 2018
- 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 Neuroscience
- Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience
- Visual Cognition

*Professional memberships:*

- Cognitive Sciences Society
- Vision Sciences Society