

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## David Liu

Updated March 21, 2013

### ***contact information***

---

**Office:** Department of Psychology  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0109  
USA

**Phone:** 858-822-3680

**E-Mail:** davidliu@ucsd.edu

### ***education***

---

2005      **Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**  
Psychology, Developmental Area  
*Certificate in Cognitive Science/Cognitive Neuroscience*  
*Certificate in Culture and Cognition*

1997      **B.S., Carnegie Mellon University**  
Psychology, with College Honors  
*Minor in Architecture*  
*Minor in Sociology*  
*Minor in Statistics*

### ***current position***

---

2007-present      Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego  
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Human Development

### ***awards and fellowships***

---

2012-2013      Donald D. Harrington Faculty Fellow, Department of Psychology, The University of  
Texas at Austin

2010-2011      Hellman Fellow, University of California, San Diego

2005-2007      National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for  
Learning and Brain Sciences, University of Washington

2004-2005      Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies,  
University of Michigan

2004 Fellow, McDonnell Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, Dartmouth College  
 2003 Fellow, Oxford Summer School on Connectionist Modelling, Oxford University  
 2001 Fellow, John Merck Fund Summer Institute on the Biology of Developmental Disabilities in Children, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY  
 2000-2004 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation (NSF)  
 2000 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (offer declined to accept the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship)  
 1997 Gretchen Goldsmith Lankford Award (for commitment to academia – first annual recipient), Carnegie Mellon University

### ***research funding***

---

NIH/NICHD: R03HD066029

*“Neurocognitive Mechanisms Underlying Children's Theory of Mind Development”*

PI: David Liu

07/2010 – 06/2012

Direct Costs: \$100,000

UCSD Faculty Career Development Program Grant

PI: David Liu

07/2011 – 06/2012

UCSD Hellman Fellowship

PI: David Liu

07/2010 – 06/2011

UCSD Academic Senate Research Grant

PI: David Liu

07/2010 – 06/2011

NIH/NICHD: R37HD022514-21W1

US-Japan Brain Research Cooperative Program Workshop *“Development of the Social Brain”*

PIs: Andrew Meltzoff & David Liu

07/2009 – 06/2010

Direct Costs: \$34,983

UCSD Academic Senate Research Grant

PI: David Liu

07/2008 – 06/2010

2004 Dissertation Research Grant, University of Michigan

2000 Student Academic Multicultural Initiatives Grant, University of Michigan *“Culture and Conceptual Development”*

1996-1997 Undergraduate Research Initiative Grant, Carnegie Mellon University *“Young Children's Understanding of Discounting”*

## **research interests**

---

Development of Social Cognition (Theory of Mind, Trait Reasoning); Conceptual Development; Causal Reasoning; Developmental Social Cognitive Neuroscience (EEG/ERP).

