

Ruizeng Wang

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EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Expected 2031
PhD in Psychology
Committee: Prof. Corinna Loeckenhoff
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Aug 2023 - May 2026
B.S. in Human Development with Honors | **GPA:** 4.00/4.30
Minors: Gerontology | Cognitive Science | Business
Honors Thesis: *Eyewitness Memory and Suggestibility in the Aging Mind*
Thesis committee: Prof. Charles Brainerd, Prof. Stephen Ceci

University of Rochester, College of Arts and Sciences, Rochester, NY
Major: Brain and Cognitive Science | **GPA:** 4.00/4.00 Aug 2022 – May 2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Healthy Aging; Decision Making; Caregiving; Dementia; Cross-Cultural

PRESENTATIONS

Wang, R., Brainerd, C. J. (2026 May). The Role of Metacognition and Generation Effect in Learning and Memory. Poster Presented at 2026 APS Annual Convention, Barcelona, Spain and Cornell Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Ithaca, NY.

Wang, R., Guo, J., Lu, Y., & Loeckenhoff, C. E. (2026, May). Effects of Aging Simulation on Self-Continuity and Anxiety About Aging. Poster Presented at Cornell BCTR Poster Symposium, Ithaca, NY.

Wang, R., Su, I.-A., Wang, Y.-H., & Ceci, S. J. (2025, May). *Age gaps and family structure: Cross-cultural predictors of parenting styles*. Poster presented at Cornell Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Ithaca, NY.

Albert, S., Cranshaw, I. J., Guan, V., Moon, C., Thompson, B., **Wang, R.**, Liu, X., & Brainerd, C. J. (2025, May). *Human vs. AI: Processing of semantic associations*. Poster Presented at Cornell Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Ithaca, NY.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Healthy Aging Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
PhD Student Aug 2026 – Present
Supervisors: Dr. Corinna Löckenhoff

Affect and Cognition Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Undergraduate Research Assistant Jan 2025 – May 2026
Supervisors: Dr. Adam Anderson, Dr. Inbal Ravreby, Dr. Elizabeth Riley

- Investigated implicit social cognition using scalp EEG; independently led recording sessions and managed the lab's EEG database; developed session protocol and led training sessions for new research assistants on EEG setup and recording
- Programmed behavioral tasks in PsychoPy and developed AI-generated stimuli for the Smile Processing Study; led pilot sessions and refined the experimental design
- Recruited older adults from Ithaca and Syracuse to diversify SES, educational, and racial backgrounds, and examined how stress level, medical history, and access to living resources relate to potential Alzheimer's disease risk.
- Assisted in behavioral tests, eyetracking, and fMRI scanning for the Healthy Aging Study; applying machine learning models to analyze pupil dilation data to classify pupil dynamics between sham and verum taVNS and interpret findings in relation to locus coeruleus activity

Memory & Neuroscience Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Undergraduate Research Assistant

May 2024 – May 2026

Supervisor: Dr. Charles Brainerd

- Investigated the joint effects of Self-Generation and Judgment of Learning reactivity on short-term memory performance for semantically related and unrelated word pairs; programmed the Qualtrics task, collected 90+/160 college participants, and analyzing data based on the dual-retrieval model in R studio
- Contributed to the Study of Meaning in Humans vs. Generative AI, evaluated AI models in weekly meetings, refined study questions to explore variations in word association norms and ratings of multiple lexical attributes between human participants and LLMs
- Collected data for Categorical Judgement Study (60+ participants) and Memory Recognition Tests (60+ participants)

Life-span Development Laboratory, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Summer Research Assistant

May 2025 – Aug 2025

Supervisors: Dr. Laura Carstensen

- Built, modified, and validated a dyads study protocol on intergenerational affinity, investigating affective and behavioral engagement across different generations following conversations on societally meaningful topics
- Conducted literature review to validate core study measures; developed pre-study assessment questionnaires using Qualtrics and Word to evaluate key constructs
- Managed and reorganized a lab participant pool of 650+ individuals for the dyads pilot study, scheduled and led 16 pilot sessions
- Documented refined study protocol and created research assistant training document and video for dyads study

McGovern Institute for Brain Research, MIT, Cambridge, MA

MIT Visiting Scholar, Summer Research Assistant

Jun 2024 - Sep 2024

Supervisors: Dr. Guoping Feng, Dr. Cui Li

- Assisted in validating three key genes involved in oligodendrocyte development and developing methods to upregulate the expression of specific oligodendrocyte stages to enhance myelination and remyelination in transgenic mouse models
- Validated transgenic mouse line expressing a bright red fluorescent fusion protein to track oligodendrocyte stage-specific gene expression and assess differences in signal strength across age periods; delivered summer report and presented results to lab
- Developed Python Programming (OpenCV) interacting with ImageJ to detect and count signals for quantification & data analysis purposes

Child Witness & Cognition Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Jan 2024 - May 2025

Supervisors: Dr. Stephen Ceci, Dr. I-An Su

- Recruited and interviewed child participants (ages 5-8) in Tompkins County for studies on eyewitness memory and suggestibility, coded and analyzed eyewitness memory data
- Conducted cross-cultural analyses of suggestibility and episodic memory in children from the U.S. and Taiwan in R, focusing on differences in recall accuracy across central and peripheral details
- Independently investigated cross-cultural predictors of parenting styles, ran multiple analyses in R to explore how parent-child age gaps and family structures shape parenting styles in the U.S. and Taiwan, delivered a poster presentation

SERVICE EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP

Feel the Years: An Interactive Learning Experience on Aging

Project Founder, Researcher

July 2025 – March 2026

- Conceptualized and initiated an interactive aging simulation project to promote empathy and intergenerational understanding through immersive learning.
- Coordinating all experiential components, including simulation suits, sensory-reduction tools, mobility-reduction tools, AI aging visualization, and activity stations that replicate physical, cognitive, and sensory changes in older adulthood.
- Created reflective learning opportunities to deepen participants' understanding of age-related changes and social inclusion.
- Designing pre- and post-experience surveys assessing shifts in self-continuity and intergenerational affinity

GripTape & Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell

Primary Mentor, Researcher

Aug 2024 - Dec 2024

- Supported two 15-year-old adolescents through a 10-week learning challenge using the GripTape Self-Driving Learning Model; guided them in setting weekly goals and managing their learning experiences; provided feedback on their progress and challenges
- Collaborated with BCTR to analyze youth learning behaviors, enhance youth learning experiences; developed a champion logic model and presented to GripTape

HONORS & AWARDS

Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Outstanding Performance in Research

Alan D. Mathios Research and Service Grant (\$2,000)

Katherine Duddy Smith Fund and Human Ecology Undergraduate Research Fund (\$6,000)

Dean's List, University of Rochester (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)

Cornell University (Fall 2023 – Spring 2026)

iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine): Gold Award

SKILLS

Programming languages: R (Advanced), Python (Intermediate), MATLAB (Intermediate)

Tools: EEG, MRI, Eye-tracking, Qualtrics, ImageJ, Inquisit, PsychoPy

Languages: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)