

## KELLY SHEEHAN

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### RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

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Present **Northwestern University**, Center on Media and Human Development, Evanston, IL  
**Postdoctoral Fellow**, National Science Foundation Reese Program  
“Collaborative Research: Using Educational DVDs to Enhance Young Children’s STEM Education”  
Directors: Drs. Ellen Wartella and Alexis Lauricella

### EDUCATION

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2016 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL  
**Ph.D.**, Cognitive Psychology  
Dissertation: Take a break: A delay helps 3-year-olds’ use of a symbol during a symbolic search task  
Committee: Drs. David Uttal, Dedre Gentner, and Sandra Waxman

2012 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL  
**M.S.**, Psychology  
Thesis: More is more: Extraneous similarity enhances symbolic functioning in very young children  
Committee: Drs. David Uttal and Sandra Waxman

2011 **Providence College**, Providence, RI  
**B.A.**, Psychology, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Thesis: Measuring Children’s Superstitious Tendencies  
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Van Reet

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2011 – 2016 **Researcher**, Project on Children’s Thinking  
Spatial Intelligence Learning Center (SILC) and Northwestern University  
PI’s: Drs. Dedre Gentner and David Uttal

2010 – 2011 **Research Assistant**, Kid Think Laboratory  
Providence College  
PI: Dr. Jennifer Van Reet

2010 – 2011 **Research Assistant**, Providence College Affective Neuroscience Laboratory  
INBRE Research Fellowship Program, Providence College  
PI: Dr. Christopher Bloom

2008 – 2011 **Research Assistant and Lab Manager**, Cognitive Psychology Laboratory  
Providence College  
PI: Dr. Mary Harmon-Vukic

2009 – 2010 **Intern**, Lifespan Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine  
Miriam Hospital and Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
PI: Dr. Laura Stroud

### INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AND OUTREACH

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Present **Founder**, *Baby to Brainy – a scientifically informed blog on child development*,  
babytobrainy.wordpress.com

2017 **Focus Group Note-taker**, *Sesame Street in Communities*, Sesame Workshop

2016 **Researcher**, *Nature Cat* Outreach Experimental Study, WTTW Chicago, Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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2017 **Kellogg Business for Scientists Executive Education Program**, Northwestern University

2017 **Leadership Coaching at the Center for Leadership**, Northwestern University

2016 **Medill Science Writing and Communication Program**, Northwestern University

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (2016). Children's Learning from Touch Screens: A Dual Representation Perspective. *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology*, 7(1220), 1-5. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01220>

Uttal, D. H., & **Sheehan, K. J.** (2014) The development of children's understanding of maps and models: A prospective cognition perspective. *Journal of Cognitive Education and Psychology*, 13(2), 188-200. doi:10.1891/1945-8959.13.2.188

**Sheehan, K. J.**, Van Reet, J., & Bloom, C. M. (2012). Measuring preschoolers' superstitious tendencies. *Behavioural Processes*, 91, 172-176. doi: 10.1016/j.beproc.2012.07.005

Harmon-Vukic, M., Afzal, U., & **Sheehan, K. J.** (2012). Understanding the memory advantage of counterintuitive concepts. *Religion, Brain and Behavior* 2(2), 121-139. doi:10.1080/2153599X.2012.672816

## MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION

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**Sheehan, K. J.**, Ferguson, B., Uttal, D. H. (under review). Forgetting and insight: Delay improves children's use of a novel symbol.

Lovato, S. **Sheehan, K. J.**, Beaudoin-Ryan, L., Lauricella, A. R., & Wartella, E. (under review). What STEM is represented on children's television? A content analysis of U.S programming for children.

Pilah, S. C., Alade, F., **Sheehan, K. J.**, Lauricella, A. R., & Wartella, E. (under review). Young Children Learning to Code via Tablet Applications

## INVITED TALKS

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**Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (November, 2014). Take a break: Delay facilitates 3-year-olds' understanding of a novel symbol. Invited Talk presented at Developmental Speaker Series, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (May, 2013). More is more but not too much: Extraneous similarity enhances symbolic functioning in young children. Invited Talk presented at Spatial Intelligence Learning Center RISC meeting, Temple University.

