

ALEKSANDRA SHERMAN

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Academic Positions

2023- present Director, Center for Research and Scholarship, Occidental College
2020-2023 Department Chair, Cognitive Science, Occidental College
2020-present Associate Professor of Cognitive Science, Occidental College
2014-2020 Assistant Professor of Cognitive Science, Occidental College

Education

2009-2014 Northwestern University, PhD, Cognitive Psychology
Advisor: Dr. Satoru Suzuki
Dissertation title: The influence of auditory rhythms on different levels of visual processing: visual impression, active vision, and visual coordination

2005-2009 Rutgers University, B.A., Cognitive Science & Art History
Magna cum laude, departmental honors
Honors Thesis Title: Structure Recognition Across Modalities: Comparing performance in vision, linguistics, and audition

Publications (Bold Underline Denotes student author)

Peer-Reviewed

Han, Z., Sanchez, D., Levitan C.A., Sherman, A. (2023). Stimulus-locked auditory information facilitates real-time visuo-motor sequence learning. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

Sherman, A., Anderson, D. (2023). How Art Contributes to Scientific Knowledge. *Philosophical Psychology*. <https://doi-org.oxy.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/09515089.2023.2241499>

Levitan, C; Rusk, J; Jonas-Delson, D; Lou, H; Kuzniar, L; Davidson, G; Sherman, A. (2022). Mask wearing affects emotion perception. *iPerception*.

Brang, D., Plass, J., Sherman, A., Wasade, V., Grabowecky, M., Ahn, E., Towle, V., Tao, J., Wu, S., Issa, N., Suzuki, S. (2022). Visual cortex responds to transient sound changes without encoding complex auditory dynamics. *Journal of Neurophysiology*, <https://psyarxiv.com/kgn5h>

Mithlo, N.M. and Sherman, A. (2020). How Perspective-Taking in Museums Can Lead to Increased Bias: A Call for 'Less Certain' Positions in American Indian Contexts. *Curator*.

Sherman, A., Cupo, L., & Mithlo, N. M. (2020). Perspective-taking increases emotionality and empathy but does not reduce harmful biases against American Indians: Converging evidence from the museum and lab. *PLoS One*, 15(2), e0228784.

Levitan, C., Winfield, E., Sherman, A. (2019). Grumpy toddlers and dead pheasants: Visual art preferences are predicted by preferences for the depicted objects. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, & the Arts*.

Jertberg, R., Levitan, C., Sherman, A. (2018). Multisensory processing of facial expressions in binocular rivalry. *Emotion*.

Sherman, A. & Morrissey, C. (2017). What is art good for?: The socio-epistemic value of art., *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00411>.

- Sherman, A. & Morrissey, C. (2018). Response to commentary: What is art good for?: The socio-epistemic value of art., *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*.

List, A., Rosenberg, M., Sherman, A., Esterman, M. (2017). Pattern classification of EEG signals reveals perceptual and attentional states. *PLoS One*.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0176349.

Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., & Suzuki, S. (2015). In the working memory of the beholder: art appreciation depends on a match between visual complexity and working memory. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception & Psychophysics*

Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., & Suzuki, S. (2013). Auditory rhythms are systemically associated with spatial frequency and density information in visual scenes. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 20(4), 740-746.

Sherman, A., Sweeny, T., Grabowecky, M., & Suzuki, S. (2012). Laughter exaggerates the perception of happy and sad faces depending on visual context. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 19(2), 163-169.

Sherman, A., Papathomas, T.V., Jain, A., & Keane, B. P. (2011). The role of stereopsis, motion parallax, perspective and angle polarity in perceiving 3-D shape. *Seeing and Perceiving*, 25(3-4), 263-285.

Other

Sherman, A. (2018). Exploring the bounds of our sensory realities through art and neuroscience. *SciArt Magazine*. *editorial review

Zellmer, A., Sherman, A. (2017). Culturally inclusive STEM education. *Science*.
1126/science.aag0358 *editorial-review, Journal Impact: 37.205

Levitan, C.A., Sherman, A. (2015). Crossmodal correspondences between shapes and odors: implications for perception of wine. *Revue des Oenologues*. *invited

In preparation/under review

Mithlo, N.M., Sherman, A. (forthcoming) The Returned Gaze: Analyzing Audience Responses to Indigenous Feminisms in Film. Chapter in Integrative Contemporary Art and Science Practices, Routledge University Press series, Art and Science, eds. Ellen Levy and Barbara Larson.

Wilt, J.A., Exline, J.J., Schlegel, R., Sherman, A. (under review). Aesthetic Dispositions, Aesthetic Experiences, and Meaning in Life.

Wilt, J.A., Exline, J.J., Schlegel, R., Sherman, A. (under review). Engagement with art and meaning in life: The predictive roles of awe, interest, and supernatural attributions.

