Hakwan LAU

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Academic Biography

- Co-Director (Sept 2024 now), Center for Neuroscience Imaging Research, Institute for Basic Science, South Korea
- Professor (Sept 2024 now), Department of Biomedical Engineering, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea
- Visiting PI (2024 Sep 2025 Mar), RIKEN Center for Brain Science, Japan
- Team Leader (2021 July 2024 Aug), RIKEN Center for Brain Science, Japan
- Professor (2018 summer -2021 summer) Department of Psychology (Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience) & Brain Research Institute, UCLA
- Professor (2018 fall 2020 summer) Department of Psychology, University of Hong Kong (fixed-term position taken up while on Leave from UCLA)
- Principal Investigator (2018 April 2020 summer), State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Hong Kong
- Associate Professor (2017 fall -2018 summer) Department of Psychology, University of Hong Kong (fixed-term position taken up while on Leave from UCLA)
- Associate Professor (2014 summer 2018 summer) Department of Psychology (Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience) & Brain Research Institute, UCLA
- Associate Professor (2012-2014) Department of Psychology, Columbia University (NYC)
- Visiting Adjunct Assistant Professor (2012-2013) Department of Psychology, UCLA
- Research Fellow (External Principal Investigator) (2010 onwards) Donders Institute for Brain Cognition and Behaviour, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands
- Assistant Professor (2007 fall 2012 summer) Department of Psychology, Columbia University (NYC)
- Visiting Fellow (2007 Mar-Aug), Unit 610, Hospital Salpetriere, Paris
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (2004–2007) Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, London (Supervisor: RE Passingham)
- D.Phil in Experimental Psychology (2001–2005) University of Oxford, Thesis title: Brain Mechanisms of Spontaneous Actions (Supervisors: RE Passingham, RD Rogers)
- Undergraduate Research/Teaching Assistant (part-time, 2000–2001) Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong (Supervisor: JYF Lau)
- Bachelor of Cognitive Science (1998 2001; 1st class honors) University of Hong Kong, Thesis title: The Problem of Division of Phenomenal Labour (Supervisor: JYF Lau, Department of Philosophy)

Former Mentees (currently in faculty / PI positions)

1. Guillermo Solovey, PhD: former postdoc at Columbia, now tenured faculty member at the University of Buenos Aires

- Dobromir Rahnev, PhD: former graduate student (Columbia), postdoc at UC Berkeley (advisor: Mark D'Esposito), now tenured faculty at Department of Psychology, GeorgiaTech
- 3. Megan Peters, PhD: former postdoc at UCLA, now tenured faculty at UC Irvine
- 4. Brian Odegaard, PhD: former postdoc at UCLA, now assistant professor at U of Florida
- 5. Ai Koizumi, PhD: former postdoc, now independent PI at Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Tokyo
- 6. Kiyo Miyoshi, PhD, former postdoc at HKU and UCLA, now assistant professor at Kyoto University
- 7. Jorge Morales, PhD: former graduate student in philosophy (Columbia), now assistant professor of psychology at Northeastern University
- 8. Aurelio Cortese, PhD: PI, ATR Japan
- 9. Vincent Taschereau-Dumouchel, PhD: former postdoc, now assistant professor-researcher at Université de Montréal
- 10. Yujia Peng, PhD: former postdoc at UCLA, now assistant professor at Peking University
- 11. Matthias Michel, PhD: assistant professor at MIT
- 12. Taylor Webb, PhD: former postdoc at UCLA assistant professor at Université de Montréal & MILA (to start in 2025)
- 13. Li Yan McCurdy, PhD, former undergrad research assistant at Columbia, assistant professor at Yale Psychiatry
- 14. Qi Lin, PhD, former postdoc at Riken, junior PI (IBS Young Scientist Fellow) at the Center for Neuroscience Imaging Research, Institute for Basic Science, South Korea
- 15. Yijun Ge, PhD, former postdoc at Riken, Assistant Professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Grants/Awards

- 1. 2022: Telecommunication Prize (for the publication of "Unconscious Reinforcement Learning of Hidden Brain States Supported by Confidence"), ATR Institute International, Japan
- 2. 2019-2021: Tom Slick research award "Conducting Unconscious Neural Reinforcement Using Virtual Environments" from Mind Science Foundation, Co-PI, w/PI Vincent Taschereau-Dumouchel (total direct cost = \$15,000)
- 2019-2021: Research grant "Survival Circuit Influences on Human Nature" from Templeton World Charity Foundation (RA537-01), subcontract PI, w/ PI Joseph Ledoux (subcontract total direct cost = \$357,633)
- 4. 2018-2023: Research grant (R61/R33) from the National Institute of Mental Health (grant no. 1R61MH113772-01A1), "Treating Phobia with Multivoxel Neuro-Reinforcement", PI (until 2021), with co-PI Michelle Craske, consultant Mitsuo Kawato (total direct cost initially budgeted = US\$1,249,723)
- 5. 2018-2020: University of Hong Kong Seed Fund Award, "Treating Acrophobia with Multivoxel Neuro-Reinforcement", PI (total direct cost = HK\$270,000)

- 6. 2018-2019: Research grant from the (US) Air Force Office of Scientific Research, a 1-year extension for "Stochastic Resonance and Biases in Perceptual Decision Making", PI (total direct cost = US\$94,259)
- 7. 2017: J Arthur Woodward Graduate Mentor Award (UCLA)
- 8. 2015-2018: Research grant from the (US) Air Force Office of Scientific Research "Stochastic Resonance and Biases in Perceptual Decision Making", PI (total direct cost = US\$280,709)
- 2014-2019: Research grant (R01) from the National Institute of Health (NINDS, Grant No. R01NS088628) "The Neural Basis of Metacognition", PI w/ co-PI Steve Fleming (total direct cost initially allocated = US\$1,250,000)
- 10. 2012 onwards: Elected Fellow, Association for Psychological Science
- 11. 2012: Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions by the Association for Psychological Science
- 12. 2011– 2015: Research grant from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) "Neural Mechanisms of Perceptual Decisions", co-PI w/ PI Floris de Lange (Donders Institute, Netherlands) (grant number 2300164119, total direct cost ~US\$272,000)
- 13. 2011 2014: Research grant from Templeton Foundation "Arbitrating between philosophical theories of consciousness by cognitive neuroscience experiments" PI w/ co-PIs Ned Block (NYU) and Floris de Lange (Donders Institute, Netherlands) (grant number 21569, total direct cost = US\$264,080)
- 14. 2011 2013: Research grant from Templeton Foundation "Free will and the Functions of Awareness" PI w/ co-PI Tim Bayne (Oxford University) (grant number 15462-SCI04, total direct cost = US\$269,600)
- 15. 2009: Human Frontiers Science Program Short Term Fellowship
- 16. 2007: Ville de Paris fellowship
- 17. 2005: The William James Prize (from the Association of the Scientific Studies of Consciousness)
- 18. 2004: Cognitive Neuroscience Society Graduate Student Present Award
- 19. 2003: Organisation of Human Brain Mapping Travel Award
- 20. 2003: Brain Research Trust Travel Grant
- 21. 2001: Rhodes Scholarship (covers full costs of graduate studies at Oxford)
- 22. 2001: Dean's Honours List, Social Science Faculty, University of Hong Kong
- 23. 2000: Charles and Lillian Moore Memorial Prize in Philosophy
- 24. 2000: Hong Kong University Foundation Scholarship
- 25. 1998: Fung Yiu King Full Local Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies

Last updated: Jun 1, 2025

For publications, citation counts, & indexes, please see google scholar page.

Additional info (including talks given, service to former institutions, etc, from before 2021)