

Nora Harhen

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EDUCATION	University of California, Irvine Ph.D., Cognitive Sciences Concentration: Cognitive Neuroscience Advisor: Dr. Aaron Bornstein	2019-2024
	University of California, Berkeley B.A., Cognitive Science (with High Honors) Concentration: Cognitive Neuroscience Advisor: Dr. Anne Collins	2014-2018
EXPERIENCE	Hartley Lab, PI: Dr. Catherine Hartley New York University <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	2024-present
	Neuroplasticity & Development Lab, PI: Dr. Marina Bedny Johns Hopkins University <i>Lab Manager</i>	2018-2019
AWARDS	FENS Brain Conference Travel Award	2025
	F31 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, NIMH	2023-2024
	Memory, Space, & Time Workshop Travel Award	2022
	Sloan-Nomis Cognitive Foundations of Economic Behavior Summer School	2022
	Reinforcement Learning & Decision-making Conference Travel Award	2022
	National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship	2020-2023
	Robert J. Glushko Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Research	2018
	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	2017

PUBLICATIONS

(*Equal contribution)

Journal Articles

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M.*, Hartley, C.A.* Developmental changes in memory structure and precision alter the use of retrieved episodes during decisions for reward. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2026).

Harhen, N.C., Budiono, R., Hartley, C.A.*, Bornstein A.M.* Structure inference in complex environments improves from childhood to adulthood. *Developmental Science* (2026).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Interval timing as a computational pathway from early life adversity to affective disorders. *Topics in Cognitive Science* (2024).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Overharvesting in human patch foraging reflects rational structure learning and adaptive planning. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2023).

Arcos, K.*, **Harhen, N.***, Loiotile, R., Bedny, M. Superior verbal but not nonverbal memory in congenital blindness. *Exp Brain Res* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00221-021-06304-4>

Loiotile, R., Kanjlia, S., **Harhen, N.**, Bedny, M. "Visual" cortices of congenitally blind adults are sensitive to response selection demands in a go/no-go task. *Neuroimage* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2021.118023>.

Refereed Conference Proceedings

Harhen, N.C., Goldway N., Fielder J.C., Ortiz A.M., Ma Y., McCormick E., & Hartley, C.A. Early-life environments shape learning and decision-making strategies across development. *Proceedings of the 48rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (2026).

Harhen, N.C.*, Benear, S.L.*, Hartley C.A. Reinforcement learning computations modulate memory specificity. *Proceedings of the 8th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making* (2025).

Harhen, N.C., Hartley C.A., Bornstein A.M. Development of structure inference contributes to age-related differences in exploration. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience* (2024).

Chen, Y., **Harhen, N.C.**, Stout D.A., Bornstein A.M. Early life unpredictability modulates planning horizon in a structured foraging task. *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience* (2024).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Learning to expect change: Volatility during early experience alters reward expectations in a model of interval timing. *Proceedings of the 20th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling* (2022). Selected as one of the best papers of *ICCM*.

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Humans adapt their foraging strategies and computations to environment complexity. *Proceedings of the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making* (2022).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Structure learning as a mechanism of overharvesting. *Proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling* (2021).

Harhen, N.C., Hartley, C.A, Bornstein, A.M. Model-based foraging using latent-cause inference. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (2021).

CONFERENCE POSTERS & TALKS

Harhen, N.C., Goldway N., Fielder J.C., Ortiz A.M., Ma Y., McCormick E., & Hartley, C.A. Early-life environments shape reinforcement learning strategies across development. Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Conference, New York, NY (August 2026).

Harhen, N.C., Goldway N., Fielder J.C., Ortiz A.M., Ma Y., McCormick E., & Hartley, C.A. Early-life environments shape reinforcement learning strategies across development. Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 2026).

Harhen, N.C., Goldway N., Fielder J.C., Ortiz A.M., Ma Y., McCormick E., & Hartley, C.A. Early-life environments shape clinically-relevant learning & decision-making strategies across development. Computational Psychiatry Conference, New Haven, CT (July 2026).

Harhen, N.C., Goldway, N., Martinez-Ortiz, M.A., Ma, Y., Hartley C.A. Early-life environments shape reinforcement learning strategies across development. Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Brains Conference - Principles of the Adaptive Mind, Heraklion, Crete (October 2025). Selected for short talk.

Harhen, N.C.*, Benear, S.L.*, Hartley C.A. Reinforcement learning computations modulate memory specificity. Multi-Disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making, Dublin, Ireland (June 2025).

Harhen, N.C., Goldway, N., Martinez-Ortiz, M.A., Ma, Y., Hartley C.A. Early-life environments shape reinforcement learning strategies across development. Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, MN (May 2025). Selected for symposium talk.

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M.*, Hartley, C.A.* Reinstated episodes and context differentially guide decision making across development. Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Chicago, IL (October 2024). Selected for a nanosymposium talk.

Harhen, N.C., Hartley C.A.*, Bornstein A.M.* Development of structure inference contributes to age-related differences in exploration. Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Conference, Boston, MA (August 2024).

Chen, Y., **Harhen, N.C.**, Stout D.A., Bornstein A.M. Early life unpredictability modulates planning horizon in a structured foraging task. Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Conference, Boston, MA (August 2024).

