

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS); University of Rochester, New York <i>Thesis: Emergence and Cognitive Underpinnings of Behavioral Coordination</i>	2021-present
MS(R)	Cognitive Science (CGS); Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (CGPA: 9.35/10) <i>Thesis: Human Reasoning Abilities and Executive Functions</i>	2018-21
B.Sc.	Physics; Amrita University, Coimbatore, India (CGPA: 9.66/10)	2015-18

CURRENT RESEARCH

Experimental emergence of conventions in humans	2021 - present
Studying the emergence of conventions under various conditions through computerized multiplayer tasks with humans to address questions that advances our understanding of how groups solve recurring multi-agent coordination problems	
Coordinated problem solving in marmoset monkeys (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>)	2021 - present
Developing a paradigm to investigate the cognitive mechanisms underlying coordinated problem-solving in a physically intuitive task with a cooperatively breeding primate to uncover the evolutionary emergence of complex coordination across species	
Gaze following in marmoset monkeys (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>)	2021 – present
Studying gaze-following (directing one’s attention to where someone else is looking, essential for successful social interaction involving coordination) in common marmoset monkeys (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>) to address questions about the evolution of this ability in humans using naturalistic video stimuli and high-precision eye tracking	

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Best Graduate Student Talk Award <i>33rd International Conference on Comparative Cognition</i>	April 2026
Edward Peck Curtis Teaching Award <i>University of Rochester; for excellence in teaching by a graduate student</i>	April 2026
Open Scholarship Award <i>University of Rochester</i>	April 2026
3-Minute Thesis Runner-Up <i>University of Rochester</i>	December 2025
Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute Fellow <i>University of St. Andrews, Scotland</i>	July 2025
Kuczaj Memorial Travel Grant <i>32nd International Conference on Comparative Cognition</i>	March 2025
Donald M. and Janet C. Barnard Fellow <i>University of Rochester; in recognition of achievements in research, mentoring, outreach and service.</i>	2024-25
Best Research Talk <i>Graduate Research Day, University of Rochester</i>	October 2023

MANUSCRIPTS

Mohan, O., & Biro, D. (in press). Experimental Emergence of Conventions in Human Dyads. <i>PLOS ONE</i> .
Mohan, O., *Nelms, A., Bucklaew, A., Biro, D., & Mitchell, J. F. (2025). Probing the limited oculomotor range of common marmosets (<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>). <i>bioRxiv</i> , 2025-11.
* Undergraduate mentee

TEACHING

Co-Instructor, Animal Minds (BCSC 183)	Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant, Computational Models of Perception and Cognition (BCSC 229)	Spring 2025
Guest Lecture, Language Use and Understanding (BCSC 261)	Fall 2024, 2025
Teaching Assistant, Animal Minds (BCSC 183)	Fall 2022, 2023
Organizer/Instructor, Advanced Methods in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCSC 509)	Spring 2023
Organizer/Instructor, Statistics for Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCSC 519)	Fall 2022
Tutor, Basic Statistics, Data Analysis and Inference (CGS 602A)	Fall 2020
Teaching Assistant, Logic and Cognitive Science (CGS 651A)	Spring 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Independently learned behavioral strategies support coordination in common marmosets

Oviya Mohan, Janejira Chapoomee, and Dora Biro

Poster, 48th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

July 2026

Common marmosets exhibit coordination in a rope-pulling task

Oviya Mohan, Jude Mitchell and Dora Biro

Talk, 33rd International Conference on Comparative Cognition

April 2026

Context-dependent gaze following in common marmosets

Oviya Mohan, Dora Biro and Jude Mitchell

Poster, 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

August 2025

Poster, 25th Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society [[Proceedings](#)]

May 2025

Experimental Emergence of Conventions in Humans

Oviya Mohan and Dora Biro

Poster, 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society [[Proceedings](#)]

July 2024

Talk, 31st International Conference on Comparative Cognition

April 2024

Poster, Gordon Research Conference - Collective Behavior

August 2023

Free-viewing of static natural images and movies in marmoset monkeys

Oviya Mohan, Amy Bucklaew, Dora Biro, and Jude F. Mitchell

Poster, 24th Annual Meeting of the Vision Sciences Society [[Proceedings](#)]

May 2024

Presented by undergraduate mentees:

Cognition Gone Wild: Exploring the present and future of Machine Learning methods to study

Primate Cognition

Federico Sánchez Vargas, Sai Rakshith Potluri, **Oviya Mohan**, Dora Biro, & Marcela Benítez

