

Sahithyan Sivakumaran

PhD Student · Cognition & Perception · New York University

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Pronouns: he/him/his

EDUCATION

PhD in Cognition and Perception

Department of Psychology, NYU

– Advisor: Catherine Hartley

Aug 2024 - present

New York, USA

M.Sc Cognitive Sciences

Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences (CBCS), University of Allahabad

– Advisor: Narayanan Srinivasan

2018 - 2020

Allahabad, India

Semester Abroad Program

Umeå University

Jan - June 2017

Umeå, Sweden

B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering

Department of Computer Science, SRM Institute of Science & Technology

2014 - 2018

Chennai, India

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science

Project Associate | Emotion and Cognition Lab

– PI : Srikanth Padmala

Aug 2021 - July 2024

Bangalore, India

Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science

Project Associate | Space Lab

– PI : Sachin Deshmukh

Dec 2020 - July 2021

Bangalore, India

PUBLICATIONS:

- **Role of contingency in reward-emotion interactions during the categorization of emotional facial expressions**
Journal: Cognition and Emotion
DOI: doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2025.2542920
Authors: A Krishnan, S Sivakumaran & S Padmala *, 2025
- **Role of contingency in reward-emotion interactions during the categorization of emotional facial expressions**
Journal: Motivation Science
DOI: doi.org/10.1037/mot0000330
Authors: S Sivakumaran, L Chakravarthula & S Padmala*, 2024

TEACHING & MENTORING

Teaching Assistant

Workshop on Cognitive Neuroimaging, CBCS, University of Allahabad

March 2023

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

- **(Poster) | Neural mechanisms underlying valence bias in reinforcement learning and episodic memory across development** Nov 2025
*Society for Neuroscience,
San Diego, CA*
- **(Poster) | Neural mechanisms underlying valence bias in reinforcement learning and episodic memory across development** Oct 2025
*Society for Neuroeconomics,
Boston, MA*
- **(Talk) | The Role of Positive and Negative Outcomes in Shaping Memory** April 2025
*TELL GSAS doctoral research series
Graduate School of Arts & Science, NYU*
- **(Poster) | Role of contingency in reward-emotion interactions** Dec 2023
*10th Annual Conference of Cognitive Science
IIT-Kanpur, India*
- **(Talk) | Intertemporal choice under uncertainty** Jan 2021
*Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore, India*

TECHNICAL & ANALYTICAL SKILLS

- **Programming & Scripting:** *Expert* - Java (10 yrs), C (8 yrs), C++ (8 yrs); *Advanced* - MATLAB (6 yrs), Python (4 yrs); *Intermediate* - R (2 yrs); *Foundational* - JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Docker, Linux shell
- **Experimental-Design Platforms:** Psychtoolbox, PsychoPy, EPrime, Gorilla, Pavlovia, Qualtrics
- **Neuroimaging Acquisition:** MPRAGE (structural) & EPIBOLD (functional)
- **Neuroimaging Analysis:** SPM, FSL, AFNI; preprocessing, wholebrain & ROI GLM, generalized PPI, beta-series correlation, MVPA, network analysis, brainbehaviour correlations
- **Statistical Software:** R, SPSS, JASP
- **Databases:** Oracle, MySQL, SQL (schema design, query optimisation)
- **Visualisation & Documentation:** Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, \LaTeX
- **Cloud & HPC:** SLURM, GNU Parallel (cluster job orchestration)
- **Histology:** Embedding, sectioning, Nissl & immuno-staining (rat brain)

SERVICE & OUTREACH

- **Local Committee Member, Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN) 2026** Aug 2026
New York, USA
- **Volunteer teacher work** Summer 2022
Teaching out-of-school children, Bangalore
- **Student coordinator for semester abroad program** 2016 - 2018
SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Chennai, India
- **Summer trainee at CSIR-CEERI** Summer 2016
Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute, Chennai, India
- **Volunteer & Student member of Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)** 2015 - 2016
Chennai (Madras), India
- **Volunteer at Blue Cross - India** 2012 - 2016
Chennai (Madras), India
- **Volunteer & Member of World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)** 2008 - 2012
Chennai (Madras), India

HONORS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **UGC Merit-based Scholarship for Master's Studies** July 2018 - May 2020
Associated with Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences (CBCS), University of Allahabad
- **Tuition Waiver for Semester Abroad from SRM Institute of Science & Technology** Jan - June 2017
Received a tuition waiver for a semester at Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- **Research Intern** Jan - June 2018
Philips India Ltd, Philips Innovation campus Bangalore, India

WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES

- **Summer School: Neurohackademy 2025** July 2025 - August 2025
University of Washington, Seattle
- **NYU Science Communication Workshop** Feb 2025 - March 2025
Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute - NYU
- **Short-Term Course: Advances in Medical Imaging** March 2021
Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), India
- **Workshop on Cognitive Neuroimaging** Feb 2020
Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Science, India
- **Brain Computation Learning Workshop** June 2019
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- **Machine Intelligence and Brain Research Winter Course** Jan 2019
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India

LANGUAGES

- **English:** Native or Bilingual proficiency
- **Tamil:** Native or Bilingual proficiency
- **German:** Completed A1 level German Language course from Goethe Institute (7- Jan - 2016)