



# Olivia Thomas

Neuro-Behavioral Scientist

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## Work experience

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### Research Assistant, Department of Brain and Behavioral Science

2017 - ongoing

University of Georgia

Responsible for conducting studies, focusing primarily on the collection and interpretation of high-quality electroencephalogram (EEG), magnetoencephalogram (MEG), and behavioral data for scientific research purposes with an emphasis on interpretation of unstructured intrinsic neural activity.

- Collect EEG, MEG, and behavioral data from human subjects viewing select video/audio presentation material.
- Conduct cognitive interviews using the BACS, WRAT, and computerized behavioral tasks with human subjects.
- Problem solve and diagnose all challenges to data collection and validation, including both hardware and software issues.
- Analyze, process, and present participant EEG/behavioral data using MATLAB, R-Studio, SPSS, and Mplus.
- Streamline data management of large data-sets across local and remote servers/platforms.
- Foster a robust environment for the education of undergraduate students in a lab environment.
- Partner with physicians, Primary Investigators, and Lab Operations Managers to ensure high quality and ethical study design and testing environments.
- Primary contact with local Institutional Review Board, as well as facilitating collaboration between local and international research review-boards.
- Promote an ethical and robust testing environment for high-quality data collection through mitigation of external factors and adherence to lab policies and procedures.
- Exposure to eye-tracking technology and practices.

### Instructor of Record, Research Design in Psychology

2020 - 2020

University of Georgia

Taught undergraduate students all aspects of design of research in psychology. Experimental and quasi-experimental design, as well as the general principles of the scientific method, including but not limited to: formulation of hypotheses, collection of data, and description of research findings. Implemented online learning strategies during the pandemic.

### Teaching Assistant

2018 - ongoing

University of Georgia

Research Design in Psychology, Research Analysis in Psychology, Abnormal Psychology/Psychopathology

## Education

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### Ph.D, Brain and Behavior Science

05-2017 - ongoing

University of Georgia

Biological marker research in a population featuring psychosis (schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder with psychosis), with a personal emphasis on basic, unstructured ongoing neural activity (Intrinsic Activity).

### M.S., Behavior and Brain Science

Completed - 12-2019

University of Georgia

Thomas, O.F. (2019). *Intrinsic Neural Activity Differences in Psychosis Biotypes: Findings from the Bipolar-Schizophrenia Network on Intermediate Phenotypes (B-SNIP) Consortium* (Masters Thesis, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA).

### B.A., Psychology

Completed - 05-2017

University of South Florida

- Lab Assistant for Dr. Emanuel Donchin, Cognitive Psychophysiology Laboratory
- 3.9 GPA

## Qualifications

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### Neuroimaging Administration

- EEG
  - Compumedics NeuroScan; 64-Channel Dense-Array Quik-Cap
  - EGI; 256-Channel Net
  - Polhemus - Fastrak Digitizer
  - Individual electrode placement (*for concurrent MEG/EEG recording*)
- MEG
  - CTF MEG International; Omega Whole-cortex MEG
    - 143 MEG Channels
    - Integrated 64 EEG Channels

### Software Proficiencies

- MATLAB (MathWorks)
- CURRY (Compumedics NeuroScan)
- BESA
- Presentation (Neurobehavioral Systems)
- *Mplus*
- R-Studio
- SPSS (IBM)
- Celonis
- Microsoft Suite
  - Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Teams, Outlook

### Certifications

- CITI Training
  - Human Research
    - Social and Behavioral
    - Bio-medical
    - IRB Members
  - Responsible Conduct of Research
    - Social and Behavioral
    - Bio-medical

- Conflict of Interest
- Good Clinical Practice (U.S. FDA Focus)
  - GCP for Clinical Trials with Investigational Drugs and Medical Devices
- Administration of Brief Assessment of Cognition in Schizophrenia (BACS)
- Administration of Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT)

## Publications

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- First Author
  - Thomas O.F., Parker D.A., Trotti R.L., McDowell J.E., Gershon E.S., Sweeney J., Keshavan M.S., Keedy S.K., Ivleva E.I., Tamminga C.A., Pearlson G.D., Clementz B.A. (2019). Intrinsic neural activity differences in psychosis biotypes: Findings from the Bipolar-Schizophrenia Network on Intermediate Phenotypes (B-SNIP) Consortium. *Biomarkers in Neuropsychiatry* 1. doi.org/10.1016/j.bionps.2019.100002
- Co-Author
  - Clementz B.A., Parker D.A., Trotti R.L., McDowell J.E., Keedy S.K., Keshavan M.S., Pearlson G.D., Gershon E.S., Ivleva E.I., Huang L.Y., Hill S.K., Sweeney J.A., Thomas O.F., Hudgens-Haney M., Gibbons R.D., Tamminga C.A. (2021). Psychosis Biotypes: Replication and Validation from the B-SNIP Consortium, *Schizophrenia Bulletin*. doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbab090
- Co-Author
  - Farkas A.H., Trotti R.L., Edge E.A., Huang L.Y., Kasowski A., Thomas O.F., Chlan E., Granros M.P., Patel K., Sabatinelli D. (2021). Humor and emotion: Quantitative meta analyses of functional neuroimaging studies. *Cortex* 139, 60-72. doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2021.02.023.
- Poster, First Author
  - Thomas O.F., Parker D.A., McDowell J.E., Tamminga C.A., Gershon E.S., Keedy S.K., Keshavan M.S., Pearlson G.D., Sweeney J.A., Clementz B.A. (2018). Intrinsic resting state activity as an external validator of biologically derived psychosis subgroupings: Findings from the Bipolar & Schizophrenia Network on Intermediate Phenotypes. *Society for Psychophysiological Research*, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

## Associations

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- Psychology Career Development Organization at UGA
  - President (Inaugural, 2021-ongoing)
- Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology
  - Undergraduate Student Member (2015-2017)
  - Graduate Student Mentor (2019-ongoing)
- Innovation Bootcamp, Innovation Gateway at UGA
- Women in Bio, Atlanta Chapter
- Georgia Bio, Students & Young Professionals
- Zeta Tau Alpha, Alumni Association
- Davidson Young Scholars

## Hobbies & interests

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- Visual Arts
- Graphic Design
- Computer Science
- Piano, guitar, French horn, violin, mandolin
- Ornithology
- Travel