Jessica **Qiu**

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EDUCATION

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Sept 2023 – Aug 2025
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour Sept 2019 – Apr 2023
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

- **Sub-GPA: 3.93/4.00:** Dean's Honours List for the 2020–2022 academic years.
- **Honours Thesis**: "The impact of low-visibility & turbidity on fish activity" supervised by Dr. Sigal Balshine. Rising turbidity levels caused by pollution is a growing concern for aquatic ecosystems. This thesis will investigate how turbidity vs. low-light conditions and stable vs. fluctuating turbidity affect fish activity and discuss methodological and ecological implications.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant Apr 2023 – present
VisAge Lab, Baycrest Rotman Research Institute, Toronto, ON

- Worked on several research projects investigating biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease and fall-prevention interventions in older adults, supervised by Dr. Eugenie Roudaia.
- Assisted with study visit procedures by using EEG (electroencephalogram) to collect patient data, administering & scoring neuropsychological tests, & consolidating data in REDcap survey software.
- Prepared research ethics board (REB) documents and used MATLAB to analyze EEG data.

Research Assistant & Lab Manager Apr 2022 – Apr 2023
Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Responsible for the laboratory's animal care program & proactively cared for 8+ fish species by completing tasks like feeding, water quality checks, water changes, and health checks.
- Communicated effectively with team of 25+ undergraduate and graduate students working on 10+ ongoing experiments to ensure smooth operation, & planned social events to foster community.
- Assisted field crew with long-term research projects monitoring local aquatic ecosystem health.

Research Project Student Jan 2022 – Apr 2022
Social Brain, Body, & Action Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Worked on a research project investigating potential strategies for mitigating harm caused by racial microaggressions, supervised by Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi & Dr. Michael Jenkins.
- Helped design and pilot the study, worked closely with research team to create an experiment that would address key current EDI issues such as recognizing microaggressions & microinterventions.
- Conducted analysis on collected data and meticulously consolidated findings in a written report.

Research Project Student Jan 2020 – Jan 2022
Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Worked on multiple research projects investigating 1) leadership behaviour in the endangered redside dace fish, and 2) the effect of caffeine on learning in fish, supervised by Dr. Sigal Balshine.
- Improved study methodology by using Excel knowledge to facilitate more efficient data collection.
- Produced original datasets by coding behavioural data for 120+ hours per project, analyzed collected data, and presented results in 5-min talk in lab meeting.

Research Assistant Apr 2021 – Aug 2021

Wilson Toxicology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Assisted with ongoing research projects investigating the effects of the drug metformin on larval and adult fish, supervised by Dr. Joanna Wilson & Dr. Oana Birceanu.
- Collaborated with the department of Environment & Climate Change Canada on government initiatives promoting the conservation of wildlife on Indigenous reserves.
- Trained in the use of a variety of lab instruments including the microscope, pipettes, dissecting tools, homogenizer, spectrometer, centrifuge, YSI meter, pH meter & thermal oven.

PUBLICATIONS

Jenkins, M., Deol, A., Irvine, A., Tamburro, M., **Qiu, J**., & Obhi, S. S. (2023). Racial microaggressions: Identifying factors affecting perceived severity and exploring strategies to reduce harm. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.13003

Williams S., Thompson, W.A., Masood N., Easwaramoorthy M., Qiu J., Wilson, J.Y. (2023). Metformin and guanylurea reduce survival, but have limited sublethal effects in larval zebrafish (Danio rerio). (In Preprint). https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.12.01.569578

Pathak A., **Qiu J.**, Mehdi H., Balshine S., Turko A.J. (Under Review). Should I stay or should I go? Consensus and leadership in group thermal decision-making. *Behavioural Ecology & Sociobiology. BEAS-D-21-00423*

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Sept 2021 – present

Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Professionally trained in effective teaching and science communication, taught 3 tutorials a week for introductory psychology classes and provided mentorship support to over 220+ students.
- Assessed students' individual needs and adapted teaching approach to meet different needs.
- Received honourable mention for the "TA of the Year Award" based on student nominations.

ACHIEVEMENTS & EXTRACURRICULARS

Graphical Abstract Published in Academic Journal 2022

- Published graphical abstract: (DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpa.2021.111126).

"PNB Talks" Symposium Speaker 2021

- Placed 1st place for my talk "*Super Mario & Not-So-Super Elections: The Impact of Form Perception*".

Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference Speaker (AOPUTC) 2021

- Presented my poster and talk "*Simon Says: Leadership Behaviour in Redside Dace*". (poster link)
- Placed top 10% out of 200+ undergraduate thesis presentations as a 2nd year student.

LEAP Canada Creative Director 2020 - 2022

- Led creative team in developing branding, marketing materials, and website from scratch.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Art & Design: skilled in Photoshop CC, Illustrator CC, and Sony Vegas Pro for graphic design & video editing. Portfolio can be found at: jessicaqiu.myportfolio.com

Programming: experience in using **R**, **Matlab**, & **Excel** for data analysis & visualization.

Research Software & Certifications: experienced in using **BORIS** for behavioural scoring, **TRex** for automated behavioural tracking, & **AxioVision** for morphometrics. Trained in WHMIS, EOHSS Health & Safety, Animal Handling, TCPS 2: CORE-2022 (Course on Research Ethics) & certified as a Nuclear Energy Worker.