

Benjamin Zinszer

bzinszer@gmail.com

www.benjaminz.com

Rochester Center for Brain Imaging
University of Rochester
430 Elmwood Ave, Rm 2B201
Rochester, NY 14627

Education

- 2014 - pres. Post-doctoral Fellow, Raizada Lab
Department of Brian and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester
- 2014 Ph.D., Psychology, Pennsylvania State University
- 2014 M.A.S., Applied Statistics, Pennsylvania State University
- 2012 M.S., Psychology, Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pennsylvania)
- 2008 B.A., Psychology, Wheaton College (Wheaton, Illinois)

Fellowships & Honors

- 2013-14 Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellow
- 2013 Multi-modal Neuroimaging Training Program participant
- 2012 NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellow
- 2012 Mu Sigma Rho, Statistics Honor Society, Charter member Penn State chapter
- 2011 Center for Language Science PIRE Graduate Fellow
- 2009 University Graduate Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University

Other Awards & Funds

- 2013 Bruce V. Moore Graduate Fellowship in Psychology (\$1100)
- 2013 Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium (\$5,000, renewable 2nd year)
- 2013 Center for Language Science Conference Support (\$120)
- 2013 Center for Language Science Conference Support (\$150)
- 2012 Penn State Confucius Institute Scholarship (\$1000)
- 2011 Center for Language Science Conference Support (\$270)
- 2010 Graduate School NSF-GRFP Incentive Award (\$500)
- 2010 Robert J. Glushko and Pamela Samuelson Foundation Student Travel Grant (\$460)
- 2010 Research and Graduate Office Travel Award (\$150)
- 2010 Donald A. Trumbo Psychology Department Student Research Award (\$150)
- 2010 Center for Language Science Conference Support (\$200)
- 2009 College of Liberal Arts NSF-GRFP Incentive Award (\$1000)

Research Experience

- 2013 Statistical Consulting intern: Guangwai Brain and Language Lab
Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (telecommuting)
- 2010 - 2013 Research assistant: Brain, Language, and Computation Lab
Center for Language Science, Penn State University
- 2012 Research rotation: Comparative Communication Laboratory, Adult Lab
Center for Language Science, Penn State University
- 2012 East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute Fellow, National Science Foundation
Beijing Normal University: State Key Lab for Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning
- 2011 Partnership for International Research and Education Fellow, NSF
Beijing Normal University: State Key Lab for Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning

July 2010 Guest researcher: Cognitive Neuroengineering & Quantitative Experimental
Research Collaborative, Drexel University
2008 - 2009 Research assistant: Visual Psychophysics Lab
Wheaton College

Teaching Experience

Spring 2014 Lab Instructor, Penn State University
PSYCH 301W – Basic Research Methods in Psychology
Fall 2013 Graduate Instructor, Penn State University
PSYCH 457 – Psychology of Language
Summer 2013 Online Instructor, Penn State University (World Campus)
PSYCH 200 – Introductory Statistics
2010-2011 Lab Instructor, Penn State University
PSYCH 301W – Basic Research Methods in Psychology
2008 Teaching Assistant, Wheaton College
PSYC 772 – Cognition and Emotion

Computational Experience

Matlab (incl. SPM8, SOM Toolbox, NIRS-SPM), R/R-Studio, SPSS, E-Prime 1 & 2,
HomER/HomER2, Python, Presentation

Technical Experience

Functional near-infrared spectroscopy (Hitachi ETG-4000, Techon CW6), Connectionist and
Bayesian modeling, Behavioral psycholinguistic measures, SPM and connectivity modeling of
functional neuroimaging data

Journal Articles

Weiss, D. J., Poepsel, T. J., **Zinszer, B. D.** (in prep). Detecting structural changes in statistical
learning.
Zinszer, B. D., Rolotti, S. V., Li, P. (under revision). Bayesian word learning in multiple language
environments.
Zinszer, B. D., Chen, P., Wu, H., Shu, H., & Li, P. (2014). Second language experience modulates
neural specialization for L1 lexical tones. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, (in press). doi:
10.1016/j.jneuroling.2014.09.005.
Zinszer, B. D., Malt, B., Ameel, E., Li, P. (2014). Cross-language interaction in bilingual lexical
categorization. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5(1203). doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01203.
Zou, L., Abutalebi, J., **Zinszer, B.**, Yan, X., Shu, H., Peng, D., Ding, G. (2012). Second language
experience modulates functional brain network for the native language production in bimodal
bilinguals. *Neuroimage*, 62(3), 1367-75. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2012.05.062.

Refereed Conference Papers

Zinszer, B. D. & Weiss, D. J. (2013). When to hold and when to fold: Detecting structural changes
in statistical learning. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science
Society*.
Zinszer, B. D. & Li, P. (2010). A SOM model of first language lexical attrition. In S. Ohlsson & R.
Catrambone (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science
Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Refereed Presentations

- Zinszer, B. D.**, Malt, B., Ameel, E., & Li, P. What is a cup? Effects of immersion, language, and learner variables on lexical category convergence. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society 54th Annual Meeting, November 26, 2013.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Holt, T., Han, W., Shu, H., & Li, P. Age of L2 onset modulates left MTG specialization for L1 lexical tones. Society for the Neurobiology of Language, 6 November, 2013.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Weiss, D. J. When to hold and when to fold: Detecting structural changes in statistical learning. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, August 3, 2013.
- Rolotti, S. V., **Zinszer, B. D.**, Carlson, E. A. & Li, P. Bayesian Word Learning in Multiple Languages. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, August 3, 2013.
- Zinszer, B. D.**, Malt, B., Ameel, E., & Li, P. Effects of immersion, language, and learner variables on lexical category convergence. Talk presented at the 9th International Symposium of Bilingualism, June 13, 2013.
- Weiss, D.J., Poepsel, T., & **Zinszer, B.** Know when to hold 'em: Detecting structural changes in statistical learning. Talk presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C., May 23-26, 2013.
- Rolotti, S. V., **Zinszer, B. D.**, & Li, P. Bayesian Inference for Bilingual Word Learning. Poster presented at The Society for Computers in Psychology, November 14, 2012.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Predictors of native-like categorization in Chinese learners of English. Talk presented at Second Language Research Forum, October 21, 2012.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Bilingual categorization behavior: internally or externally emergent? Talk presented at the 8th International Symposium of Bilingualism, June 15-18, 2011.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Cross-Language Lexical Interaction in Object Naming. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society 51st Annual Meeting, November 20, 2010.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Li, P. Modeling age of onset in first language lexical attrition. Talk presented at Society for Computers in Psychology 40th Annual Meeting, November 18, 2010.
- Zinszer, B.** & Li, P. A SOM model of first language lexical attrition. Talk presented at the 32nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Portland, Oregon, August, 2010.
- Zinszer, B. D.** & Phinney, R. E. Effects of mask-to-target energy ratio on cyclopean metacontrast masking. Poster presented Vision Sciences Society 9th Annual Meeting, May 13-18 2009.

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Behavior Research Methods
Bilingualism: Language and Cognition
Workshop on Bilingualism and Cognitive Control (abstracts)
The Modern Language Journal

Professional Service

Consultant – Penn State Statistical Consulting Center, Spring 2013
Delegate – 2nd Young Scientist Forum, US-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange, 2012
Finalist Round Judge – Pennsylvania Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, 2011
Web Development – Center for Language Science: PIRE (<http://www.cls.psu.edu/pire>), 2011
Webmaster – Brain, Language, and Computation Lab (<http://cogsci.psu.edu>), 2009-2011
President of Student Health Advisory Committee – Wheaton College, 2007-2008