

# BENJAMIN PITT

pitt@berkeley.edu

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

---

<b>UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA</b> Post-doctoral scholar in Psychology (with Steven Piantadosi)	10.18 – present
<b>University of Chicago, Chicago, IL</b> PhD in Psychology (with Daniel Casasanto) M.A. in Psychology	9.13 – 6.18 6.18 9.15
<b>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY</b> Visiting PhD student	8.17 – 6.18
<b>The New School for Social Research, New York, NY</b> Psychology graduate student	8.12 – 8.13
<b>Brown University, Providence, RI</b> BS in Cognitive Neuroscience (with Steven Sloman)	2002 – 06

## AWARDS & HONORS

---

2019	<b>Postdoctoral scholarship, McDonnell Network on Abstract Combinatorial Thought</b>
2017	<b>Graduate Travel Award, Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society</b> <b>Graduate Council Travel Award, University of Chicago</b>
2016	<b>GRAD Global Impact Award, University of Chicago</b> <b>Student Travel Award, Robert J. Glushko and Pamela Samuelson Foundation</b> <b>Graduate Accommodation Award, International Meeting of the Psychonomic Society</b>
2014	<b>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable mention</b>
2013	<b>Student Travel and Conference Award, New School for Social Research</b>
2012	<b>Dean's Fellowship, New School for Social Research</b>
2006	<b>Rosenberger Prize</b> for excellence in honors research and coursework, <i>Brown University</i>

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (2019). The correlations in experience principle: How culture shapes concepts of time and number. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. DOI: 10.1037/xge0000696
- Casasanto, D. & **Pitt, B.** (2019). The faulty magnitude detector: Why SNARC-like tasks cannot support a Generalized Magnitude System. *Cognitive Science*, 43. DOI: 10.1111/cogs.12794
- Pitt, B.**, Scales, K., & Casasanto, D. (2018). Time and numbers on the fingers: Dissociating the mental timeline and mental number line. In C. Kalish, M. Rau, J. Zhu, T. T. Rogers (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 890-895). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2018). Spatializing emotion: No evidence for a domain-general magnitude system. *Cognitive Science*, 42(7), 2150–2180.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2016). Reading experience shapes the mental timeline but not the mental number line. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2753-2758). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2016). Spatializing emotion: A mapping of valence or magnitude? In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1056-1061). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2014). Experiential origins of the mental number line. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1174-1179). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

### Manuscripts in progress:

- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (submitted). Spatial metaphors and the design of everyday things.

- Gijssels, T., **Pitt, B.**, Bottini, R., Battal, C., Collignon, O. & Casasanto, D. (in prep). Space-time asymmetry in vision and audition.
- Pitt, B.**, Ferrigno, S., Casasanto, D., Gibson, E., & Piantadosi, S. (in prep). Spatial mappings of size, time, and number in an indigenous Amazonian culture.
- Pitt, B.**, Piantadosi, S., & Gibson, E. (in prep). Exact number concepts are limited to the verbal count list.
- Pitt, B.**, Schneider, R., Ferrigno, S., Gibson, E., Barner, D., & Piantadosi, S. (in prep). The piecemeal development of number knowledge: Evidence from the Tsimane’.
- Pitt, B.**, Carstensen, A., Gibson, E., & Piantadosi, S. (in prep). Different spatial reference frames on different spatial axes: How the body shapes space.

## PRESENTATIONS

---

- Tsay, J., King, M., McDougle, S., **Pitt, B.**, & Ivry, R. (2019, October). *Continuous Representational Transformations: Evidence that the Cerebellum Coordinates Movement on the Mental Number-line*. Poster presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, IL.
- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (2019, May). *Ordinality trumps cardinality: What we spatialize when we spatialize numbers*. Poster presented at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.
- Casasanto, D. & **Pitt, B.** (2019, May). *How culture shapes abstract concepts: Insights from time and number*. Paper presented at the 31st Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.
- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (2018, September). *Spatializing time and number: How culture shapes cognitive universals*. Paper presented at the 7th International Conference on Spatial Cognition, Rome, Italy.
- Gijssels, T., **Pitt, B.**, Bottini, R., Battal, C., Collignon, O. & Casasanto, D. (2018, September). *Modality matters: Space-time mappings differ in vision and audition*. Paper presented at the 7th International Conference on Spatial Cognition, Rome, Italy.
- Pitt, B.**, Scales, K., & Casasanto, D. (2018, July). *Time and numbers on the fingers: Dissociating the mental timeline and mental number line*. Paper presented at the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (2017, November). *Spatializing time and number: How culture shapes cognitive universals*. Poster presented at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Vancouver, BC.
- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (2017, May). *Distinct experiential origins of the mental timeline & mental number line*. Poster presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.
- Pitt, B.** & Casasanto, D. (2017, April). *Experiential origins of the mental time line and the mental number line*. Paper presented at the 89th Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2016, July). *Reading experience shapes the mental timeline but not the mental number line*. Paper presented at the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2016, July). *Spatializing emotion: A mapping of valence or magnitude?* Paper presented at the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2016, May). *Experiential origins of the mental time line and the mental number line*. Poster session presented at the 2nd International Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Granada, Spain.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2014, July). *Experiential origins of the mental number line*. Paper presented at the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City, Canada.
- Pitt, B.**, & Casasanto, D. (2014, July). *Experiential origins of the mental number line*. Poster session presented at the Sixth Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, San Diego, CA.