## **publications**

---

### *refereed journal articles:*

- Liu, D., Vanderbilt, K. E., Heyman, G. D. (in press). Selective trust: Children's use of intention and outcome of past testimony. *Developmental Psychology*.
- MacKenzie, M. J., Liu, D., & Sameroff, A. J. (2013). Moving beyond the child care debate toward implications for social and political agendas. *Children and Youth Services Review, 35*, 3-6.
- Bowman, L. C., Liu, D., Meltzoff, A. N., & Wellman, H. M. (2012). Neural correlates of belief- and desire-reasoning in 7- and 8-year-old children: An event-related potential study. *Developmental Science, 15*, 618-632.
- Vanderbilt, K. E., Liu, D., & Heyman, G. D. (2011). The development of distrust. *Child Development, 82*, 1372-1380.
- Liu, D., Meltzoff, A. N., & Wellman, H. M. (2009). Neural correlates of belief- and desire-reasoning. *Child Development, 80*, 1163-1171.
- Liu, D., Sabbagh, M. A., Gehring, W. J., & Wellman, H. M. (2009). Neural correlates of children's theory of mind development. *Child Development, 80*, 318-326.
- LaBounty, J., Wellman, H. M., Olson, S. L., Lagattuta, K. H., & Liu, D. (2008). Mothers' and fathers' use of internal state talk with their young children. *Social Development, 17*, 757-775.
- Liu, D., Wellman, H. M., Tardif, T., & Sabbagh, M. A. (2008). Theory of mind development in Chinese children: A meta-analysis of false-belief understanding across cultures and languages. *Developmental Psychology, 44*, 523-531.
- Liu, D., Gelman, S. A., & Wellman, H. M. (2007). Components of young children's trait understanding: Behavior-to-trait inferences and trait-to-behavior predictions. *Child Development, 78*, 1543-1558.
- Wellman, H. M., Fang, F., Liu, D., Zhu, L., & Liu, G. (2006). Scaling of theory-of-mind understandings in Chinese children. *Psychological Science, 17*, 1075-1081.
- Peterson, C. C., Wellman, H. M., & Liu, D. (2005). Steps in theory of mind development for children with deafness or autism. *Child Development, 76*, 502-517.
- Tardif, T., Wellman, H. M., Fung, K. Y. F., Liu, D., & Fang, F. (2005). Preschoolers' understanding of knowing that and knowing how in the US and Hong Kong. *Developmental Psychology, 41*, 562-573.
- Liu, D., Sabbagh, M. A., Gehring, W. J., & Wellman, H. M. (2004). Decoupling beliefs from reality in the brain: An ERP study of theory of mind. *NeuroReport, 15*, 991-995.
- Wellman, H. M., & Liu, D. (2004). Scaling of theory-of-mind tasks. *Child Development, 75*, 523-541.

*chapters:*

- Liu, D., & Vanderbilt, K. E. (2013). Children learn from and about variability between people. In M. R. Banaji & S. A. Gelman (Eds.) *Navigating the Social World: What Infants, Children, and Other Species Can Teach Us*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wellman, H. M., & Liu, D. (2007). Causal reasoning as informed by the early development of explanations. In A. Gopnik & L. E. Schulz (Eds.), *Causal Learning: Psychology, Philosophy and Computation* (pp. 261-279). New York: Oxford University Press.

*working papers/under review:*

- Liu, D., & Dietzel, J. J. (submitted). Automatic theory of mind: Covert detection via brain activity.
- Vanderbilt, K. E., Heyman, G. D., & Liu, D. (revise and resubmit). In the absence of conflicting testimony young children trust inaccurate informants.
- Liu, D. (submitted). Early trait explanations of people's actions.
- Wang, Y., Wu, J., Huang, L., Yuan, B., Shen, D., & Liu, D. (in preparation). Thinking about one's own and others' mental states: An event-related brain potential study.
- Liu, D. (in preparation). Losing to people is worse than losing to machines: Processing losses in the medial frontal cortex.
- Liu, D., & Dietzel, J. J. (in preparation). Neural correlates of theory of mind: EEG alpha desynchronization.
- Hicks, C., & Liu, D. (in preparation). Personal philosophy and achievement: Belief in free will and incremental theory.
- Rizzo, M., Mulvey, K. L., Hicks, C., & Liu, D. (in preparation). Does it matter when parents provide explanations for social rules?
- Liu, D., Wellman, H. M., & Peterson, C. C. (in preparation). The Theory of Mind Scale revisited: Psychometric properties and revision.
- Liu, D. (in preparation). Young children predict trait-consistent actions when contrasting individuals.
- Liu, D. (in preparation). Theory of mind development: When diverse desires are more diverse than diverse beliefs.

***presentations***

---

*invited colloquia:*

- 2010 Department of Psychology, University of California, Riverside
- 2009 Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2007 Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis  
 Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles  
 Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego  
 Department of Psychology, University of Denver  
 Department of Psychology, University of Illinois  
 Department of Psychology, University of Maryland  
 Department of Human Development, Pennsylvania State University  
 Department of Psychological Sciences, Purdue University

*other invited talks:*

- Liu, D. (2010, January). *A neural account of the development of belief- and desire-reasoning*. Invited paper presented at the Development of the Social Brain Workshop, Tokyo, Japan.
- Liu, D. (2007, May). *Neural correlates of children's developing understanding of beliefs and desires*. In M. A. Sabbagh (Chair), *Theory of Mind and the Brain*. Invited paper presented at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- Liu, D. (2007, March). *Neural underpinnings of children's developing understanding of people and mind*. Invited paper presented at the annual meeting of the Washington State Psychological Association, Seattle, WA.
- Meltzoff, A. N. & Liu, D. (2006, October). *Imitation and social understanding*. In P. K. Kuhl (Chair), *Language, Social Cognition, and Education*. Invited paper presented at the NSF Science of Learning Centers satellite symposium of the Society for Neuroscience, Atlanta, GA.

