

Ryan Tam

tamryan21@gmail.com | 415-539-8457 | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tamr02/>

EDUCATION

University of San Francisco (USF)

San Francisco, CA

B.A. (Summa Cum Laude), Psychology (Honors), Minor Neuroscience

08/2020 - 05/2024

Relevant Coursework: Cognitive Neuroscience, Human Neuropsychology, Cognitive Neurotherapies, Creativity and Your Brain, Cognitive Psychology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Cognition, Action, & Neural Dynamics Lab, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute (SKERI) San Francisco, CA

PI: Santani Teng, PhD

Lab Assistant

01/2025 - Present

Research Intern

02/2024 - 12/2024

- EEG prep and data collection: Ran 30+ braille and 20+ echolocation participants, blind and sighted
 - Participant recruitment, enrollment/scheduling, consent, payment/followup, junior intern supervision
 - Electrode cap fitting, syringe and amplifier preparation, finger tracker/EEG sync, post-session cleanup
 - Preprocessing using MATLAB Brainstorm (bandpass filtering, marking bad segments/channels, ICA)
- Behavioral data collection: Collected data from 40+ assistive echolocation participants
 - Stimulus generation (visual and audio echo recording and cleanup for playback)
 - Basic hearing tests (thresholds at 6 frequencies; ANSI 1996) for screening
- Lab admin: Intern onboarding, IRB maintenance, consent documents, reimbursements,
 - Primary day-to-day supervision of undergraduate interns (scheduling, protocols and data collection training)
 - Led recruitment, interview, and onboarding process for new lab interns
- Prepared and formatted grant application documents (e.g. NIH R01; NIDILRR)

Neuroscape, University of California San Francisco (UCSF)

San Francisco, CA

PI: David Ziegler, PhD; Christine Walsh, PhD; Ted Zanto, PhD

Research Intern

10/2024 - Present

- Helped run 40+ EEG and 10+ fMRI participants on attentional and self-regulatory effects of a digital meditation intervention in healthy and MCI older adults
 - Electrode cap fitting, syringe and amplifier preparation, finger tracker/EEG sync, post-session cleanup
 - Inspection of MRI data (T1, coregistration, brain masking, DTI tracts)
 - EEG preprocessing using MATLAB FieldTrip (bandpass filtering, marking bad segments/channels, ICA)
- Administered various cognitive tasks in conjunction with EEG/fMRI recording
- Transported participant blood samples to processing lab for analyses

Athletics Systems Lab, University of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

PI: Alexander Ochoa, PhD

Research Assistant

08/2023 - 05/2024

- Investigated models of various team dynamics on the formation and evolution of relationships as well as the influence of key personality traits on leadership and team chemistry among university sports teams.
- Developed qualitative questions to identify team dynamics and leadership changes in university sports teams.
- Analyzed and coded qualitative questions regarding student-athletes and their university experience.

Psychology Honors Program, University of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

Advisor: Marisa Knight, PhD

- Conducted independent research comparing attentional effects of music genres
- Designed and implemented comprehensive approach including participant recruitment, experimental protocols, data collection
- Analyzed data using Jamovi software, and presented findings at academic conferences (see **Publications**)

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts

- Bhattacharyya, P., **Tam, R.**, Orsmond, P., Teng, S. (in prep): *Time-resolved EEG decoding of neural text representations during naturalistic braille reading*
- Bhattacharyya, P., **Tam, R.**, Reynolds, I., Orsmond, P., Teng, S. (in prep): *Optimizing Signal Parameters to Enhance Echoacoustic Perception in Humans*
- **Tam, R.** Beyond Popularity (in prep): *Comparison of Lo-fi and EDM Music's Impact on Attentional Networks*

