

Tyler R. Overstreet, M.S., Ph.D.
Perception & Action Psychological Researcher

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy: Psychology | June 2024
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Master of Science in Psychology: Behavioral and Brain Sciences Emphasis | July 2018
University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama

Bachelor of Arts: Psychology | May 2015
University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Gunter, M., **Overstreet, T.**, Dowell, C., Hajnal, A. (In Preparation). Shape influences perceived ease of grasping. *Perception*.

Oliveira, N., Hajnal, A., **Overstreet, T.**, Kelly, M., Gunter, M. (In Preparation). Fall risk detection algorithms using perceptual measures during virtual tasks.

Overstreet, T., Hajnal, A., Rajbanshi, P. (In Preparation). The effect of lighting and posture on stand-on-ability.

Overstreet, T., Hajnal, A., Dickson, R., Gunter, M., Kelly, M., Rajbanshi, P. (In Preparation). Influence of head sway on the availability of visual information in an affordance task.

Overstreet, T., Kelly, M., Hajnal, A. (In Preparation). The effect of ambient lighting conditions on affordance perception.

Kelly, M., Gunter, M., **Overstreet, T.**, Hajnal, A. (2025). Book review: Introduction to ecological psychology: A lawful approach to perceiving, acting, and cognizing by Blau, J. J. C., & Wagman, J. B. *Perception*, 54 (6), 465. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0301006251326752>

Gunter, M., **Overstreet, T.**, Dowell, C., Hajnal, A. (2023). Shape influences perceived ease of grasping. *Journal of Vision*, 23(9), 5472. <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.23.9.5472>.

Hajnal, A., Surber, T., **Overstreet, T.**, Masoner, H., Dowell, C., Funkhouser, A., Shelley-Tremblay, J. & Samu, K. (2022). Complex postural sway is related to perception of stand-on-ability. *Ecological Psychology*, 34:1-2, 1-18, DOI: [10.1080/10407413.2022.2035225](https://doi.org/10.1080/10407413.2022.2035225)

Surber, T., **Overstreet, T.**, Masoner, H., Dowell, C., & Hajnal, A. (2022). Functional specificity of the affordance of reaching. *Experimental psychology*, 69(1), 23–39 DOI: [10.1027/1618-3169/a000544](https://doi.org/10.1027/1618-3169/a000544)

Surber, T., Hajnal, A., Samu, K., **Overstreet, T.**, Funkhouser, A., Legradi, G. (2021). Distance influences affordance perception of stand-on-ability in virtual reality. *Journal of Vision 2021*; 21(9):1879. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.21.9.1879>.

Overstreet, T. (2018). Experimental investigation of hemisphere asymmetry within romantic relationships during a communication task (Order No. 10840793). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (2087772848). <http://lynx.lib.usm.edu/dissertations-theses/experimental-investigation-hemisphere-asymmetry/docview/2087772848/se-2?accountid=13946> (Not Published)

Myers, M., Holcombe, J., **Overstreet, T.**, Taylor, S., Epker, J., Espenan, M., & Hill, B. (2018). Pain catastrophizing and its relation to psychological distress and cognitive performance in a chronic pain sample., *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, Volume 33, Issue 6, September 2018, Pages 703–794, <https://doi.org/10.1093/arclin/acy061.176>.

PRESENTATIONS

Overstreet, T., Hajnal, A. (2024). The effect of ambient lighting conditions on affordance perception. (Poster). International Conference on Perception and Action 22nd Annual Meeting, Trondheim, Norway.

Overstreet, T., Hajnal, A. (2023). The effect of ambient lighting conditions on affordance perception. (Poster). International Conference on Perception and Action 21st Annual Meeting, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Overstreet, T., Dowell, C., Hajnal, A. (2022). Complex postural sway is related to perception of stand-on-ability. [Poster Presentation]. Psychonomic Society 63rd Annual Meeting. Boston, MA.

Surber, T., **Overstreet, T.**, Masoner, H., Dowell, C., Hajnal, A. (2021). The shoulders have eyes: Body scaled invariant specifies the affordance of reaching. Psychonomic Society 62nd Annual Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

Overstreet, T. (2017). Selective attention to visual area: Area of interest and gaze duration in conflict habituated couples. 1st Year Project completed for the University of South Alabama Department of Psychology Brain and Behavioral Sciences Master of Science Program, Mobile, AL.

Shelley-Tremblay, J., Myers, M., & **Overstreet, T.** (2017). *The brain in love: The neurology of intimate behavior*. [Conference Presentation]. Southeastern Psychological Association 63rd Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR OF INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Teaching Advisor: Dr. Tyler Surber
August 2024 – Present

INSTRUCTOR OF BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

Teaching Advisor: Dr. Tyler Surber
August 2024 – Present

INSTRUCTOR OF STATISTICS

Teaching Advisor: Dr. Aaron Fath

August 2020 – Present

INSTRUCTOR OF CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Teaching Advisor: Dr. Tyler Surber
Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR OF SENIOR SEMINAR

Teaching Advisor: Dr. Tyler Surber
Spring 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postural Stability in Virtual Reality (2024)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2023 – Present

- In August 2023, I assisted in designing and running a study which manipulates participants' postural stance while in VR to investigate the differences in postural sway.