## PROFESSIONAL TALKS

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Lovato, S., **Sheehan, K. J.**, Beaudoin-Ryan, L., Lauricella, A., & Wartella, E. (May, 2017). STEM Curriculum Standards on Children's TV: A Content Analysis of Science and Math Programming for Children on U.S. Television. Slide and poster presentation at the International Communication Association conference, San Diego, CA.

**Sheehan, K. J.**, Lauricella, A. R., & Wartella, E. (March, 2017). Family context as a predictor of preschool children's STEM media use and STEM skills. Slide presentation at the Communication Studies Speaker Series, Evanston, IL

**Sheehan, K. J.**, Liquin, E., Hamilton, L., & Uttal, D. H. (June, 2016). Taking a break promotes symbolic insight in 3-year-old children. Slide presentation at Jean Piaget Society, Chicago, IL.

**Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (January, 2016). Taking a break promotes symbolic insight in 3-year-old children. Slide presentation presented at the Northwestern Cognitive Brownbag Series,

Evanston, IL.

- Sheehan, K. J.**, Alfonseca, S., & Uttal, D. H. (October, 2015). Children gain insight into a symbolic task they typically fail when given a break. Slide presentation at Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (January, 2015). Delay improves 3-year-olds' understanding of a novel symbol, with and without instructions. Slide presentation at the Northwestern Cognitive Brownbag Series, Evanston, IL.
- Uttal, D. H., & **Sheehan, K. J.** (May, 2014). The Development of Children's Understanding of Maps and Models: A Prospective Cognition Perspective. Paper presented as part of a symposium presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (January, 2014). Learning to use a symbol: The role of overall similarity and task exposure on children's symbolic understanding. Slide presentation at the Northwestern Cognitive Brownbag Series, Evanston, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (June, 2013). Extraneous similarity enhances symbolic functioning in young children. Slide presentation at the Jean Piaget Society, Chicago, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (May, 2013). Extraneous similarity enhances symbolic functioning in young children. Slide presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (November, 2012). More is more: Extraneous similarity enhances symbolic functioning in 3-year old children. Slide presentation at the Northwestern Cognitive Brownbag Series, Evanston, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, Van Reet, J., & Bloom, C. M. (April, 2012). Measuring Preschoolers' Superstitious Tendencies. Slide presentation at Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, Van Reet, J., & Bloom, C. M. (April, 2012). Measuring Preschoolers' Superstitious Tendencies. Slide presentation at Chicago Graduate Student Research Symposium, Chicago, IL.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- Sheehan K. J.**, Lauricella, A. R., & Wartella, E. (April, 2017). Parent attitudes, science and math activities, and children's media use as predictors of children's interest in science and math. Poster Presented at Society for Research in Child Development Meeting, Austin, TX.
- Liquin, E. L., **Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (April 2017). Symbols and screens: Children are better at using a paper map than a touchscreen map. Poster Presented at Society for Research in Child Development Meeting, Austin, TX.
- Lovato, S., **Sheehan, K. J.**, Beaudoin-Ryan, L., Lauricella, A., & Wartella, E. (October, 2016). How much STEM is in children's STEM television?: A content analysis of science and math programming for children ages 3-6. Poster Presented at Society for Research in Child Development Special Topics Meeting: Technology and Media in Children's Development, Irvine, CA.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, Liquin, E., Hamilton, L., & Uttal, D. H. (May, 2016). Taking a break promotes symbolic understanding in 3-year-old children. Poster presented at Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Sheehan, K. J.**, Liquin, Emily, & Uttal, D. H. (March, 2015). Delay improves 3-year-olds' understanding of a novel symbol, with and without instructions. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA
- Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. H. (January, 2015). Delay improves 3-year-olds' understanding of a novel symbol. Poster presented at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary
- Liquin, E., DeHaas, M., Gustafson, C., **Sheehan, K. J.**, & Uttal, D. (May, 2014). Overall Similarity

Facilitates Young Children's Symbolic Understanding. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

**Sheehan, K. J., & Uttal, D. H.** (October, 2013). More similarity is better but not too much: The effect of extraneous similarity on 3-year-olds' symbolic understanding. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Memphis, TN

**Sheehan, K. J., & Uttal, D. H.** (August, 2013). Extraneous similarity enhances young children's performance on Model-Room Task. Poster presented at the Third International Conference on Analogy, Dijon, France.

