

# Brenda W. Yang

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## Education

*Ph.D.*, Psychology & Neuroscience, Duke University anticipated 2021  
*Faculty advisor:* Elizabeth J. Marsh  
*Master's committee:* Felipe De Brigard, David C. Rubin, Mark R. Leary  
*Master's thesis:* [Fiction as Autobiography](#)

*Teaching Credential*, Urban Education, Loyola Marymount University 2013

*B.S.*, Neuroscience; *B.A.*, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Southern California 2012  
*Thesis advisors:* Michael A. Arbib, William R. Handley

## Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Competitive Graduate Research Award: Novel Features of Narrative Fiction 2019  
Charles LaFitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award 2019  
Competitive Graduate Research Award: Intelligence Mindsets Across Classrooms 2018  
Preparing Future Faculty 2018  
Competitive Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University 2018  
Trainee Professional Development Award, Society for Neuroscience 2017  
Richard Merritt Jr. Science Journalism Award, Duke University 2017  
Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation 2015  
James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University 2015  
Teaching Fellow, National Science Teacher Association 2013  
Amgen Fellow, Teach for America 2012  
Outstanding Student of the Year, University of Southern California Neuroscience Program 2012  
Dornsife Scholar, University of Southern California College of Letters Arts and Sciences 2012  
Brian Philip Rakusin Scholarship Award, University of Southern California Neuroscience Program 2011  
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Southern California 2011  
Research Fellowship, University of Southern California Provost's Office 2010  
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, University of Southern California 2009

## Publications

Yang, B.W., Razo, J., & Persky, A.M. (in press). Testing as a Learning Tool. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*. [Accepted draft](#).

Blondel, D.V., Rosenberg, J., Sansone, A., Godin, E.A., Yang, B.W., Jaglom-Kurtz, L.T., Linennbrink-Garcia, L., Schwartz-Bloom, R.D (in press). Development of an Online Experiment Platform for High School Biology. *Journal of Formative Design in Learning*.

Stanley, M.L., Henne, P. Yang, B.W. & De Brigard, F. (2019). Resistance to Position Change, Motivated Reasoning, and Polarization. *Political Behavior*.

- Stanley, M.L., Yang, B.W., & Marsh, E.J. (2018). When the Unlikely Becomes Likely: Qualifying Language Does Not Influence Later Truth Judgments. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*.
- Stanley, M.L.\*, Yang, B.W.\*, & De Brigard, F. (2018). No Evidence for Unethical Amnesia for Imagined Actions: A Failed Replication and Extension. *Memory & Cognition*. [Preprint](#).
- Marsh, E.J., & Yang, B.W. (2018). Believing Things That Are Not True: A Cognitive Science Perspective on Misinformation. In B. G. Southwell, E. A. Thorson, & L. Sheble (Eds.), *Misinformation and Mass Audiences*. Austin: University of Texas Press. [PDF](#).
- Marsh E.J. & Yang, B.W. (2017). A Call to Think Broadly about Information Literacy. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*. DOI: [10.1016/j.jarmac.2017.09.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jarmac.2017.09.012)
- Stanley, M.L., Dougherty, A., Yang, B.W., Henne, P., & De Brigard, F. (2017). Reasons Probably Wont Change Your Mind: The Role of Reasons in Revising Moral Decisions. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. DOI: [10.1037/xge0000368](https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0000368)

### Manuscripts in Preparation

- Yang, B.W., Deffler, S.A., & Marsh, E.J. (revise and resubmit at *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*). A Comparison of Memories of Fiction and Autobiographical Memories.
- Stanley, M.L.\*, Yang, B.W.\* & Marsh, E.J. (revise and resubmit at *Journal of Memory and Language*). Asymmetries in Belief Revision.
- Yang, B.W.\*, Vargas Retrespo, C.\* (*u*), Stanley, M.L., & Marsh, E.J. (submitted). The Misleading effect of Truncating Bar Graphs. [psyarxiv.com/7aq4h](https://psyarxiv.com/7aq4h)
- De Brigard, F., Gessell, B., Yang, B.W., Stewart, G., Marsh, E.J. (submitted). Remembering possible times: Memory for details of episodic past, future, and counterfactual simulations.
- Yang, B.W.\*, Bejjani, C.\*, & Hard, B.M. (draft available). Measuring Intelligence Mindsets with Written Descriptions.

\*Indicates equal contribution.  
 (*u*) Indicates undergraduate author.

### Selected Talks and Presentations

- Yang, B.W. (2019). *Judgments of Deceptive Visualizations*. Talk presented at the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition. Brewster, MA. [osf.io/ebpf2/](https://osf.io/ebpf2/)
- Yang, B.W. (2019). *Deceptive Graphs: Quantifying the Truncation Effect in Bar Graphs Exploring Interventions*. Talk presented at the Visualization Friday Forum. Durham, NC.
- Yang, B.W., Deffler, S.A. & Marsh, E.J. (2018). *Fiction As Autobiography: Phenomenological Characteristics of Memories of Fiction*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. New Orleans, LA.
- Yang, B.W.\*, Bejjani, C.\* (2018). *Developing An Implicit Measure of Intelligence Mindset*. Talk presented at the Duke University BRITE Ideas Talk Series. Durham, NC.
- Yang, B.W., Blondel, D.V., Rosenberg, J., Sansone, A., Linennbrink-Garcia, L., Schwarz-Bloom, R.D.

