

Elaine (Yilin) Wang
she/her/hers
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Yale University **June 2023 - Expected June 2029**
Psychology
Advisor: Dr. Julia Leonard
- B.Sc.** University of Toronto **Sept 2019 - June 2023**
Psychology, Neuroscience, Physiology (Honors)
Independent project: *The effect of effort-reward inconsistency on persistence in preschool children*
Advisor: Dr. Jessica Sommerville

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Conference Travel Fund: \$700** **2025**
Graduate School of Arts & Science, Yale University
- Conference Travel Fund: \$800** **2024**
Graduate School of Arts & Science, Yale University
- Education Studies Grant: \$5000** **2024**
Education Studies Program, Yale University
- The McNab Scholarship In Psychology: \$800** **2023**
Department of Psychology, University of Toronto
- Ethel Treble and F. Louis Barber Travelling Scholarship: \$2700** **2023**
Victoria College, University of Toronto
- Victoria College Postgraduate Scholarship: \$2500** **2023**
Victoria College, University of Toronto
- George Mandler Research Fund: \$700** **2022**
Department of Psychology, University of Toronto
- NSERC Undergraduate Research Award: \$7500** **2022**
Department of Psychology, University of Toronto

Dr. Lorus J. And Dr Margery J. Milne Scholarship: \$5000 <i>Victoria College, University of Toronto</i>	2022
Salvatore and Marion (Cooper) Brancaccio Scholarship: \$1000 <i>Victoria College, University of Toronto</i>	2022
Karl S. Bernhardt Scholarship: \$1000 <i>Victoria College, University of Toronto</i>	2021
Teça Patricia (Court) Coles Scholarship: \$1000 <i>Victoria College, University of Toronto</i>	2020
Dean's List Scholar, Faculty of Arts & Science <i>Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto</i>	2020 - 2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Wang, E., Shachnai, R., & Leonard, J.A. (2026). *Overparenting shapes how children learn about the self from social comparison.* Talk to be presented at the Cognitive Science Society, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2026). *Children integrate diverse social signals to infer the value of effort during performance plateaus.* Talk presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Montreal, CAN.

Wang, E., Shachnai, R., & Leonard, J.A. (2025). *Hidden costs of overparenting: Children feel worse about their abilities when adults take over for their peers.* Talk presented at the Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2025). *Preschoolers persist more when effort-based messages align with effort-based rewards.* Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2024) *Practice what you preach: Consistent messages about the value of effort foster children's persistence.* Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., & Sommerville, J.A. (2023). *Practice what you preach: Children persist less when values and reward structures are inconsistent.* Flash talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Wang, E. (2022). *Practice what you preach: Children persist less when values and reward structures are inconsistent*. Talk presented at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Club at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

Radovanovic, M., Soldovieri, A., Solby, H., **Wang, E.**, Vorvis, J., Shirvani, J., & Sommerville, J.A. (2022). *Autonomy in problem-solving: Prioritizing exploration relates to increased persistence*. Talk presented at the International Congress on Infant Studies, Ottawa, ON.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

⁺Indicates undergraduate mentee

^{*}Indicates equal contribution

Wang, E., Shachnai, R. & Leonard, J.A. (2026). *Overparenting leads peers to form negative self-beliefs*. Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society, Montreal, CAN.

Umaña, L.R.⁺, **Wang, E.**^{*}, Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2026). *Stakes reduce children's optimism about their abilities*. Poster presented at Yale University Undergraduate Research Conference, New Haven, CT.

Umaña, L.R.⁺, **Wang, E.**, Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2026). *Stakes reduce children's optimism about their abilities*. Poster presented at Yale University Undergraduate Research Conference, New Haven, CT.

Umaña, L.R.⁺, **Wang, E.**, Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2025). *Expecting less when it matters more: Children's optimism decreases in high-stakes environments*. Poster presented at Wu Tsai Undergraduate Fellowship Symposium, New Haven, CT.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2024). *Preschoolers persist more when effort-based messages align with effort-based rewards*. Poster presented at Curiosity, Information Seeking & Exploration Conference, Providence, RI.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (2024). *Practice what you preach: Consistent messages about the value of effort foster children's persistence*. Poster presented at Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, NL.

Matorina, N., **Wang, E.**, Guliyev, J., Barensse, M.B. (2023). *The contextualization of recent and remote autobiographical memories*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA.

INVITED TALKS

Writing about Science, Medicine, and the Environment, Yale College

2025

Levari Lab, Brown University	2025
Writing about Science, Medicine, and the Environment, Yale College	2024
Research Rounds, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence	2024

PUBLICATIONS

Wang, E., Shachnai, R., & Leonard, J.A. (2025). Hidden costs of overparenting: Children feel worse about their abilities when adults take over for their peers. *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J., & Leonard, J.A. (2024). Practice what you preach: Consistent messages about the value of effort foster children's persistence. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Jung, K., Meleca, S., Suhan, S., Tan, A., **Wang, E.** & Babineau, M. (2022). *Expect the unexpected: Studying language acquisition in small-scale societies*. International Congress on Infant Studies Baby Blog.

IN PREPARATION

Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & Leonard, J.A. (under review). Young children integrate verbal messages and rewards to infer the value of effort.

TEACHING

Graduate Writing Lab Fellow Poorvu Teaching and Learning Center, Yale University	2026 - Present
Teaching Fellow Research Methods Writing Intensive, Yale University	2026 - Present
Teaching Fellow Developmental Psychology, Yale University	Fall 2025
Teaching Fellow Research Methods Writing Intensive, Yale University	Spring 2025
Teaching Fellow The Criminal Mind, Yale University	Fall 2024

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Co-Chair <i>Department of Psychology, Yale University</i>	2024 - Present
Mentor <i>Sneak Peek Mentorship Program, Yale University</i>	2023 - 2024
Mentor <i>Psychology Students' Association, University of Toronto</i>	2022 - 2023
Secretary-General <i>North American Model United Nations, University of Toronto</i>	2022 - 2023
Translator <i>COVID Speaks</i>	2021 - 2021
Leader <i>Victoria College Orientation, University of Toronto</i>	2020 - 2021
Mentor <i>UniFind, University of Toronto</i>	2020 - 2021
Mentor <i>Academic Success Center, University of Toronto</i>	2019 - 2020

SKILLS

RStudio, Datavyu, JASP, Microsoft Office Suite, iMovie, Level-1 MRI Training, FMRIB Software Library, SPSS, Squarespace

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Cognitive Science Society, Society for Research in Child Development, Cognitive Development Society