Fall Risk Study (2024)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2023 – Present

- In August 2023, I assisted in creating a new virtual reality environment to test the stand-on-ability of ramp surfaces in an elderly population.

Light Intensity and Affordance Perception (2022 - Present)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2022 – December 2023

- In August 2022, I began developing the experimental paradigm for my dissertation. The study investigated the role of light intensity on the perception of stand-on-ability in virtual reality.

3D Printing (2022)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2022 – May 2023

- In August 2022, I generated 3D shapes with a 3D printer to evaluate the affordance perception of grasp-ability. There are ten shapes total ranging from a sphere to a cube. We investigated whether sphere-likeness or cube-likeness specifies the affordance of grasping.

Feelies (2021)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2021 – May 2022

- In August 2021, I began assisting in a study investigating the affordance perception of abstract shapes called “Feelies”.

Affordance of Reaching (2020 – 2021)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2020 – May 2021

- In August 2020, I began assisting in a study investigating the perception of how far one can reach. The experiment will assess whether participants rely on a particular variable that specifies the target object’s location in space utilizing an Oculus Rift headset and a virtual space.

Affordance of Standing (2019 – 2020)

University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Psychology, Perception, Action, and Cognition Lab

Mentor: Alen Hajnal
August 2019 – May 2020

- In August 2019, I began my Ph.D. program at the University of Southern Mississippi, working under Alen Hajnal. I assist in running a study investigating affordance perception of stand-on-ability of a ramp in virtual reality utilizing an Oculus Rift headset.

Trustworthy Facial Features (2018 – 2019)

University of South Alabama, Department of Psychology, Psychophysiology Lab

Mentor: John Shelley-Tremblay, Ph.D.
September 2018: 5+ hours per week

- In September 2018, I began working under the direction of Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay as a research assistant in the University of South Alabama’s Department of Psychology. I assist in data collection for a study investigating how facial features are used to form judgements about whether an individual is trustworthy. My role consists of administering the EyeLink II system and analyzing data.

Master’s Thesis Research (2017 – 2018)

University of South Alabama, Department of Psychology

Thesis Committee: John Shelley-Tremblay, Ph.D., Lisa Turner, Ph.D., & Harvey Joanning, Ph.D.
August 2017 – June 2018: 15+ hours per week

- In August 2017, I began data collection for my master’s Thesis investigating electroencephalogram activity during conflict within romantic relationships. Participants are administered a large number of physiological measurements, including electroencephalogram (EEG), galvanic skin response (GSR), heart rate, and eye tracking. Additionally, participants are administered self-report measures, including the PHQ-9, RSE, NPI, GNS, and BFI.

Quality Enhancement Plan (2017-2018)

University of South Alabama, Quality Enhancement Plan

Mentor: Julie Estis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
August 2017 – May 2018: 20 hours per week

- In August 2017, I began serving as the graduate student assistant to Dr. Julie Estis, director of the University of South Alabama’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). My primary duties consisted of

completing student and faculty survey data analyses in SPSS 24.0 regarding the Team-Based Learning (TBL) initiative on campus, qualitative coding of student and faculty survey responses in Class Climate, and maintaining up-to-date rosters of TBL faculty, courses, and professional development sessions in Microsoft Excel. Additionally, I was webmaster of the USA QEP website, and I assisted Dr. Estis with running professional development workshops for TBL faculty members.

Conflict Habituated Couples (2016 – 2018)

University of South Alabama, Department of Psychology, Psychophysiology Lab

Mentor: John Shelley-Tremblay, Ph.D.

August 2016 – May 2018: 5+ hours per week

- In August 2016, I began working under the direction of Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay as a graduate research assistant in the University of South Alabama's Department of Psychology. I assisted in running a pilot study investigating the role of autonomic nervous system arousal in relationship satisfaction and in predicting the future success of relationships. My role consists of administering psychophysiological measurements, administering, and scoring self-report forms, and analyzing data utilizing SPSS 24.0, Neuroscan 4.3, BIOPAC Student Lab 4.1 software.

Psychology Assessment (2016 – 2017)

University of South Alabama, Department of Psychology

Mentors: Charles Brown, Ph.D. & Lisa Turner, Ph.D.

August 2016 – June 2017: 20 hours per week

- In August 2016, I began a graduate assistantship with the University of South Alabama's Department of Psychology for which I had multiple responsibilities. I was the Department of Psychology's exam proctor, and I provided tutoring on an as-needed basis for students in Introduction to Psychology, Biological Psychology, Psychology of Learning, and Social Psychology. In addition, I created a 190-question assessment for South Alabama psychology faculty to use in their undergraduate courses.

