Jacob Zimmerman

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Education

Pomona College, Claremont, CA — 2020–2023
Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science '23, Minors in Psychology and Math — GPA: 3.87 / 4.00
    Concentration: *The Intuitive Mind*
    Senior Thesis: "Tools for Collective Thought: Augmenting Collaborative Sensemaking" (poster, tool)

Brown University, Providence, RI — 2019–2020
Candidate for Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science '23 — GPA: 4.00 / 4.00

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH — 2015–2019
Classical Diploma Recipient '19 — GPA: 10.11 / 11.00

Research Experience

Lab Manager, Social Learning & Choice Lab; Social Connection Lab, USC — L.A., CA — Aug 2023–Pres.
Advisors: Leor Hackel, PhD and Elisa Baek, PhD

Research Assistant, MIC Lab, Pomona College — Claremont, CA — Sep 2022–Aug 2023
Advisor: Shannon Burns, PhD
- Programmed a simulation study to assess impact of speaking-related motion on ISC measures
- Developed a data loading, processing & analysis pipeline for fMRI images and movement parameters
- Built an additional calibration pipeline to validate data transformation

Independent Researcher, togather — Claremont, CA — Jun–Sep 2021
Advisor: Megan Zirnstein, PhD
- Evaluated literature on fatigue & comfort in usage of computer-mediated communication tools
- Synthesized, applied insights to design immersive virtual meet-ups platform as alternative to Zoom
- Built & deployed prototype and presented alongside poster, "Beyond Zoom"

Research Assistant, AnderBois Lab, Brown University — Providence, RI — Oct 2019–May 2020
Advisor: Scott AnderBois, PhD
- Advanced documentation of under-studied indigenous language (A'ingae) by analysis & translation
- Led development of offline-first web-app to make our research accessible to all
- Designed, prototyped, and implemented new online materials explorer incorporating authentic POVs

Work Experience

UX Intern, ianacare — Remote — Jun–Aug 2022
- Piloted new UX design & development lifecycle to refine our platform supporting family caregivers
- Enhanced contact picker interface to match users' mental model, clarify usage & remove dead-ends
- Drafted baseline usability study in collaboration with lead designer
- Oversaw MVP of Notion internal planning tool, ran workspace evaluation + all-company workshop

UI Intern, ARInsights — Remote — Jun–Aug 2021
- Designed Google Workspace plugin in collaboration with UX and Product teams
- Wrote detailed interaction flow specification and created high-fidelity prototypes in Figma
- Launched plugin dev't, emphasizing frictionless authentication flow for optimal user satisfaction
- Conducted usability testing for Outlook plugin in development

UI/Data Science Intern, Nia Therapeutics — Remote — Jun–Aug 2020
- Designed and built internal tool to support tuning AI neuromodulation device for memory assistance
- Built custom speech recognition pipeline and trained with collection of original speech recordings

Data Science Intern (2×), Eng. Intern (3×), [Evergage (Salesforce)](#) — Somerville, MA   2016–2020
- Built visitor conversion-prediction and bot-detection ML solutions
- Developed custom website personalization solutions for clients
- Created internal tools for data loading and transformation (ETL)

Selected Leadership Experience

Project Manager (3×), [P-ai](#) — Claremont, CA   2020–2022
Assembled and led small teams in various semester-long ML projects, including:
- Introducing AI ethics and building NLP modules
- Introducing reservoir computing to analyze online community & mental health-related discussion
- Exploring Bayesian generative modeling of cognition through the lens of generative art

Co-Founder and Dev/Design Lead, [MVMENT Mag](#) — Exeter, NH   2016–2020
- Led full-stack development, design for independent activist magazine
- Launched monthly issues to promote voices on issues of sexual/gender inequity and violence

Selected Personal Projects ([more](#))

[**livemind**](#) — "Hyper-ephemeral thinking pad"; brutalist interface for augmenting working memory. 2019
[**umbrarum**](#) — Integrated notes and language tools for more efficiently studying Latin and Greek. 2018
[**RAW Tools Suite**](#) — Tools inspired by the idea of isolating listening from visual biases. 2017
[**raudio**](#) — Minimalist music streaming interface minimizing visual bias for fairer curation. 2016

Awards and Grants

Fletcher Jones Foundation Prize in Cognitive Science, *honors best senior thesis of the year*   2023
Pomona College Scholar, *in recognition of exceptional academic achievement in Spring 2023*   2023
Remote Alternative Independent Summer Experience (RAISE) Grant (for togather)   2021
[Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship](#), *covers tuition for approx. 30 gifted students/yr nationally*   2015-2019

Selected Coursework

Pomona College: Cognitive Psychology with Lab, Seminar in Consciousness & Cognition, Seminar in Collective Psychology, Seminar in Optimizing Memory, Differential Equations, Statistical Linear Models, Philosophy of Mind, AI: Humans and Machines, Psychological Anthropology (Pitzer College), Sociology of Space & Time, User Interfaces & Experience, Human-Centered Design (in-progress), LGCS Winter Presentation Workshop 2021
Brown University: Human Cognition, Computing as Done by Brains and Computers, Introduction to Neuroscience, Experimental Analysis of Vision for Perception and Action, Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science, Introduction to Discrete Structures & Probability

Skills

Programming R, Python, JavaScript, Bash, Go, Java, SQL, HTML, CSS
Experiment Programming PsychoPy
Data Analysis & Modeling Multivariable linear regression, ANOVA; FSL; Python, R, Jamovi
Writing Scientific analysis, experimental discussion, APA
Math Differential equations, probability, Bayesian statistics, vector calculus, linear algebra
Machine Learning NLP, Random Forest, SVM, ANNs, RNNs; Sklearn, PyTorch, TensorFlow
Languages English (native speaker), Spanish (conversant)