

Hi Dr. Hartley,

My name is Kate Nussenbaum and I'm currently pursuing an MSc by Research in Experimental Psychology at Oxford, working under Drs. Kia Nobre and Gaia Scerif. I am studying how long-term memories bias attention, and how competing exogenous and memory cues differentially influence attention and learning throughout development. I graduated from Brown University in 2015, where I worked with Dima Amso on a variety of projects that also primarily focused on interactions between visual selective attention and recognition memory, as well as on the role of early experience in shaping cognitive development.

After I spend two years in Oxford, I am planning to return to the U.S. to begin a PhD program. I have read some of your papers, and am very interested in the line of your work that examines developmental differences in learning strategies, such as individuals' transitions from more model-free to more model-based learners over time, and the different weights kids and adults place on experience vs. instruction. My research to date has focused extensively on visual attention, but I am eager to expand my horizons and examine how attention and memory interact with other mechanisms that influence learning over developmental time, such as reinforcement learning. I am particularly interested in how differences in peoples' early experiences may affect the learning strategies they employ, and in understanding the neural mechanisms that underlie these differences.

The questions that you are pursuing seem to align very well with my research interests — I saw on the CogDev listserv that your lab is moving to NYU, and I was wondering if you are planning to accept graduate students to start in fall 2017.

I have attached my CV for reference. Thanks for your time!

Best,
Kate

[Note: I sent this email in Summer 2016, and submitted my NYU application in December 2016 for Fall 2017.](#)