Center-Surround Mechanism (2013-2015)

University of South Alabama, Department of Psychology, Psychophysiology Lab

Mentor: John Shelley-Tremblay, Ph.D.

August 2013 – May 2015: 10 hours per week

- In August of 2013, I began assisting in a study conducting an electroencephalogram investigation of the Center-Surround Mechanism within working memory. I administered EEG measurements to study participants, collected data, and attended weekly lab meetings.

HONORS & APPOINTED POSITIONS

2024	Awarded the Graduate Competitive Travel Grant
2022	Awarded the Graduate Competitive Travel Grant
2020	Awarded the <i>USM Brain and Behavior Psychology Student Government Research Award</i>
2020 – 2021	Master's Student Rep of the <i>USM Brain and Behavior Psychology Student Government</i>
2019 – 2021	Granted the <i>USM Department of Psychology Graduate Assistantship</i>
2016 – 2017	Granted the <i>USA Department of Psychology Graduate Assistantship</i>
2016 – 2018	Treasurer of the <i>USA Brain and Behavior Sciences Graduate Student Organization</i>
2014 – 2015	Treasurer of the <i>Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology</i>
2013	Honored as a member of <i>Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology</i>

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Common Course for USM Graduate Students
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
Certification #: 31510342

Human Subjects Research
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
Certification #: 31510343

Protecting Human Research Participants Web-Based Training
National Institute of Health Office of Extramural Research
Certification #: 2752747

- 2021 IRB Submissions and Review: Introducing InfoEd **Workshop**
- 2021 Identifying Funding Resources for Graduate Students **Workshop**
- 2020 Grant Writing: Identifying Potential Sources **Workshop**
- 2020 Grant Writing: Proposal Writing Basics **Workshop**
- 2020 Applying for IRB Approval? Why, When & How **Workshop**
- 2019 Resistance is Information: Helping Students Develop Resilient Approaches to Learning **Workshop**
- 2019 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships Webinar **Workshop**

COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

September 14, 2023 *Brain & Behavior Student Government Snow Cone Fundraiser*

June 23, 2022 *International Society of Ecological Psychology Conference*

-I was a part of the planning and production of the International Society of Ecological Psychology conference that was hosted by my advisor, Dr. Alen Hajnal, at the University of Southern Mississippi.

2020 –2021 *Master's Student Representative*

-Attended monthly meetings to deliver sensitive graduate student body concerns and questions to faculty and to report back to the student body
-Helped to established fundraising committee & raised money for student research and travel awards during time served

March 3, 2020 *Graduate Student Senate Pyros Fundraiser*

-I was a part of the creation and development of a local fundraiser at Pyros pizza restaurant to help raise money for the USM Brain and Behavior Psychology Student Government.

November 10, 2018 *Girls Engaged in Math and Science (GEMS) Workshop Volunteer, Mobile, AL*

- I ran the L09 BIOPAC tutorial on how to assess the physiological measurements of heart rate, respiration, and galvanic skin response with young female students in the 4th to 9th grade who are interested in pursuing careers in the fields of mathematics and science.

March 3, 2018 *Science Olympiad Fast Facts Event Supervisor, Mobile, AL*

- I co-supervised the “Fast Facts” Division B event at the 2018 Alabama Science Olympiad, in which middle school students competed in three timed rounds involving completing grids of scientific terms.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2022 – Present, Member of the *International Society of Ecological Psychology*

2021 – Present, Member of the *Psychonomic Society*

2021 – Present, Member of the *American Psychological Association*

2020 – Present, Member of the *Vision Sciences Society*

2017 – Present, Student Member of the *Alabama Psychological Association*

2017 – Present, Student Member of the *Southeastern Psychological Association*

SOFTWARE & HARDWARE SKILLS

I have experience with IBM’s SPSS, R, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Mendeley, Machine Learning, Oculus Rift Virtual Reality Headsets, Unity Graphics Engine, C# programming, Blender, Ultimaker Cura, Jgaurora 3D printers, Compumedics Neuroscan 4.3 software, MATLAB software, EEGLab, and BIOPAC Student Lab analysis software, NeuroScan NuAmps digital amplifier, the EyeLink II system, and the BIOPAC MP30 system.

REFERENCES

Alen Hajnal, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

Telephone: 601.266.4617

Email: Alen.Hajnal@usm.edu

Tyler Surber, Ph.D.

Title: Assistant Teaching Professor of Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

Phone: 601.266.4790

Email: Tyler.Surber@usm.edu

Aaron Fath, Ph.D.

Associate Teaching Professor of Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

Telephone: 518.892.8010

Email: Aaron.Fath@usm.edu

John “Jack” Shelley-Tremblay, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology Chair, Professor of Psychology, Adjunct Professor of Neurology, and Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

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