- (2017). *The Rex virtual experiment platform: Design, implementation, and effects on situational interest*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. Washington, DC. [osf.io/h79te](https://osf.io/h79te)
- Yang, B.W. & Marsh, E.J. (2016). *Investigating the Phenomenology of Fictional and Personal Memories*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Boston, MA.
- Yang, B.W. (2016). *Discussion of Zeidman & Maguire (2017); Anterior hippocampus: the anatomy of perception, imagination, and episodic memory*. Talk presented at the Duke University Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Journal Club. Durham, NC.
- Yang, B.W., Lee J-Y, & Arbib, M.A. (2010). *Eye Movements and the Unfolding of the SemRep Semantic Representation in Scene Description*. Poster presented at the Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language Conference (CSDL) and Embodied and Situated Language Processing Workshop (ESLP). La Jolla, CA.
- Lee J-Y, Yang, B.W., & Arbib, M.A. (2010). *Eye Movements and the Temporal Unfolding of Scene Description*. Poster presented at the Neurobiology of Language Conference. San Diego, CA.

### Selected Education & Teaching Experience

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|--|----------------|
| Adjunct Faculty, Elon University<br><i>Course:</i> Cognitive Psychology  | Fall 2019      |
| Course Coordinator, Duke University<br><i>Course:</i> Introduction to Psychology<br><i>Supervisor:</i> Bridgette Martin Hard   | 2018 - 2019    |
| Graduate Teaching Assistant, Duke University<br><i>Courses:</i> Cognitive Psychology, Personality Psychology<br><i>Supervisors:</i> Ruth Day, Mark Leary   | 2015 - 2017    |
| Research Mentor for Undergraduate Students, Duke University<br><i>Undergraduate Students:</i> Jennifer Park, Camila Vargas (Jerome Bruner Award Winner), Ben Thier, Ceren Ebre<br><i>Projects:</i> The Impact of Internet Search Speed on Memory Metacognition, How Do Misleading Graphs Mislead?                                    | 2016 - present |
| Primary Instructor, PUC Community Charter Early College High School<br><i>Courses:</i> Anatomy and Physiology, Biology<br><i>Results:</i> Students scored 88% Proficient or Advanced on the 10th Grade Life-Science CST in the 2013 to 2014 school year, and 81% in 2012 to 2013. (CA state average 54%, 2014 to 2015 not reported.) | 2012 - 2015    |
| Teach for America Professional Learning Community Leader<br><i>Description:</i> Designed and facilitated a series of workshops for first-year life science teachers<br><i>Topics:</i> Setting Goals, Crafting Driving Questions for Student Inquiry, Discourse Strategies to Fuel Analysis and Engagement                            | 2014 - 2015    |
| Primary Instructor, John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth<br><i>Course:</i> Cognitive Psychology  | Summer 2015    |
| Primary Instructor, SPEAR Middle School Academy at University of California, Berkeley<br><i>Courses:</i> Biology   | Summer 2014    |

## Education & Teaching Presentations

- Yang, B.W. & Yust, P (2019). *Cognitive Distortions: Teaching Clinical Psychology Without Case Studies*. Talk presented at the Psychology One Conference. Durham, NC.
- Yang, B.W. (2015). *Computers and Content: Can we teach digital literacy TOO?*. Workshop at the Partnerships to Uplift Communities (PUC) Community of Practice Professional Development Day. Los Angeles, CA.
- Yang, B.W. (2014). *Capitalizing on cloud tech to support student achievement*. Workshop at the PUC Community of Practice Professional Development Day. Los Angeles, CA.

## Service

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|---|----------------|
| Student-Faculty Representative (Elected), Duke Center for Cognitive Neuroscience        | 2019 - 2020    |
| Reviewer for Internal Grants, Duke P&N  | 2018 - 2019    |
| Co-Founder, Duke P&N Graduate Mentoring Exchange  | 2017 - present |
| Peer Mentor, Duke P&N   | 2018           |
| Organizer, R Workshop for Psychologists and Neuroscientists                             | 2017           |
| Mentor, Women in Science and Engineering  | 2017           |
| Planning Committee Co-Chair, Psychology and Neuroscience First Year Festival            | 2016           |
| Chair, University of Southern California Center for Excellence in Teaching              | 2012           |
| Undergraduate Representative, University of California Neuroscience Executive Committee | 2012           |

## Outreach

- Publication on the Scientific American Guest Blog. Yang, B.W. (2016). [Are Our Scientific Heroes Too Heroic?](#)
- Publication on the Duke Professional Development Blog. Yang, B.W. (2016). [How to Take Your Teaching Skills Anywhere](#)
- Science Education Intern, Duke Science Education 2015 - present  
*Supervisors:* Rochelle Schwarz-Bloom, Dimitri Blondel
- Founding President, Interaxon 2013 - 2012  
*Description:* Launched [USC Interaxon](#), an outreach organization sharing neuroscience lessons with K to 12 students in South LA

## Professional Affiliations

Association for Psychological Science (APS), Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SAR-MAC), Psychonomic Society

*updated September 20, 2019*