Harhen, N.C., Goldway, N., Martinez-Ortiz, M.A., Ma, Y., Hartley C.A. Do early-life environments shape clinically relevant learning computations? Computational Psychiatry Conference, Minneapolis, MN (July 2024).

Harhen, N.C., Hartley C.A.*, Bornstein A.M.* Developmental differences in exploration reveal differences in structure inference. The Fifth International Convention on the Mathematics Of Neuroscience and AI, Rome, Italy (May 2024). Selected for a spotlight talk.

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Temporal representation optimization as a computational link between early life experience and affective disorders. Computational Psychiatry Conference, Dublin, Ireland (July 2023).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Temporal representation optimization as a computational link between early life experience and affective disorders. International Conference on Learning and Memory, Huntington Beach, CA (April 2023). Selected for a symposium talk.

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M.*, Hartley, C.A.* Changes in memory-guided decision-making underlie increased model-based planning across development. Society for Neuroeconomics Annual Meeting, Crystal City, VA (October 2022).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M.*, Hartley, C.A.* Memory-guided decision-making

develops alongside model-based planning. Flux Society Congress, Paris, France (September 2022).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Learning to expect change: Volatility during early experience alters reward expectations in a model of interval timing. International Conference on Cognitive Modeling, Toronto, Canada (July 2022). Selected for a talk.

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Temporal representation adaptation as a computational link between early life unpredictability and anhedonia. Computational Psychiatry Course, New York, NY (July 2022).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein A.M. Humans adapt their foraging strategies and computations to environment complexity. 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making, Providence, RI (June 2022).

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein, A.M. Representation learning and adaptation in human foraging. Data Blitz, UCI Center for Learning and Memory Spring Conference, Irvine, CA (March 2022). Selected for a talk.

Harhen, N.C., Bornstein, A.M. Unpredictability during the development of interval timing produces asymmetric responses to positive and negative outcomes. Conte Center @ UCI, 9th Annual Symposium, Irvine, CA, (March 2022).

Harhen, N.C., Baram, T.Z., Yassa, M.A., Bornstein, A.M. Formalizing the Relationship Between Early Life Adversity and Addiction Vulnerability: The Role of Memory Sampling. Society for Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, Virtual (April 2021).

Harhen, N.C., Baram, T.Z., Yassa, M.A., Bornstein, A.M. Formalizing the Relationship Between Early Life Adversity and Addiction Vulnerability: The Role of Memory Sampling. Data Blitz, Conte Center @ UCI, 8th Annual Symposium, Virtual (March 2021). Selected for a talk.

Harhen, N.C., Hartley, C.A., Bornstein, A.M. Foraging behavior adjusts to multiple scales of context. Society for Neuroeconomics Annual Meeting, Virtual (October 2020). Selected for a talk.

Kanjlia, S., Loiotile, R., **Harhen, N.**, Bedny, M. Sub-specialization of "visual" cortices for multiple higher-cognitive functions in congenital blindness. Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (March 2019).

Harhen, N.C., Collins, A.G.E. Goal-directed behavior leverages reinforcement learning mechanisms. Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (March 2017).

INVITED TALKS

2026: MIT & UCL, Affective Brain Lab

2026: Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Satellite Meeting

2024: University of Amsterdam, Frankenhuis Lab

2024: Emory University, Research Seminar Series

2024: Janelia, Mechanistic Basis of Foraging Conference

2023: University of Birmingham, Lockwood & Apps Labs

2023: MIT & UCL, Affective Brain Lab

2022: NYU, Concepts & Categories (ConCats) Seminar

TEACHING	Psych 111/112 A,B,C: Honors Experimental Psych <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	September 2019 - June 2020
	Letters & Science 22: Sense, Sensibility, & Science <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	January 2016 - May 2016
MENTORING	Olivia Duan, NYU Training Program in Comp Neuro	September 2025 - present
	Aleshka Pardo, Research Assistant	September 2025 - present
	Ava Grabar, Research Assistant	September 2025 - June 2026
	Anushree Anandani, Research Assistant	July 2025 - present
	Anjola Adesina, Research Assistant	January 2025 - May 2025
	Julia Yin, NYU Training Program in Comp Neuro	January 2024 - May 2025
	Yvette Ma, Research Assistant	September 2023 - present
	Brianna Sarcos, Research Assistant	June 2020 - June 2021
	Romeo Ignacio, Research Assistant	March 2021 - June 2021
SERVICE	Application Statement Feedback Program <i>Editor</i>	2021-2024
	UCI Cognitive Sciences Colloquium Organizing Committee <i>Student Organizer</i>	2021-2022
	Competitive Edge <i>Peer Mentor</i>	2020
AD HOC REVIEWING	<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>	
	<i>Biological Psychiatry</i>	
	<i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: General</i>	
	<i>Cognition</i>	
	<i>Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience</i>	
	<i>Communications Psychology</i>	
	<i>International Journal of Behavioral Development</i>	
	<i>PLOS ONE</i>	
OTHER TRAINING	Model-based cognitive electrophysiology workshop	2020
	University of Pennsylvania	