Poster, Southeastern Evolution and Human Behavior Conference

September 2025

Context-Dependent Vocal Behavior in Common Marmosets

Cecilia Zhu, **Oviya Mohan**, Janejira Chapoomee, Jude Mitchell, and Dora Biro

Poster, University of Rochester Undergraduate Research Exposition

July 2025

Application and Evaluation of DeepLabCut Multi-animal Network

Janejira Chapoomee, **Oviya Mohan**, Dora Biro, and Jude Mitchell

Poster, University of Rochester Undergraduate Research Exposition

July 2023

Evaluation of DeepLabCut multi-animal labeling in novel social foraging paradigm

Helena Xiong, **Oviya Mohan**, Luke Shaw, Dora Biro, and Jude Mitchell

Poster, University of Rochester Undergraduate Research Exposition

July 2022

Presented by high school mentees:

Probability Matching in Ants

Gypsy Malave, Sophia Liu, **Oviya Mohan**, Rithwik Cherian, Takao Sasaki

Poster, NeURoEast Research Exposition

July 2025

Quantifying Personality in Marmosets

Dianileez Flores, Rithwik Cherian, **Oviya Mohan**, and Dora Biro

Poster, NeURoEast Research Exposition

July 2024

PAST RESEARCH

Master's Thesis, Executive Function and Reasoning

2019-21

Designed and conducted experiments, using rules of formal logic, to understand the connection between executive functions and reasoning in different developmental stages, including school children

Master's Project, Agent Based Modelling of Cooperation

2019

Used an agent-based model to better understand the role of cooperation in the survival of both individuals and groups in a community

Bachelor's Project, Pulse Generating Circuit for NMR (for an indigenous MRI)

2018

Advisor: Dr. Murugadass K, Amrita University

Built a pulse generating circuit for NMR using 555 timer IC for building an indigenous MRI machine

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Associate, <i>Building a GUI for PHMR, GAIL</i>	2021
Applied Dynamics and Vibration Laboratory, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kanpur Designed an intuitive GUI to display data from a gas pipeline health monitoring robot (PHMR), for a project commissioned by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL)	
Research Assistant, <i>Role of Object's Self Relevance in Attentional Guidance</i>	2018-19
Designed and conducted behavioral experiments to understand the role of an object's self-relevance when used as a distractor in visual search paradigms	
Research Internship, <i>Tribological Characterization and Coating Deposition</i>	2017
Defence Research & Development Organization, Hyderabad Utilized a tribometer to characterize frictional properties of various coatings	

MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP

Undergraduate Mentees:	2022 - present
Jeremy Ho (Brain & Cognitive Sciences), Janejira Chapoomee (Neuroscience), Alexia Nelms (Neuroscience), Yiran Zhu (Brain & Cognitive Sciences), Enana Jacob (Neuroscience), Kiet Nguyen (Computer Science), Skye Crocker (Data Science), Federico Sanchez (Biology), Helena Xiong (Neuroscience)	
Graduate Student Representative, BCS, University of Rochester	2022-24
Committees: Graduate Program Overhaul, Faculty Search, BCS DEI	
Department Representative, GSA, University of Rochester	2023-24
Graduate Ambassador, GEPA, University of Rochester	2022-23
Hall Executive Committee, IIT Kanpur	2019-20
Core Member, Association of Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	2016-18
School Pupil Leader, The PSBB Millennium School	2014-15

OUTREACH

STAr (Science Teaching through Art), Organizer and Presenter	Fall 2025
DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee (BCS) - Outreach Coordinator	2023 - 2025
NeURoEast Bench Mentor (mentoring a high school student in a summer project)	Summer 2024, 2025
Brain Awareness Campaign, Volunteer	2023 - 24
Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer	2022
eVidyaloka, Content Developer	2020-21
Created lesson plans to teach children in rural India via local television channels in regional languages	
NSS – National Service Scheme, Amrita University, Volunteer & Unit Secretary (Amrita University)	2016-18
Executed projects renovating village schools, lake clean-ups, tree plantation and road safety drives	

CERTIFICATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Deep Learning - Machine Vision - Neuromatch Academy	July 2023
Writing about Science for Non-Scientific Audiences - IISER, Pune	December 2020
Introductory Machine Learning Workshop - Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	October 2020
Winter School on Cognitive Modelling - Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi	February 2019
Natural Language Processing - Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	December 2018

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Programming: Python, R, MATLAB, jsPsych, PsychoPy, C, C++	
Other: Public speaking and debate, Voice acting, Student organization and leadership	
Languages: Native/Bilingual Proficiency: English, Tamil ; Goethe-Zertifikat A1: German ; DELF A2: French	