*conference papers & posters:*

- Dietzel, J. & Liu, D. (2012, April). *Neural correlates of theory of mind: EEG alpha desynchronization*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society, New York, NY.
- Dietzel, J. & Liu, D. (2012, April). *Using event-related brain potential to index automatic belief reasoning*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society, New York, NY.
- Hicks, C. M., Liu, D., & Heyman, G. D. (2011, October). *The influence of competitive school settings on children's academic help seeking*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- Vanderbilt, K. E., Liu, D., & Heyman, G. D. (2011, October). *Learning to distrust*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- Liu, D., Bowman, L., & Wellman, H. M. (2011, April). *How domain specific are the neural underpinnings of theory of mind development?* In A. N. Meltzoff & D. Liu (Chairs), *The Development of Social Cognition: What Neuroscience Can Tell Us*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, QC.
- Liu, D. (2011, April). *An ERP study of automatic mentalizing*. In T. C. German & A. S. Cohen (Chairs), *Multiple Methods Provide Evidence for Both Automatic and Non-Automatic Processes in Theory of Mind*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, QC.
- Bowman, L., Liu, D., & Wellman, H. M. (2011, April). *Neural correlates of belief- and desire-reasoning in 7- and 8-year-old children: An event-related potential study*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, QC.
- Liu, D. (2010, October). *It hurts more losing to another person than to a machine*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society, Chicago, IL.
- Bowman, L., Liu, D., & Wellman, H. M. (2009, October). *Neural correlates of children's belief- and desire-reasoning: An ERP study*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, San Antonio, TX.
- Liu, D. (2009, October). *Neural response to reasoning about mental states*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, San Antonio, TX.

- Vanderbilt, K. E., Heyman, G. D., & Liu, D. (2009, October). *Trusting trickers: Young children are blinded by the prize*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, San Antonio, TX.
- Vanderbilt, K. E., Liu, D., & Heyman, G. D. (2009, April). *The development of children's selective trust of helpful over deceiving others*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, CO.
- Liu, D., Meltzoff, A. N., & Wellman, H. M. (2007, March). *ERP insights into children's theory of mind development*. In D. Liu & J. H. Pfeifer (Chairs), *Neural Correlates of Children's Developing Understanding of People and Mind*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.
- LaBounty, J. C., Wellman, H. M., Liu, D., & Olson, S. L. (2007, March). *A longitudinal analysis of the relationship between social cognition and prosocial behavior*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.
- Liu, D., Sabbagh, M. A., Gehring, W. J., & Wellman, H. M. (2005, April). *An ERP study of 6-year-olds' theory of mind*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, New York, NY.
- Liu, D., Sabbagh, M. A., Gehring, W. J., & Wellman, H. M. (2005, April). *Neural correlates of children's theory of mind development*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.
- LaBounty, J. C., Olson, S. L., Liu, D., & Kerr, D. C. (2005, April). *The role of mothers' and fathers' internal state language in the development of children's social cognitive ability*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.
- Liu, D., Wellman, H. M., Tardif, T., & Sabbagh, M. A. (2004, August). *Development of Chinese and North American children's theory of mind*. Poster presented at the XXVIII International Congress of Psychology, Beijing, China.
- Liu, D., Kerr, D. C., Wellman, H. M., Olson, S. L., & LaBounty, J. C. (2003, October). *Social outcomes of children's theory of mind development*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Park City, UT.
- Liu, D., Wellman, H. M., & Tardif, T. (2003, April). *Meta-analysis of Chinese children's understanding of false belief*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Tampa, FL.
- Liu, D., Wellman, H. M., Tardif, T., & Fung, K. Y. F. (2002, June). *Chinese and American children's developing understanding of knowledge*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Philadelphia, PA.
- Liu, D., Sabbagh, M. A., Gehring, W. J., & Wellman, H. M. (2002, April). *The neurophysiology of theory of mind: An ERP study of false belief understanding*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA.
- Wellman, H. M. & Liu, D. (2002, April). *Scaling of theory of mind tasks*. Poster presented at the Biennial Conference on Human Development, Charlotte, NC.
- Leu, J., Liu, D., & Nisbett, R. E. (2002, January). *Holistic and analytic cognition in Asian-Americans*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Savannah, GA.
- Liu, D., Gelman, S. A., & Wellman, H. M. (2001, October). *Early understanding of traits*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Virginia Beach, VA.

