

KARINA AGADZHANYAN

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Psychology
1354 Psychology Building, 502 Portola Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095
E-mail: karadefrost@ucla.edu

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

September 2021 – Present, Cognitive Psychology Ph.D. Program

- Major: Cognitive Psychology
- Master of Arts (M.A.), Cognitive Psychology, December 2022
- Advisor: Dr. Alan D. Castel

September 2018 – June 2020, College of Arts and Sciences

- Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology
- Minor: Cognitive Science
- College Honors
- Undergraduate Research Project: *Metacognition and Fluid Intelligence in Value-Directed Remembering*
- Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan D. Castel

Glendale Community College, Glendale, CA

August 2015 – June 2018

- Major: Psychobiology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Silaj, K. M., **Agadzhanyan, K.**, & Castel, A. D. (2023). Value-directed learning: Schematic reward structure facilitates learning. *Memory & Cognition*, 1-20.

Murphy, D. H., Hoover, K. M., **Agadzhanyan, K.**, Kuehn, J. C., & Castel, A. D. (2022). Learning in double time: The effect of lecture video speed on immediate and delayed comprehension. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 36, 69-82.

Murphy, D. H., **Agadzhanyan, K.**, Whatley, M. C., & Castel, A. D. (2021). Metacognition and fluid intelligence in value-directed remembering. *Metacognition and Learning*, 26, 685-709.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION OR UNDER REVIEW

Agadzhanyan, K. & Castel, A. D. (under review). The effect of font size and emotional valence on metacognition and recall.

Agadzhanyan, K. & Castel, A. D. (in prep). False memory for features of familiar landmarks: The case of the Hollywood sign and Statue of Liberty.

Agadzhanyan, K., Murphy D. H., Tesfamichael, N.D., & Castel, A. D. (in prep). Value-based encoding and penalties for misremembering can reduce false memory while preserving true memory.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Student in Memory and Lifespan Cognition Lab

March 2021 – Present, University of California, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator: Dr. Alan Castel

Visiting Doctoral Student in Loftus Lab

April 2021 – September 2022, University of California, Irvine

Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Loftus

Research Assistant in Memory and Lifespan Cognition Lab

October 2019 – March 2021, University of California, Los Angeles

Principal Investigator: Dr. Alan D. Castel

- Piloted, conducted, and provided input on lab research examining human memory, metacognition, attention, decision-making, and how these processes change across the lifespan.
- Coded data for a project investigating how metacognition impacts adaptive selective memory.
- Trained other Research Assistants in lab procedures and operations.

ARTICLES

Agadzhanyan, K., & Bergstrom, A. (2023, January). What Makes Information More Memorable: The Influence of Emotionality on Memory and Metacognition. [Web blog post].

<https://www.psychologyinaction.org/2023-1-20-what-makes-information-more-memorable-the-influence-of-emotionality-on-memory-and-metacognition/>

Agadzhanyan, K., & Elbaz-Deckel, N. (2022, December). How Do You Learn Best: The Role of Information Modality in Learning and Memory. [Web blog post].

<https://www.psychologyinaction.org/2022-12-6-how-do-you-learn-best-the-role-of-information-modality-in-learning-and-memory/>

Agadzhanyan, K., & Elbaz-Deckel, N. (2022, June). Anxiety, Depression, and Academic Performance: The Role of Working Memory Capacity. [Web blog post]. <https://www.psychologyinaction.org/2022-6-11-anxiety-depression-and-academic-performance-the-role-of-working-memory-capacity/>

Agadzhanyan, K., & Zou, F. (2021, December). Make it Stick: How Intentional Usage of Encoding Strategies by Students and Instructors Can Improve Learning and Memory. [Web blog post]. <https://www.psychologyinaction.org/2021-12-12-make-it-stick-how-intentional-usage-of-encoding-strategies-by-students-and-instructors-can-improve-learning-and-memory/>

Agadzhanyan, K., & Murphy, D. H. (2020, April). Memory Malfunctions: A Discussion of Research on False Memory. [Web blog post]. <https://www.psychologyinaction.org/2020-3-23-memory-malfunctions-a-discussion-of-research-on-false-memory/>

PRESENTATIONS

Agadzhanyan, K., Zou, F., & Castel, A. D. (2022, November). The effect of font size and emotional valence on metacognition and recall. Poster presentation at the Psychonomic Society's 63rd Annual Meeting (virtual format).

Agadzhanyan, K. (2021, February). Your brain is lying to you: A discussion of research on false memory. Lecture for UCLA Senior Scholars (virtual format).

Murphy, D. H., **Agadzhanyan, K.,** Whatley, M. C., & Castel, A. D. (2020, November). Metacognition and fluid intelligence in value-directed remembering. Poster presentation at the Psychonomic Society's 61st Annual Meeting (virtual format).

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of California, Los Angeles – Summer Mentored Research Fellowship

July 2023 – September 2023

- Awarded \$6,000 for summer research.

University of California, Los Angeles – Mangasar M. Mangasarian Fellowship

September 2022 – June 2023

- Awarded \$15,000 for research and study.

University of California, Los Angeles - Graduate Summer Research Mentorship

July 2022 – September 2022

- Awarded \$6,000 for summer research.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Associate

April 2023 – Present, University of California, Los Angeles

- Cognitive Psychology

Teaching Assistant

January 2022 – March 2023, University of California, Los Angeles

- Introductory Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology, overall rating 8.13 (out of 9)
- Cognitive Psychology, overall rating 7.94 (out of 9)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Psychology In Action Leadership Team

A scientific communication organization that is independently run by graduate students in the Psychology Ph.D. program at UCLA.

September 2022 – Present

- Tweet and share blog posts from Psychology in Action.
- Assist in organizing PIA events.

REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

Memory & Cognition

Co-review with Dr. Alan D. Castel

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

UCLA Alumni Mentor Program

October 2020 – Present

- Provide mentorship to current UCLA students by sharing professional and personal experiences.

Dialogue Society at UCLA (Senior Outreach Program)

September 2021 – Present (Vice President)

- Co-write and manage program blog publications.
- Co-founder of the Passion Project, a project dedicated to showcasing older adults' talents

September 2020 – August 2021 (volunteer)

- Organized and held workshops and discussion boards on lifelong learning for seniors.
- Presented on cognitive psychology topics at virtual events for senior scholars.

University of California, Los Angeles Honors Program

September 2018 – June 2020

- Completed over 28 honors units.

Glendale Community College Scholars Program

September 2016 – June 2018

- Contributed to the program's newsletter.
- Scholar Journal 2017 editor.

UNDERGRADUATES MENTORED

- Feifan Zou (September 2021 – Present)
- Nicole Elbaz-Deckel (January 2022 – Present)
- Zoe Liao (January 2022 – Present)
- Anya Berstrom (September 2022 – Present)
- Sharon Zhao (April 2023 – Present)
- Nolan Reardon (April 2023 – Present)

REFERENCES

Dr. Alan Castel

Professor of Psychology

University of California, Los Angeles

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