

Gloria W Feng

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Education

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Ph.D. Candidate (Advisor: Robb B. Rutledge)

2027 (expected)

M.S. in Psychology

Jan 2025

M.Phil. in Psychology

Jan 2025

Brown University, Providence, RI

May 2020

BA, Behavioral Decision Sciences

Research Interests

I am interested in computational modeling and experimental work to understand the neural mechanisms of decision making and mood disorders. I am actively researching (1) the role of dopamine in decision-making under uncertainty, and (2) how mood disorders, such as anxiety, affect risky decision-making.

Awards & Fellowships

2025	Society for Neuroeconomics Conference Travel Award (\$500)
2024-2029	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) 3-years of PhD fellowship support for graduate education in STEM
2022-2025	Wu Tsai Graduate Fellowship 3-year PhD fellowship supporting interdisciplinary research in human cognition
2023	Yale GSA Conference Travel Fellowship (Computational Psychiatry in Trinity College Dublin) (\$800)
2020	J.W. Kling Premium Award for outstanding service as a Teaching Assistant (Brown University) Awarded to 1 senior student in the Psychology Department for teaching excellence
2018	Brown Connect LINK Award, Undergraduate summer research grant (\$3,000)

Manuscripts

Feng, G. W., Lawrence, M., Rutledge, R. B. (in prep.) Risk taking for reward declines with Parkinson's disease progression.

Feng, G. W., Lawrence, M., Myerscough, M., Rutledge, R. B. (in prep.) The influence of surprising sounds on choice perseveration is modulated by dopamine.

Publications

Fleming, H., **Feng, G.W.**, Rutledge, R., Roiser, J., & Robinson, O. (2025). Cognitive training reduces the strength of Pavlovian biases. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.122223>

Feng, G. W., & Rutledge, R. B. Surprising sounds influence risky decision making (2024). Nature Communications. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-51729-4>

- Hur, J.K., Heffner, J., **Feng, G. W.**, Joormann, J., Rutledge, R. B. (2024). Language sentiment predicts changes in depressive symptoms. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2321321121>
- Fleming, H. A., **Feng, G. W.**, Rutledge, R., Roiser, J. P., & Robinson, O. J. (2023, November 3). Training successfully reduces the strength of Pavlovian biases. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/h3297>
- Kao, C.-H., **Feng, G. W.**, Hur, J. K., Jarvis, H., & Rutledge, R. B. (2023). Computational models of subjective feelings in psychiatry. Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews, 145, 105008. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2022.105008>
- Globig, L., Witte, K., **Feng, G. W.**, & Sharot, T. (2021). Under threat weaker evidence is required to reach undesirable conclusions. The Journal of Neuroscience. <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3194-20.2021>

Oral Presentations and invited talks

- (Nov 2025). *A phasic dopamine theory about risk taking and choice perseveration*. University of Birmingham. Birmingham, UK.
- (Oct 2025). *Risk taking for reward declines with Parkinson's disease progression*. Symposium Talk given at Society for Neuroeconomics Annual Meeting, 10/03/2025, Cambridge, MA.
- (Oct 2025). *Risk taking for reward declines with Parkinson's disease*. Yale University. Department of Psychology. New Haven, CT.
- (Sep 2023). *The influence of sensory prediction errors on risky decision making*. Yale University. First-Year Symposium. New Haven, CT.
- (July 2022). *Surprising sounds influence decision making*. BeOnline conference. Virtual.

Poster Presentations & Science Communication

- Feng, G. W.**, Lawrence, M., Myerscough, K., Wangchuk, S., Rutledge, R. B. (July 2025). "The influence of surprising sounds on choice perseveration is modulated by dopamine." Poster presented at Computational Psychiatry Conference in University of Tübingen
- Feng, G. W.**, Kao, C. H., Hur, J. K., Jarvis, H., Uddenberg, C., Lawrence, M., Rutledge, R. B. (July 2024). "Gender differences in the relationship between anxiety symptoms and risk aversion." Poster presented at Computational Psychiatry Conference in University of Minnesota
- Feng, G. W.**, & Rutledge, R.B. (July 2023). "Anxiety increases risk aversion in females but not males." Poster presented at Computational Psychiatry Conference in Dublin
- Feng, G. W.**, & Rutledge, R.B. (September 2022). "Surprising sounds influence decision making." Poster presented at the Society for Neuroeconomics Conference