- Leu, J., Liu, D., & Nisbett, R. E. (2001, June). *A new age of reason: Exploring age-related enculturation of holistic and analytic cognition*. Paper presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Society, Toronto, ON.
- Tardif, T., Fung, K., Wellman, H. M., Liu, D., & Fang, F. (2001, April). *Preschoolers' understanding of knowing how, knowing that, and false belief*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Liu, D., Cohn, J. F., Forbes, E. E., Balik, J., & Fox, N. A. (1999, October). *Vagal tone varies with emotion valence and depression*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Granada, Spain.
- Forbes, E. E., Cohn, J. F., Moore, G. A., Liu, D., & Allen, N. (1999, April). *Mothers' and fathers' personality and their affective behaviors during parent-infant play*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, NM.

### ***teaching experience***

---

#### *undergraduate*

Cognitive Development  
 Development of Social Cognition  
 Introduction to Developmental Psychology

#### *graduate*

Development and Neurobiology of Theory Mind  
 Proseminar in Developmental Psychology

### ***university and department service***

---

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 2010- present | Member, Diversity Committee, Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego         |
| 2007- present | Member, Executive Committee, Center for Human Development, University of California, San Diego     |
| 2007- present | Member, Executive Committee, Human Development Program, University of California, San Diego        |
| 2004-2005     | Member, Executive Committee, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan                      |
| 2004-2005     | Member, Admissions Committee, Developmental Area, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan |
| 2003-2005     | Member, Institutional Review Board, University of Michigan   |
| 2001          | Co-Organizer, Annual Conference on Culture and Cognition, University of Michigan                   |
| 2000-2003     | Chair, Developmental Psychology Brown Bag Committee, University of Michigan                        |

***professional activities***

---

- 2012 Temporary Member, Cognition and Perception Study Section, NIH  
2010 Co-Organizer, US-Japan Brain Research Cooperative Program Workshop,  
*Development of the Social Brain*, The University of Tokyo, Japan  
2008-2013 Member, Committee for Dissertation Awards, Society for Research in Child  
Development

*ad hoc grant reviewer:*

NSF, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011  
Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, 2008, 2009  
Catalan Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Research (CAHTA), 2007

*ad hoc conference reviewer:*

Society for Research in Child Development, 2009, 2011, 2013

*journal editorial board:*

*Frontiers in Developmental Psychology*, 2010-present

*ad hoc journal reviewer:*

*Asian Journal of Social Psychology; Brain and Cognition; Brain Research; British Journal of Developmental Psychology; British Journal of Psychology; Child Development; Cognition; Cognition & Emotion; Cognitive Development; Cognitive Science; Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience; Cross-Cultural Research; Developmental Psychology; Developmental Science; European Journal of Neuroscience; Experimental Psychology; Infant and Child Development; International Journal of Behavioral Development; Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology; Journal of Cognition and Development; Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology; Journal of Educational Psychology; Journal of Experimental Child Psychology; Merrill-Palmer Quarterly; Neuroscience; Psychological Bulletin; Psychological Review; Psychological Science; Psychophysiology; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; Science; Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience; Social Development*

*professional memberships:*

Association for Psychological Science  
Cognitive Development Society  
Social & Affective Neuroscience Society  
Society for Research in Child Development