Conference Posters

- Chen, J., Heartley, I., Thummala, T., Patwardhan, B., **Tam, R.**, Mutu, A., Lau, E., Chou, L., Frentzos, C., Volponi, J., De Villa, M., Havazelet, J., Li, E., Yack, L., Anguera-Singla, R., Wais, P., Gazzaley, A., Walsh, C., Zanto, T., Ziegler, D. *Multimodal Characterization of Cognitive Gains Elicited by Digital Meditation Training.*, 2026 Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM), Bordeaux, France.
- Bhattacharyya, P., **Tam, R.**, Reynolds, I., Orsmond, P., Teng, S. *Optimizing Signal Parameters to Enhance Echoacoustic Perception in Humans*
 - 2026 Jampolski and Scientist Fellows Meeting, San Francisco, CA (*First Author Presenter)
 - 2025 International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF), Durham, UK
 - 2024 Bay Area Vision Research Day (BAVRD), Berkeley, CA
- Bhattacharyya, P., **Tam, R.**, Orsmond, P., Hicks, S., Teng, S. *Time-resolved EEG decoding of neural text representations during naturalistic braille reading*, 2025 Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS), Boston, MA.
- **Tam, R.** *Beyond Popularity: Comparison of Lo-fi and EDM Music's Impact on Attentional Networks*
 - 2024 Western Psychological Association (WPA), San Francisco, CA.
 - 2024 USF Psi Chi Human Behavior Research Conference (HBRC), San Francisco, CA.
 - 2024 USF Creative Activity and Research Day (CARD), San Francisco, CA.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Team member on two crowdfunded project campaigns at SKERI via [Experiment.com](https://www.experiment.com), 10/2025
 - Brain dynamics in braille reading: Letters to language (>\$4500 raised) DOI:[10.18258/80099](https://doi.org/10.18258/80099)
 - How can ultrasonic wearables be most useful for humans? (>\$5000 raised) DOI:[10.18258/80097](https://doi.org/10.18258/80097)
- Summer Internship Award, Smith-Kettlewell RERC *Awarded Summer 2024*
 - Among 3 recipients of summer stipend for intensive hands-on lab experience, conference presentation
- Summa Cum Laude, College of Arts & Sciences, USF *Awarded 05/2024*
- Member, Psi Chi, Psychology Honors Society, USF Chapter *01/2023 - 05/2024*
- Member, Psychology Honors Program, USF *01/2023 - 12/2023*
- Member, Honors College Program, USF *08/2020 - 05/2024*

RELEVANT SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

- CITI Human Research Subjects Protection (USF, SKERI, UCSF) *Expires 10/2027*
- CITI Good Clinical Practice Course (UCSF) *Expires 10/2027*
- MRI Safety Training (UCSF)
 - 3T Siemens MAGNETOM Prisma
- EEG: Setup, participant prep, data collection, preprocessing
 - BrainVision actiCHamp/acticap 64 channels; BrainVision Recorder & Brainstorm (Teng Lab, SKERI)
 - BioSemi Active2 64 channels; ActiView & FieldTrip (Neuroscape, UCSF)

- Qualtrics survey software
- Jamovi statistical software
- Cantonese (Conversational), Mandarin (Beginner)

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Psychology Student Association, University of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

Mentor

08/2022 - 05/2024

- Paired with a first-year student in the same major facilitating monthly one-on-one meetings to address academic concerns, career aspirations, and personal development.
- Demonstrated leadership and communication skills by actively listening to my mentee's challenges and offering advice and resources

Raoul Wallenberg High School, San Francisco Unified School District

San Francisco, CA

College Ambassador

08/2021 - 12/2024

- Advised classes of ~ 150 high school seniors and their families through the college application process.
 - Held one-on-one meetings with students and families as needed
 - Compiled and shared general and specific resources to students and families
- Demonstrated familiarity with College Application Portals (Common App, UC, CSU), and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Led presentations and workshops on college counseling topics such as the college application process, standardized testing, financial aid, and scholarships to classes of ~40 students
- Took part in a summer follow-up campaign to help graduated students with unaddressed application needs
 - Called 100+ families and students to offer support and guidance on transition to undergrad
 - Directly identified students with incomplete application statuses and setup appointments to finish applications