## INVITED TALKS

---

- |      |                            |   |
|------|----------------------------|---|
| 2019 | Stanford                   | <i>Developmental Psychology Brownbag Series</i> |
|      | UC Berkeley                | <i>Mahesh Srinivasan lab</i>                    |
|      | UC Berkeley                | <i>Graduate School of Education</i>             |
|      | UC Berkeley                | <i>Gesture and Multimodality group</i>          |
| 2018 | MIT                        | <i>Ted Gibson lab</i>                           |
|      | NYU                        | <i>Yaacov Trope lab</i>                         |
|      | University of Pennsylvania | <i>Common Ground seminar</i>                    |
|      | Barnard College            | <i>Koleen McCrink lab</i>                       |

	Columbia University	<i>Psychology seminar</i>
2017	Cornell University	<i>Human Development Brown Bag</i>
	Indiana University at Bloomington	<i>Cognitive lunch series</i>
	Google NY	<i>Jigsaw team</i>
	Northwestern University	<i>Dedre Gentner lab</i>
2016	Columbia Teachers College	<i>Barbara Tversky lab</i>
2014	NYU	<i>Interactive Telecommunications Program</i>
2013	Fjord NY	<i>Design Clinic</i>

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

---

### Teaching Assistance

2017	Mind	<i>University of Chicago</i>
2016	Psychology of Decision Making	<i>University of Chicago</i>
	Cognitive Psychology	<i>University of Chicago</i>
2015	The Body in the Mind	<i>University of Chicago</i>
2013	Relativity of Mind	<i>New School for Social Research (Graduate level)</i>
2012	Experiential Relativity	<i>New School for Social Research</i>

### Undergraduate student supervision:

Amanda Dobbyn	Amritpal Singh	Benny Koleck	Courtney Gardner	Kamilah Scales
Melissa Grossbarth	Michelle Kim	Nikolai Maximay	Sumer Vaid	Vayram Nyadroh

### Masters student supervision: Shrishti Goel

## SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

---

**Ad hoc reviewer:** Cognition; Cognitive Science; Cognitive Processing; Cognitive Science Society; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Language and Cognition; Psychological Research; Psychological Science

**Member:** Association for Psychological Science; Midwestern Psychological Association; Psychonomic Society

**Volunteer:** The Think Tank, a mobile neuroscience outreach lab (2015-16); The Future of the Mind, part of “7 Days of Genius” lecture series (2015)

**Committee member:** University of California committee to reduce carbon emissions from professional travel (2019-20); Psychology Graduate Student Professional Development Committee (2015-16)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

<b>Research Fellow</b> , Google, <i>New York, NY</i>	7.17 – 10.17
Designed and conducted behavioral experiments using virtual reality	
<b>User Experience Consultant</b> , CTRL-labs (formerly Cognescent), <i>New York, NY</i>	6.16 – 8.16
Summer internship at technology startup building novel brain-machine interface (ctrl-labs.com)	
Supported by GRAD Global Impact Award from UChicago	
<b>Interaction Designer</b> , Fjord, <i>Berlin, Paris, &amp; Madrid</i>	5.10 – 7.12
Designed user interfaces for products and services at international design firm	
<b>Interaction Designer</b> , Ziba Design, <i>Portland, OR</i>	6.08 – 11.09
Specialized in information architecture, user experience strategy	
<b>Design Researcher</b> , Ziba Design, <i>Portland, OR</i>	11.07 – 6.08
Designed and conducted ethnographic user research and usability tests	

## TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

---

**Software:** R, Python, Adobe Creative Suite

**tDCS.** Transcranial Direct-Current Stimulation in human adults

**Languages.** Conversational spoken and written French and Spanish