

Sarah Hennessy, Ph.D.

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TRAINING

University of Arizona 2024-present
Postdoctoral Fellow
Advisors: Dr. Jessica Andrews-Hanna, Dr. Matthew Grilli

University of Southern California 2019-2024
Ph.D., Psychology, M.A., Psychology
Emphasis: *Brain and Cognitive Sciences*
Advisors: Dr. Assal Habibi, Dr. Antonio Damasio
Dissertation: *Behavioral and Neural Correlates of Music-Evoked Nostalgia Across the Lifespan*

Occidental College 2013-2017
B.A., Psychology (Honors); Minor: Ethnomusicology
Magna cum laude, Departmental Distinction
Advisor: Dr. Anne Schell

FUNDING

- NIH T32 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship *Hearing and Communication Neuroscience (2023-2024)*
- USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant (\$2000) (2023)
- Gold Family Fellowship (\$5000) (2023)
- SEMPRE 50th Anniversary Research Award (\$16,000) (2022)
- GRAMMY Museum Scientific Research Grant (\$20,000) (2022)
- USC Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Award (\$1000) (2022)
- USC Department of Psychology Doctoral Research Grant Award (\$3250) (2021)
- Dornsife PhD Academy Research Award (\$500/yr) (2021, 2022, 2023)
- USC Psychology Research Continuity Award (\$1000) (2020)
- USC Psychology Department Travel Award (\$1000/yr) (2020, 2021)
- USC Fellowship Bootcamp Award (\$1000/yr) (2019, 2021)

PUBLICATIONS

* = trainee author (undergraduate student)

Hennessy, S., Greer, T., Narayanan, S., Habibi, A., (2024). Unique affective profile of nostalgic music: An extension and conceptual replication of Barrett et al., 2010. *Emotion*.

Hennessy, S., Herschel, E., Goldsworthy, R., Cahn, R., Habibi, A. (2022). Effects of online choir or mindfulness interventions on auditory perception and well-being in middle- and older-aged adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: a randomized controlled trial. *Music and Science*.

Hennessy, S., Mack, W. J., & Habibi, A. (2022). Speech-in-noise perception in musicians and non-musicians: a multi-level meta-analysis. *Hearing Research*, 108442.

Hennessey, S., Sachs, M., Kaplan, J., & Habibi, A. (2021). Music and mood regulation during the early-stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. *PLOS One*.

Hennessey, S., Wood, A., Wilcox, R., & Habibi, A. (2021). Neurophysiological improvements in speech-in-noise task after short-term choir training in older adults. *Aging*.

Hennessey, S., Sachs, M., Ilari, B., & Habibi, A. (2019). Effects of Music Training on Inhibitory Control and Associated Neural Networks in School-Aged Children: A Longitudinal Study. *Frontiers in Neuroscience: Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience*.

Hennessey, S., Habibi, A., (*conditionally accepted at Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*). Content of music-evoked nostalgic experiences.

Hennessey, S., Kaplan, J., Ginsberg, T.*, Janata, P., Habibi, A., (*conditionally accepted at Human Brain Mapping*). Music-evoked nostalgia activates default mode and reward networks across the lifespan.

Hennessey, S., Greer, T., Habibi, A., Narayanan, S., (*under review*). What Makes Music Nostalgic? A validation of a music recommendation tool.

Papadopoulos, J., Nowlen, F., **Hennessey, S.**, Herschel, E., Habibi, A., Goldsworthy, R., (*under review*). Relationships between short term choir participation, well-being, and singing abilities of adult cochlear implant users.

Hennessey, S., Kaplan, J., Habibi, A., (*under review*). "We read the news today, oh boy": Intersubject neural synchronization during a shared nostalgic music listening experience.

Hennessey, S., Ishak, M.*, Noel, C.*, Habibi, A., (*in preparation*). Music-evoked nostalgia and autobiographical memory in BIPOC older adults.

PRESENTATIONS

* = trainee author (undergraduate student)

Ishak, M.*, **Hennessey S.**, Habibi, A., (July 2024). Exploring the Role of Lyrics in Shaping Emotional Responses to Music. Poster presentation at Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Banff, AB.

Ginsburg, T*, **Hennessey S.**, Habibi, A., (July, 2024). Age-related changes in neural activation associated with semantic details of music-evoked autobiographical memories. Symposium talk presentation at Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Banff, AB.

Hennessey, S., Janata, P., Ginsberg, T., Kaplan, J., Habibi, A., (June 2024). Neural correlates of music-evoked nostalgia across the lifespan. Poster presentation at Neurosciences of Music, Helsinki, Finland.