**Sheehan, K. J., & Uttal, D. H.** (April, 2013). Extraneous similarity enhances symbolic functioning in young children. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.

**Sheehan, K. J., & Uttal, D.** (April, 2012) The influence of symbol complexity on children's ability to navigate a complex space. Poster submitted for presentation at inter-Science of Learning Center Student and Post-Doc Conference, San Diego, CA.

**Sheehan, K. J., & Van Reet, J.** (May, 2011). Children's superstitious tendencies: Three to Five-year-old's illusory associations on a touch-screen task. Poster presented at Association for Psychological Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Harmon-Vukic, M., **Sheehan, K. J.**, Gillard, K. (March, 2011). The influence of semantic overlap on the activation of predictive inferences. Poster presented at Eastern Psychological Association, Cambridge, MA.

Bloom, C. M., **Sheehan, K. J.**, Dell'Isola, R. S., Klakotskaia, D., Hou, S. L., & Wallin, C. P. (August, 2010). An animal model of self-injury: The role of a CNS stimulant and environmental stressors. Poster presented at the Rhode Island INBRE Conference, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND ACADEMIC MENTORING

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2017	<b>Teaching Assistant and Section Leader</b> , Northwestern University, Department of Communication Studies. Course: Persuasion, leader
2016	<b>Research Mentor</b> , Northwestern University, Department of Psychology Supervised Undergraduate Honors Thesis Research Student: Emily Liquin
2015	<b>Adjunct Professor</b> , Loyola University Chicago, Department of Psychology. Course: Developmental Psychology
2015	<b>Florence Sales Teaching Fellow</b> , Northwestern University, Department of Psychology. Course: Research Methods
2014 – 2016	<b>Research Mentor</b> , Northwestern University, Department of Psychology Supervised Independent Study Research Students: Stephanie Alfonseca, Priyanka Saha, Rose McBride
2011 – 2014	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Northwestern University, Department of Psychology Courses: Sport Psychology; Cognitive Science; Developmental Psychology; Introduction to Psychology; Introduction to Clinical Psychology

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2013	<b>Psi Chi Graduate Research Grant</b> , <i>Do children learn from iPads?</i>
2011	<b>Northwestern Cognitive Science University Fellowship</b>

- 2011      **Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Grant**  
*Correlations between children's superstitious tendencies and pretend play*
- 2010      **Providence College Undergraduate Research Grant**  
*Measuring preschoolers' superstitious tendencies and pretend play*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2016      **Group Discussion Leader** at Screen Time Conference, Erikson Institute,  
 Technology in Early Childhood Center, Chicago, IL
- 2013 – 2016      **Co-Founder**, Northwestern Cognitive Development Group, Northwestern  
 University
- 2014 – 2016      **Mentor**, Psychology Graduate Student Mentorship Program, Northwestern  
 University
- 2013 – 2015      **Co-Founder** of Northwestern Psychology Graduate Student Council,  
 Northwestern University
- 2013 – 2015      **Cognitive Representative**, Northwestern Psychology Graduate Student Council,  
 Northwestern University
- 2013      **Recruitment Coordinator**, Psychology Prospective Students  
 Weekend, Northwestern University
- 2011      **Chapter President**, Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, Providence  
 College
- 2010      **Chapter Secretary**, Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, Providence  
 College

## MEMBERSHIPS

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International Communication Association  
 National Postdoctoral Association  
 NU Interdisciplinary Innovations in Developmental Education and Science  
 Cognitive Development Society  
 Society for Research in Child Development  
 Association of Psychological Science  
 Psi Chi National Honor Society

*Updated on 1/5/2018*