OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 (Rev. 03/2020 Approved Through 02/28/2023)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Anna Vaskevich

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Post-Doctoral Associate, Sensory-Motor Integration Lab, Department of Psychology in the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)

| INSTITUTION AND LOCATION | DEGREE  (if applicable) | Start Date  MM/YYYY | Completion Date  MM/YYYY | FIELD OF STUDY |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Holon Institute of Technology (HIT), Israel  FH-Dortmund, Germany | B.Design  Erasmus program | 2005  2008 | 2009  *Cum Laude*  *2008* | School of Design  School of Design |
| Tel-Aviv University, Israel  Tel-Aviv University, Israel  Rutgers,  The State University of New Jersey  New Brunswick, New Jersey | MA  Ph.D.  Post-Doctoral Associate | 2012  2015  2021 | 2014  *Cum Laude*  2020  June 2023 (expected) | School of Psychological Sciences  School of Psychological Sciences  Psychology – Cognitive Psychology |
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**A. Personal Statement**

I am first and foremost interested in people. How do we interact with each other? How do we learn? How do we think? My current focus is on how children and adults acquire predictive information from the environment.

During my PhD I have studied the influence of statistical learning on online task performance. I developed a theoretical framework, accounting for counterintuitive results that show beneficial regularities can hinder performance in unstable environments. Within my current position, I combine my expertise in statistical learning and the cutting edge techniques developed in the Torres lab to study statistical learning dynamics both in typical and atypical populations from a novel, data driven perspective.

My work in the lab so far has demonstrated that statistical learning is a highly dynamic and stochastic process, unfolding at different time scales, and evolving distinct learning strategies on demand. My current goal is to identify and characterize the motor signature of statistical learning in ASD. I intend to isolate specific tasks-set parameters that can be manipulated on an individual level, to provide optimal learning outcomes.

Understanding how the autistic brain learns predictive information in a personalized manner, bears the potential of improving both verbal and social communication skills, thus helping pave the way to better integration of ASD individuals into society and contributing greatly to their overall wellbeing.

My personal long term goal is to combine experimental work with the development of technology-based tools that can be clinically assessed and personalized based on the specific needs of the individual. As an industrial designer turned cognitive researcher I hope to leverage my experience in product development and scientific research to help bridge the gap between academia and “real world” solutions.

**B. Positions and Honors**

**Academic Awards and Honors**

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| **2005** | **Dean’s List –** Faculty of Design, Holon Institute of Technology |
| **2009**  **2013**  **2015**  **2018** | Excellence award for graduation project **–**  Faculty of Design, Holon Institute of Technology  Excellence scholarship, masters program **–**  Faculty of Social Science, Tel-Aviv University.  Sagol School of Neuroscience travel grant **– Tel Aviv University**  Excellence award for graduate students **–**  Faculty of Social Science, Tel-Aviv University |
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**Professional Experience**

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| **2002 – 2003** | | Medical instructor, Israeli Defense Forces  *Overseeing medical training of highly qualified emergency field medical teams* |
| **2009** | | Mechanical Lego instructor  *After school program, teaching children of age 6-8 basic principles of physics using Lego* |
| **2009 – 2011** | | Toy designer, Halilit  *Development and design of games and toys* |
| **2013 – 2016** | | Research assistant, Schneider Children’s Medical Center  *Neurodevelopmental psychiatry* outpatient clinic |
| **2016** | | Teaching assistant, IDC Herzliya  *Cognitive psychology course* |
| **2018 – 2019** | | Instructor, Tel Aviv University  *Experimental psychology course* |
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**C. Contributions to Science**

* **Vaskevich, A**. & Torres, E. B. (2022). Rethinking statistical learning as a dynamic stochastic process, from the motor systems perspective. Frontiers in Neuroscience, 16. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2022.1033776>
* **Vaskevich, A**., Nishry, A., Smilansky, Y., & Luria, R. (2021). Neural evidence suggests both interference and facilitation from embedding regularity into visual search. Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, 33(4), 622–634. <https://doi.org/10.1162/jocn_a_01667>
* **Vaskevich, A**., & Luria, R. (2019). Statistical learning in visual search is easier after experience with noise than overcoming previous learning. Visual Cognition, Special Issue: Visual Search and Selective Attention, 27(5–8), 537–550. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13506285.2019.1615022>
* **Vaskevich, A**., & Luria, R. (2018). Adding statistical regularity results in a global slowdown in visual search. Cognition, 174, 19–27. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2018.01.010>