Hennessey, S., Janata, P., Habibi, A., (October 2023). Neural correlates of music-evoked nostalgia across the lifespan. Poster presentation at NeuroMusic, Hamilton, ON.

Hennessey, S., Mack, W. J., & Habibi, A. (August 2022). Speech-in-noise perception in musicians and non-musicians: a multi-level meta-analysis. Post presentation Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Portland, OR.

Hennessey, S., Wood, A., Wilcox, R., & Habibi, A., (November 2021). *Short-Term Music Training on Auditory Processing in Older Adults*. Poster presentation at Society for Neuroscience (virtual).

Hennessey, S., Wood, A., & Habibi, A., (June 2021). *Short-Term Music Training on Auditory Processing in Older Adults*. Poster presentation at Neuroscience and Music VII: Connecting with music across the lifespan, Aarhus, Denmark (virtual).

Hennessey, S., Sachs, M., Ilari, B., & Habibi, A., (September 2019). *Effects of Music Training on Inhibitory Control and Associated Neural Networks in School-Aged Children: A Longitudinal Study*. Symposium presentation at the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, New York City, NY.

Hennessey, S., Perez, P., & Habibi, A., (September 2018). *Longitudinal effects of music training on inhibitory control in school-aged children*. Poster presented at The International Mind, Brain, and Education Society, Los Angeles, CA.

Hennessey, S., & Schell, A. (October 2017). *Psychophysiological responses during music-induced nostalgia in younger and older adults*. Poster presented at Society for Psychophysiological Research Convention, Vienna, Austria.

Hennessey, S., & Schell, A. (May 2017). *Psychophysiological responses during music-induced nostalgia in younger and older adults*. Poster presented at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference of the University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

INVITED TALKS

“Introduction to R programming” 2024
University of Arizona, Neuroscience of Emotion and Thought Lab

“Music-evoked memory, and implications for healthy aging” 2023, 2024
University of Southern California: Mind-Body Connection (PSYC 374)

“Music and Memory: Nostalgia and Health” 2022, 2023
University of Southern California: Accelerated Summer Psychology Course

“Music-evoked Memory and Nostalgia” 2022
University of Southern California: Music, Mind, and Brain (PSYC 215)

“Confounds and Obscuring Variables” 2021
University of Southern California: Experimental Research Methods (PSYC 314)

“COVID-19 Vaccination: Myths and Facts” 2021
University of Southern California: Drugs, Behavior, and Society (PSYC 165)

“Music Training and Child Development” 2019

University of Southern California: Reporting and Writing (JOUR 206)

TEACHING

Founder, Instructor 2022-2024

Brain and Music Lab Workshop Series

Monthly 2-hour workshops (e.g., R Programming, resume building, neuroanatomy, fMRI methods)

Teaching Assistant Spring 2022

Music, Mind, and Brain, University of Southern California Department of Psychology

Mean overall rating: 3.8/4

Certification Received Fall 2021

Center for Excellence in Teaching Future Faculty Training Institute
University of Southern California

Teaching Assistant Fall 2021

Experimental Research Methods, University of Southern California Department of Psychology

Mean overall rating: 3.7/4

Teaching Assistant Spring 2021

Course: *Drugs, Behavior, and Society*, University of Southern California Department of Psychology

Mean overall rating: 3.9/4

Teaching Assistant Fall 2020

Introduction to Psychology, University of Southern California Department of Psychology

Mean overall rating: 3.9/4

MENTORSHIP

Brain and Music Lab Research Assistants 2017-

Trained, managed, and mentored over 80 undergraduate and masters-level researcher assistants. Led monthly workshops on statistical methods, research methods, coding, post-baccalaureate career paths. Mentored independent projects and theses (see below).

Grace Lee, Neuroscience Honors, Undergraduate 2024-

University of Southern California

“Using Natural Language Processing to Identify Content Diversity in Nostalgic Music-evoked Narratives”

Aanya Agarwal, Cognitive Science Honors, Undergraduate 2024-

University of Southern California

“Priming in autobiographical narratives”

Mark Feng, Neuroscience Honors, Undergraduate 2024-

University of Southern California

“Bodily maps of nostalgia evoked by music”

Alisha Huang, Independent Research Project, Neuroscience 2024-

University of Southern California

“Culturally-tailored music therapy for older adults with dementia: a systematic literature review”

Michael Ishak, Independent Research Project 2024-
University of Southern California
“Exploring the Role of Lyrics in Shaping Emotional Responses to Music”

Ashley Melendres, Neuroscience Honors, Undergraduate 2024-
University of Southern California
“White Matter Predictors of Autobiographical Memory Recall from Music”

