

Molly Flessert  
Curriculum Vitae

**Department of Psychology  
Language Research Center  
Georgia State University  
mollyflessert@gmail.com**

**Education:**

Aug 2017 – pres.

Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA  
PhD Candidate in Psychology – Cognitive Sciences  
Advisor: Dr. Michael Beran

Sep 2011- May 2015

University of Wisconsin- Madison  
Madison, WI  
Bachelor of Science, Zoology and Conservation Biology  
Certificate in Environmental Studies

**Research Experience:**

August 2017 – Present

Language Research Center, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Advisor: Dr. Michael Beran

March 2018 - Present

Ape Cognition and Conservation Initiative, Des Moines, IA  
Visiting researcher  
Advisor: Dr. Michael Beran

June 2015 – July 2017

Laboratory of Brain and Cognition, National Institute of Mental  
Health, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD  
Post-baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award  
Mentor: Dr. Jessica Taubert  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Leslie Ungerleider

Jan 2014 - May 2015

Harlow Center for Biological Psychology, Madison, WI  
Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Mary L. Schneider

Jan 2015

Maderas Rainforest Conservancy, La Suerte Biological Field  
Station, Costa Rica  
Primate Behavior and Ecology Field Course  
Instructors: Dr. Robert Delgado and Dr. Paul Garber

Feb 2013 - Dec 2013

UW-Madison Department of Soil Science, Madison, WI  
Student Research Assistant  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Carrie Laboski

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**Peer Reviewed Publications:**

Jessica Taubert, Susan G. Wardle, **Molly Flessert**, David A. Leopold, and Leslie G. Ungerleider. (2017). Face pareidolia in the Rhesus monkey. *Current Biology*, 27(16): 2505-2509.

Jessica Taubert, **Molly Flessert**, Susan G. Wardle, Benjamin M. Basile, Aidan P. Murphy, Elisabeth A. Murray, & Leslie G. Ungerleider. (2018). Amygdala lesions eliminate viewing preferences for faces in rhesus monkeys. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 115(31): 8043-8048.

**Review articles:**

**Molly Flessert** & Michael J. Beran (2018). Delayed gratification. In J. Vonk and T.K. Shakelford (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Animal Cognition and Behavior*. Springer International Publishing.

**Presentations and Abstracts:**

**Molly Flessert**, Jessica Taubert, Susan G. Wardle, David A. Leopold, Michael J. Beran, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Do nonhuman primates also experience face pareidolia? (Oral Paper). Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting 2018, Milwaukee, WI.

**Molly Flessert**, Jessica Taubert, David A. Leopold, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Do Rhesus monkeys also experience face pareidolia? (Poster). Conference on Comparative Cognition 2018, Melbourne Beach, FL.

Jessica Taubert, **Molly Flessert**, David A. Leopold, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Monkeys experience face pareidolia (Oral Paper). Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting 2017, Washington, DC.

Jessica Taubert, Susan G. Wardle, **Molly Flessert**, David A. Leopold, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Evidence for face pareidolia in rhesus monkeys. (Poster). Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting 2017, St. Pete Beach, FL.

**Molly Flessert**, Jessica Taubert, Ning Liu, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Rhesus monkeys are able to discriminate facial identity and expression. (Poster). Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting 2017, St. Pete Beach, FL.

**Molly Flessert**, Jessica Taubert, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Evidence for face pareidolia in rhesus monkeys. (Poster). NIH Postbac Poster Day 2017, Bethesda, MD.

**Molly Flessert**, Jessica Taubert, Ning Liu, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Rhesus monkeys are able to discriminate facial identity and expression. (Poster). Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting 2017, San Francisco, CA.

**Molly Flessert**, Hui Zhang, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Monkey face-selective regions differ in their ability to classify facial expressions. (Poster). Society for Neuroscience 2016, San Diego, CA.