Levitan, C.A., Baird, M., Nelli, S., Sherman, A. Individual Differences in Multisensory Perception of the McGurk Effect and the Sound-Induced Flash Illusion: An EEG investigation

Sherman, A., Morrissey, C. Why the Arts Matter: How the arts shape our understanding of ourselves, one another, and the world. *Under contract with Cambridge University Press.* (in prep)

Science/Art Exhibits

- 2017 Consultant and collaborator, *A Child Was The One That Turned On The Switch* (Artist: Molly Allis), exhibited at Weingart Gallery, Occidental College.
<https://vimeo.com/236841635>
- 2017 Co-curator, *Seeing American Indians*, Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA, February-May 2017.
- 2014 Curator, *In the Mind of the Beholder: An Experiment in Perception*, Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, March-May 2014.

Invited Talks

- June 2022 Museum evaluation through the lens of empathy and perspective taking; Invited speaker at the Getty Foundation Wonder Workshop Series with Nancy Mithlo
- May 2022 Exploring visitor engagement in the museum through empathy and perspective taking; Invited speaker at the Terra Foundation with Nancy Mithlo
- Mar 2020 Art and visual perception; Invited guest lecture at Claremont McKenna
- Apr 2019 How the senses shape art perception; Invited symposium speaker for the *Multisensory science, art, and technology symposium*, University of California Los Angeles
- Mar 2019 How the multisensory world and our minds interactively shape perception; Invited colloquium speaker at Claremont McKenna Graduate School
- Oct 2017 Seeing American Indians; Invited colloquium speaker for the works-in-progress series at the Autry Museum of the American West
- June 2017 Art and the brain; Invited discussion at the University of Pennsylvania
- April 2016 Art and the brain; Invited guest lecture at Pitzer College
- April 2015 Art and the brain; Invited colloquium speaker for the *Keck Neuroscience Series* at Claremont Colleges
- Nov 2011 Auditory rhythms & scene perception; Invited graduate student symposium speaker at University of Chicago

Conference Presentations (Bold Underline Denotes student author)

Sherman, A., Morrissey, C.M. (August 2023). Art & Flourishing: A Conversation Between Philosophy and Psychology. Talk at the Visual Science of Art Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Baird, M., Levitan, C.L., Sherman, A. (February 2023) Individual differences in multisensory illusory perception. Talk and Poster presented at 23rd annual Cognitive Neurosciences Society Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Han, Y., Sanchez, D., Levitan, C.L., Sherman, A. (October 2020). Auditory information facilitates visuo-motor sequence learning. Virtual talk presented at Psychonomic Society Annual Conference.

Levitan, C.A., Winfield, E., Sherman, A. (August 2019). Art preferences and tolerance for ambiguity are affected by deepened visual art engagement. Poster presented at Visual Science for Art Conference, Leuven, Belgium.

Sherman, A., Anderson, D. (July 2019). Why (cognitive) science needs art. Talk presented at Society for Philosophy and Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Levitan, C., Sanchez, D., Sherman, A. (April 2019). When Cross-Modal Information is Redundant: Auditory feedback does not impact visuo-motor sequence learning or transfer. Poster presented at Western Psychological Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Sherman, A., Sanchez, D., Levitan, C. (March 2019). When Cross-Modal Information is Redundant: Auditory feedback does not impact visuo-motor sequence learning or transfer. Poster presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Mithlo, N. & Sherman, A. (November 2018). Seeing American Indians. Talk presented at Society for Visual Anthropology Conference, San Jose, CA.

Sherman, A., Jertberg, R., Levitan, C. (November 2017). Emotional music influences visual perception of facial expressions during binocular rivalry. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society 58th Annual Conference. Vancouver, Canada.

Cupo, L., Mithlo, N., Sherman, A. (November 2017). Seeing American Indians. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society 58th Annual Conference. Vancouver, Canada.

Hossain, E., Cupo, L., Silverstein, I., Mithlo, N., Sherman, A. (November 2017). Seeing American Indians: When Physiology Meets Art in the Museum. Poster presented at SACNAS Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

Winfield, E., Levitan, C., Sherman, A. (August 2017). Visual art preferences are predicted by preferences for the depicted objects. Poster presented at Annual Visual Science of Art Conference. Berlin, Germany.

Sherman, A., Morrissey, C. (August 2017). What is art good for?: The socio-epistemic value of art. Poster presented at Annual Visual Science of Art Conference. Berlin, Germany.

Levitan, C., Sherman, A. (June 2017). Eating as a multisensory experience. Workshop presented at AFHVS/ASFSS Annual Meeting. 2017 Theme: Migrating Food Cultures: Engaging Pacific Perspectives on Food and Agriculture. Los Angeles, CA.

Hamilton, J., Sherman, A. & (March 2017). Covert simulations of other's actions in real time. Poster presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Sherman, A. & Mithlo, N.M. (August 2016). Expanding Cultural Competencies for Interpreting American Indian Subject Matter in Museums through Cognitive Perspectives. Talk presented at 11th International Conference on the Arts in Society. Los Angeles, CA.