Feng, G. W., & Rutledge, R.B. (July 2022). "Surprising sounds influence decision making." Poster presented at the Computational Psychiatry Course in NYC

Feng, G. W., & Rutledge, R.B. (September 2021). "Surprising sounds influence decision making." Poster presented at the Society for Neuroeconomics Conference

["Antidepressants might work by changing our expectations."](#) Gloria Feng & Robb Rutledge. *Psychology Today*. July 13th, 2021

Feng, G. W., & Rutledge, R.B. (May 2021). "Surprising sounds decrease choice perseveration and increase risk taking". Poster presented at Tenth International Symposium on Biology of Decision-Making

Globig, L., Witte, K., **Feng, G. W., & Sharot, T.** (Oct 2020). "Under Stress Weaker Evidence is required to reach Undesirable Conclusions". Poster presented at Society for Neuroeconomics conference

Teaching & Mentorship

Undergraduate Courses: Primary Instructor

Fall 2026 Statistics for the Life Sciences (Trinity College, Hartford CT)

Fall 2025 Data Analysis in Psychology (Gateway Community College)

Undergraduate Courses: Teaching Fellowships

Spring 2025 Research Methods in Human Neuroscience (Yale, Prof. Gregory McCarthy)

Fall 2024 Introduction to Cognitive Science (Yale, Prof. Brian Scholl)
 - Taught guest lecture: "Reasoning & Rationality"

Spring 2024 Cognitive Neuroscience (Yale, Prof. Steve Chang)

Fall 2023 Human Brain (Yale, Prof. Robb Rutledge)

Spring 2020 Laboratory in Social Cognition, (Yale, Prof. Joachim Krueger)

Courses or Mentorship Programs

2024 – Present Yale Sneak Peek Program for Underrepresented Minority and First-Generation Students
 Lead Co-organizer and Mentor

Summer 2025 Yale Wu Tsai Summer Program, undergraduate research mentor

Research Mentorship

2025 – Present Sonam Wangchuk (Yale University '26) – poster presented at Computational Psychiatry 2025)

Summer 2022 Lana Lubecke (California Institute of Technology)

Service

2026 Wu Tsai Institute Neuroscience Bootcamp volunteer (outreach program for middle school students)

2025 Yale Psychology Cognitive Area Current Works co-organizer

2025 Computational Psychiatry Conference 2025 (Tubingen, Germany), website manager

2024 Graduate student mentor; Yale Psychology Department

2023	Wu Tsai Student Postdoc Committee Fellow
2023	Computational Psychiatry Conference 2023 (Dublin, Ireland), website creator and manager
2023	Graduate student Mentor; Yale Psychology Sneak Peek Program
2023	Social Sciences Area Judge; Yale Intercollegiate Research Symposium
2023	Cognitive Area student coordinator for Yale Psychology graduate school visiting day
2023	Sneak Peek Panelist, Yale Psychology Sneak Peek Program
2022	Behavioral Decision Science Career Panelist, Brown University

Ad-hoc Reviewing

Psychological Science
Cognition and Emotion

Previous Lab Affiliations

Yale University, Psychology Department, New Haven, CT <i>Research Assistant</i> , Rutledge Lab (PI: Robb Rutledge)	2020 - 2022
Brown University, CLPS Department, Providence, RI <i>Research Assistant</i> , Shenhav Lab (PI: Amitai Shenhav)	2019 – 2020
Affective Brain Lab, Cambridge, MA <i>Research Assistant</i> , Affective Brain Lab (PI: Tali Sharot)	Summer 2019

References

Robb B Rutledge	Assistant Professor, Yale University [Psychology] robb.rutledge@yale.edu
Tali Sharot	Professor, UCL [Cognitive Neuroscience] t.sharot@ucl.ac.uk
Brian Scholl	Professor, Yale University [Psychology] brian.scholl@yale.edu