

# Will Decker

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## Research interests

- General: Concepts, language, intelligence, neuroimaging, LLMs
- Specific: Organization of language and complex meaning in biological and artificial systems  
Developmental approaches to cognitive and computational neuroscience

## Education

- 2024 – Present     **Georgia Institute of Technology** – Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
PhD, Psychology  
Advisor: Prof. Anna (Any) Ivanova
- 2020 – 2024     **Louisiana State University** – Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA  
B.S., Psychology  
Advisors: Prof. Christopher R. Cox and Prof. Julie M. Schneider

## Honors and awards

- 2024     Distinguished Undergraduate Researcher Medalist  
*Louisiana State University*
- 2024     Paul C. Young Award for Outstanding Undergraduate in Psychology  
*Louisiana State University*  
*Amount: \$100*
- 2024 - 2028     President's Fellowship  
*Georgia Institute of Technology*  
*Amount: \$22,000*
- 2023     LSU ASPIRE Travel Award  
*Louisiana State University*  
*Amount: \$500*
- 2023     Tiger Athletic Foundation (TAF) Undergraduate Honors Thesis Scholarship  
*Louisiana State University*  
*Amount: \$1,000*

- 2023    LSU Discover Travel Award  
*Louisiana State University*  
*Amount: \$1,500*
- 2022    LSU Discover Distinguished Undergraduate Researcher Candidate Award  
*Louisiana State University*

## Publications

- In prep    **Decker, W.**, Schneider, J. M. (registered report). When reducing noise in developmental EEG data, is EEG best left alone? *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*.
- 2025    Fan, T., **Decker, W.**, Momsen, J., Haebig, E., Schneider, J. M. 2024. The facilitatory role of rhyme during implicit and explicit word learning. *PsyArXiv*.
- 2024    Fan, T., **Decker, W.**, Schneider, J. M. 2024. The domain-general neural basis of auditory statistical learning in children. *Neurobiology of Language*.

## Selected Conference Abstracts

- 2024    **Decker, W.** Schneider, J.M., Cox, C. 2024. Neural processes of statistical learning. Poster presented at the annual Louisiana State University Discover Day Research Symposium. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA.
- 2023    **Decker, W.**, Schneider J. M., Cox, C. 2023. The architecture of auditory statistical learning in the brain: a dynamical functional connectivity study. Poster presented at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language's annual meeting. Marseille, France.

**Decker, W.**, Schneider, J. M. 2023. Is EEG really better left alone for developmental datasets. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR). New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

**Decker, W.**, Fan, T., Haebig, E., Schneider, J. M. 2023. Neural mechanisms of novel word learning through rhyme in adults. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society's Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California, USA.

2022 **Decker, W.**, Haebig, E., Schneider, J. M. 2022. Anxiety and Word learning in college students. Poster presented at the annual University of Louisiana at Lafayette Undergraduate Research Conference. Lafayette, Louisiana, USA. DOI:<https://osf.io/GNM8J>

**Decker, W.**, Schneider, J.M. 2022. Choosing an EEG system: evaluating the pros and cons and quality of data among two different capping approaches. Poster presented at the annual Louisiana State University Discover Day Research Symposium. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. DOI:<https://osf.io/6W4JF>

## Invited talks

2023 Using neuroimaging to examine statistical learning  
*Student Linguistics Meet-up, Louisiana State University*

A pipeline for developmental EEG data  
*Joint meeting of the Department of Psychology and Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Louisiana State University*

## Funding

2023 A universal preprocessing-pipeline for event-related potentials (ERPs) in developmental electroencephalography (EEG) research.  
*Agency: LSU Discover Undergraduate Research Program, Louisiana State University*  
*Amount: \$3,000*

## Membership and service

2023 - 2024 **Society for Psychophysiological Research**  
*Student member*

2023 - 2024 **Society for the Neurobiology of Language**  
*Student member*

2022 - 2023 **Cognitive Neuroscience Society**  
*Undergraduate student member*

## Technical skills

Programming    Python, R, MATLAB, Bash/Shell

Software        Git/GitHub, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X/Overleaf