Greenberg, M., Sherman, A. (2015). Highly suggestible individuals switch tasks more efficiently. Poster presented at Psychonomics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Sherman, A., Brang, D., Noble, C., Grabowecky, M., Horton, W., Towle, V.L., Tao, J.X., Suzuki, S. (2014). "On the same wavelength": interpersonal alpha synchronization improves visual-motor coordination. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL.

Grabowecky, Sherman, A., Brang, D., M., Suzuki, S. (2014). "On the same wavelength": Neural synchrony influences motor coordination. Poster presented at International Multisensory Research Forum, Netherlands.

Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2013). Visual-object working memory affects aesthetic judgments. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2012). Amplitude-modulated sounds influence visual inspection of natural scenes. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2012). Amplitude-modulated sounds are systematically associated with natural scenes and influence visual scanning strategy. Poster presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

Rosenberg, M. List, A., Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S., Esterman, M. (2012). Decoding EEG data reveals dynamic spatiotemporal patterns in perceptual processing. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

Rosenberg, M. List, A., Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S., Esterman, M. (2012). Classifying visual perception on a trial-by-trial basis using EEG signals. Poster presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Sherman, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2011). Consistent frequency-based sound matches to natural visual scenes. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

Sherman, A., Sweeny, T., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2010). Laughter produces transient and sustained effects on the perception of facial expressions. Talk presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

List, A., Sherman, A., Flevaris, A.V., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2010). Neural signatures of local and global biases induced by automatic versus controlled attention. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

Noble, C., Mossbridge, J., Iordanescu, L., Sherman, A., List, A., Grabowecky, M., Suzuki, S. (2010). Motion direction specific pitch: a case of visual-auditory synesthesia. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.

Sherman, A., Papathomas, T.V., Musolino, J. (2009). Structure Recognition Across Modalities: Comparing performance in vision, linguistics, and audition. Poster presented at Aresty Annual Research Symposium, Rutgers University.

Sherman, A., Papathomas, T.V., Jain, A. (2008). The role of perspective and angle polarity in perceiving three-dimensional objects. Talk presented at National Conference for Undergraduate Research, Maryland

Sherman, A. (2008). Honore Daumier and La Maison Aubert: Le Imagination. Talk presented at Zimmerli Art Museum Honore Daumier Gallery Opening, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Sherman, A., Papathomas, T.V., Jain, A. (2008). The role of perspective and angle polarity in perceiving three-dimensional objects. Poster presented at NSF IGERT Perceptual Series Graduate Forum, Rutgers University.

External Grant Support

2022-2023 Templeton Religious Trust, \$250,000 *Research Consultant
2020- 2025 National Science Foundation, COSMOS II, \$1,000,000 *Research Scientist
2015-2019 National Science Foundation, Major Research Instrument, \$126,600, *Co-PI
2015-2018 National Endowment for the Arts, Research: Art Works, \$20,000, *Co-PI

Awards & Honors

2022 Finalist, Linda and Tod White Teaching Prize
2019 Finalist, Linda and Tod White Teaching Prize
2017 Selected to apply for Johnson & Johnson WiSTEM²D grant by Dean Sternberg
2016 Nominee, Donald R. Loftsgordon Memorial Award for Outstanding Teaching
2016-17 Oxy student Julia Hamilton selected as a Fletcher Jones Science Scholar (\$15,000 research award under my mentorship)
2013-2014 Northwestern University Center for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts Grant, \$2,500
2012-2013 Walter Dill Scott Endowment Fellowship
2012 Teaching Award for Research Methods, \$300
2010, 2011 Psychology Department Teaching Assistant of the Year, Northwestern University
2010, 2011 Cognitive Science Travel Award, Northwestern University, \$1200
2009 Phi Beta Kappa
2009 Henry Rutgers Scholar, Award for outstanding honors thesis, \$1,000
2007-2009 Aresty Undergraduate Research Grant, Rutgers University, \$2,000

Professional Memberships

Board Memberships (Elected): Diversity, Outreach, and Training Committee for Cognitive Neurosciences Society

Professional Society Memberships: Cognitive Neurosciences Society (2009-present); Psychonomics Society (2015- present); Vision Sciences Society (2009-2014); Cognitive Science Society (2008-2014)

Ad-hoc reviewer: Journal of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts; Emotion; Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics; PLoS ONE; Seeing & Perceiving; Multisensory Research; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; SAGE Open; Consciousness and Cognition, Frontiers in Neuroscience, Frontiers in Psychology

Media Coverage

National Geographic Channel Brain Games: "Multisensory perception and the dancing dots visual illusion"; Featured on "Perspectives" episode in June 2015

Outreach

2015-Present Volunteer Lecturer for Occidental's Neighborhood Partnership Program
2011-13 NUSplash Volunteer Instructor, Northwestern University
2013 Volunteer at the Brain Fair at Nettelhorst Elementary School