

Sally Berson

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Baltimore, MD 21218

EDUCATION **Ph.D., Psychological & Brain Sciences, Johns Hopkins University** 2023 — present
Advisor: Lisa Feigenson

BA, Cognitive Science 2019 — 2023
BA, Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience
University of Michigan
with distinction and high honors

HONORS & AWARDS Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, *National Science Foundation* 2025
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society 2023
High Honors for Senior Thesis, *University of Michigan* 2023
James B. Angell Scholar, *University of Michigan* 2021 — 2023
University Honors, *University of Michigan* 2019 — 2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS **Berson, S., Feigenson, L., (2026).** Infants evaluate and generate explanations for surprising events. Poster to be presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference. Montréal, QC

Berson, S., Feigenson, L., (2025). Core knowledge influences explanatory reasoning. Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. San Francisco, CA

Berson, S., Feigenson, L., (2025). Children’s explanations for surprising events. Poster presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy & Psychology. Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles **Berson, S., Feigenson, L., (in prep).** The role of knowledge and motivation in children’s explanation evaluation.

Berson, S., Feigenson, L., Liu, S., (forthcoming). Core perception cannot ignore issues of conceptual content and functional role [commentary]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

Berson, S., Pappagallo, E., Ripley, O., Zehner, A. (2023). Preferential Unconscious Attention for Pictures over Words in a Visual Recognition Paradigm. *The Canadian Undergraduate Journal of Cognitive Science*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE **Graduate Student Researcher** 2023 — present
 Laboratory for Child Development
 Johns Hopkins University
 Principal Investigators: Lisa Feigenson, Justin Halberda

Undergraduate Research Assistant 2019 — 2023
 Neuropsychology and Cognitive Aging Lab
 University of Michigan
 Principal Investigator: Laura Zahodne

Undergraduate Research Assistant 2022
 Cognitive Neuroscience of Consciousness Lab
 Danish Institute for Study Abroad
 Principal Investigator: Claudia Carrara-Augustenberg

MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate Students Chloe Patz, Wake Forest University 2025 — present
 Esther Kehinde*, Johns Hopkins University 2025 — present
 Claire Han, Johns Hopkins University 2025 — present
 Priscilla Animadu*, Johns Hopkins University 2024 — present
 Natalie Bernstein, Johns Hopkins University 2024

*indicates honors student

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Assistant Introduction to Cognitive Psychology, *Johns Hopkins University* 2026

Graduate Teaching Assistant Research Methods in Psychology, *Johns Hopkins University* 2025

Graduate Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer Introduction to Developmental Psychology, *Johns Hopkins University* 2024