Kylie Meng-Lin, Neuroscience Honors, Undergraduate 2023-
University of Southern California
“Hippocampal Volume Predictors of Autobiographical Memory Recall from Music in Younger and Older adults”

Jasmine Shapiro, Athena Fong, Speech and Language Pathology Capstone, Masters 2024
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
“Music and autobiographical memory in aging”

Talia Ginsberg, Neuroscience Honors, Undergraduate 2024
University of Southern California
“Age-related changes in neural activation associated with semantic details of music-evoked autobiographical memories”

Edalyn Cayetano, Nona Hovhannisyan, Speech and Language Pathology Capstone, Masters 2023
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
Thesis: “Music-evoked Autobiographical Memories”

Samhita Swamy, Neuroscience Honors, Undergraduate 2019
University of Southern California
“Community Music Training and Neural Correlates of Emotional Well-being”

INVITED PEER REVIEW

Psychological Science
Psychology of Music
Emotion

HONORS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Best Data Blitz Award, UofA Psychology Department (2024)
- *Excellence in Scientific Writing Award*, USC Psychology Department (2024)
- University of Washington NeuroHackademy (2020)
- USC Dornsife/ Graduate School Fellowship (2019-)
- Occidental College Departmental Distinction, Psychology (2017)
- Occidental College Departmental Honors, Psychology (2017)
- Occidental College InternAway Summer Funding (\$3000) (2016)
- Occidental College Dean’s List (2014)
- Occidental College Presidential Scholarship (\$20,000/yr) (2013-2017)

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITIONS

NIH T32 Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow	2023-2024
<i>Hearing and Communication Neuroscience Program</i>	
University of Southern California; <i>Fellowship Committee:</i> Dr. Assal Habibi, Dr. Jonas Kaplan, Dr. Shrikanth Narayanan	
Research Coordinator	2017- 2019
<i>Brain and Creativity Institute</i>	
University of Southern California; <i>Supervisor:</i> Dr. Assal Habibi	
Research Assistant	2015- 2017
<i>Brain and Creativity Institute</i>	
University of Southern California; <i>Supervisors:</i> Dr. Assal Habibi, Dr. Beatriz Ilari, Dr. Matthew Sachs	
Research Assistant	2017
<i>Department of Psychology, Psychophysiology</i>	
Occidental College; <i>Supervisor:</i> Dr. Anne Schell	
Honors Thesis	2016-2017
<i>Department of Psychology, Psychophysiology</i>	
Occidental College; <i>Supervisor:</i> Dr. Anne Schell	
Research Assistant	2016
<i>Department of Psychology, Thinking Lab</i>	
Occidental College; <i>Supervisor:</i> Dr. Andrew Shtulman	
Research Assistant	2015
<i>Department of Psychology, Cognitive Psychology</i>	
University of Alaska Anchorage; <i>Supervisor:</i> Dr. Yasuhiro Ozuru	
Research Assistant	2015
<i>Department of Psychology, Rat Lab</i>	
Occidental College; <i>Supervisor:</i> Dr. Nancy Dess	

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Research and Data Science Intern	2022-2023
<i>Rubato Life</i>	
Los Angeles, CA	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Postdoctoral Committee Member	2025-
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advocacy Committee	
University of Arizona Department of Psychology	
High School Competition Judge	2025
<i>Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Foundation</i>	
High School Competition Judge	2023

National STEM Challenge

High School Student Research Mentor 2023-
Polygence

Personal Statement Editor 2020-2024
CAPTURE Increase Student Diversity Committee, University of Southern California

PhD Application Mentor 2020-2024
Next Gen Scholars Program, University of Minnesota

Lecture Series Organizer 2019-2022
Brain and Cognitive Sciences Area, USC Psychology

Education and Public Outreach Volunteer 2018-
Alzheimer's Association, Southern California Chapter

RELEVANT SKILLS

Data Collection EEG (Neuroscan, BrainVision), f/MRI (Seimens), skin conductance, heart rate, blood volume (Biopac), Qualtrics, RedCap

Imaging Analysis Univariate functional analysis (FSL), functional connectivity, MVPA (pymvpa), ISC/ISFC (brainIAK), voxel-based morphometry (FSL), mask tracing (BrainSuite), ERP analysis (EEGLab, erplab), DTI (BrainSuite, DSI Studio)

Statistics R statistics, IBM SPSS, MSAccess, SASViya, Tableau, QuickSight
Programming Python, MATLAB, PsychToolbox, SuperLab, SQL, NoSQL, MongoDB