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**Molly Flessert**, Leslie G. Ungerleider, Ning Liu, Jessica Taubert. Human performance when matching facial expressions in a task designed for nonhuman primates. (Poster). Society for Social Neuroscience 2016, San Diego, CA.

**Molly Flessert**, Hui Zhang, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Monkey face-selective regions differ in their ability to classify facial expressions. (Poster). NIMH Training Day 2016, Leesburg, VA.

**Molly Flessert**, Hui Zhang, Shruti Japee, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Comparing the specialization for facial motion in macaques and humans. (Poster). Vision Sciences Society 2016, St Pete's Beach, FL.

**Molly Flessert**, Olivia Tomeo, Adam Messinger, Leslie G. Ungerleider. The effect of varying visual stimulus duration on fMRI activity in the macaque. (Poster). NIH Postbac Poster Day 2016, Bethesda, MD.

**Molly Flessert**, Hui Zhang, Shruti Japee, Leslie G. Ungerleider. Comparing the specialization for facial motion in macaques and humans. (Poster). NIMH Training Day 2015, Leesburg, VA.

**Awards and Honors:**

2017-Present	2CI University Doctoral Fellowship in Primate Social Cognition, Evolution & Behavior, Georgia State University
2011-2015	Mike Litvinoff Memorial Scholarship
2011-2012, 2014	Academic Dean's List, University of Wisconsin – Madison

**Professional Memberships:**

Animal Behavior Society  
Comparative Cognition Society  
American Psychological Association (APA)  
    Division 3: Experimental Psychology  
    Division 6: Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology

**Research Skills:**

Extensive experience conducting behavioral testing with non-human primates  
Experience administering IV and IM injections to nonhuman primates  
Experience assisting in PET and fMRI data collection on nonhuman primate subjects  
Highly skilled at conditioning nonhuman primates and collecting behavioral data with the highest scientific standards under both laboratory and field conditions  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee educated  
Experience training and supervising research assistants

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**Computer skills:**

MATLAB experience  
Analysis of Functional NeuroImages (AFNI) and SUMA (surface mapper for AFNI)  
Photoshop and Microsoft office skills on Mac and PC  
Basic bash/tcsh processing  
ISCAN and iView eye tracking software  
Experience with QNX operating systems  
Monkey Logic and Cortex programs for the execution of behavioral tasks  
R and SPSS statistical computing programs

**Professional Development and Training:**

IACUC training program through Georgia State University  
Human Neuroscience course through FAES, NIH, Bethesda, MD  
AFNI programming bootcamp, Bethesda, MD  
Bloodborne Pathogens training, NIH, Bethesda, MD  
Sterile Surgical Technique training, NIH, Bethesda, MD  
Neuroimaging/fMRI Summer Course, NIH, Bethesda, MD  
Introduction to Laboratory Safety, in person and online course, NIH, Bethesda, MD  
Using Animals in the Intramural Research Program, online course through NIH  
MRI safety training: 3T, and 7T, and vertical 4.7T scanners  
Radiation Safety training, Madison, WI  
Primate Health training, Madison, WI  
Responsible Care and Use of Laboratory Animals from the Research Animal Resources Center (RARC), Madison, WI  
Bio-safety 101 online training: risk assessment and exposure response, Madison, WI

**Volunteer/Community Outreach:**

March 2018 Atlanta Science Festival – Exploration Expo  
Led oral presentations to the community about the Ape Cognition and Conservation Initiative, STEM programs, and careers in animal research  
March 2018 Atlanta Science Festival – Imagining the Future STEM professional  
Visited Atlanta classrooms to speak to students about careers in STEM,  
May 2017 Visiting Presenter – Phillips Elementary School, Phillips, WI  
Presented to a 1st grade class about careers in science  
2015 Urban Canid Project, Madison, WI, 2015  
Assisted in collecting data and from live-trapped urban coyotes and foxes,  
2013 Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, Madison, WI  
2012 Badger Buddy Volunteer, Madison, WI  
2007-2011 Catechism Teacher, Phillips, WI