

CARLY KONTRA
Curriculum Vitae
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Email: ckontra@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

- 2009 - 2014 The University of Chicago
Department of Psychology
MA, December 2014
PhD, December 2014 (Advisor: Sian L. Beilock)
Leveraging Somatic Experience for Learning
- 2008 - 2009 The George Washington University
Department of Psychology
Graduate work, non-degree
- 2004 - 2008 The George Washington University
BS, Biological Sciences, minor area Dance

AWARDS AND TRAINING

- 2014 Presenting Data and Information
With Edward Tufte, Chicago, IL
- 2012 Temporal Dynamics of Learning Summer Fellows Institute
University of California San Diego
- 2012 Norman Henry Anderson Research Fund
Department of Psychology, University of Chicago
- 2011 Honorable Mention
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Individual differences in embodiment and motor learning
Changes in kinesthetic awareness with mental and somatic practice
Cognitive science applications in education

PUBLICATIONS

Williams, P., **Kontra, C.**, Harden, H., Hoekner, B., Nusbaum, H. (2016). The Relationship between Mental and Somatic Practices and Wisdom. *PLoS ONE*, 11(2): e0149369.

Kontra, C., Lyons, D., Fischer, S. & Beilock, S.L. (2015). Physical Experience Enhances Science Learning. *Psychological Science*, 26(6), 737–749.

Sattizahn, J., Lyons, D., **Kontra, C.**, Fischer, S. & Beilock, S.L. (2015). In Physics Education, Perception Matters. *Mind, Brain, & Education*, 9(3), 164–169.

Trofatter, C., **Kontra, C.**, Beilock, S.L. & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2014). Gesturing has a larger impact on problem-solving than action, even when action is accompanied by words. *Language, Cognition & Neuroscience*, doi: [10.1080/23273798.2014.905692](https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2014.905692).

Kontra, C., Goldin-Meadow, S. and Beilock, S. L. (2012). Embodied Learning across the Lifespan. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 4, 731–739.

Kontra, C., Albert, N., & Beilock, S. L. (2012). Embodied cognition: From the playing field to the classroom. In A. M. Williams, N. J. Hodges, M. A. Scott, & M. L. J. Court (Eds.), *Skill acquisition in sport: Research, theory and practice* (2nd Edition). Routledge.

Philbeck, J. W., Woods, A. J., **Kontra, C.**, & Zdenkova, P. (2010). A comparison of blindpulling and blindwalking as measures of perceived absolute distance. *Behavior Research Methods*, 42, 148–160.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Kontra, C., Williams, P., Hoeckner, B., & Nusbaum, H. (in prep). Mindfulness in the Body: Alexander Technique improves Kinesthetic Awareness.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Tactile Research Group Meeting. Minneapolis, MN. November 2012.

Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center, Carnegie Mellon University. September 2012.

Spatial Intelligence & Learning Center, Temple University. October 2011.

Conference Presentations

Kontra, C. & Beilock, S.L. (2014). An embodied mechanism underlying student understanding of physics: motor resonance after sensorimotor training predicts understanding. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society annual meeting, Boston, MA.

Williams, P.B., **Kontra, C.**, Harden, H., Hoeckner, B., & Nusbaum, H.C. (2014). Associations between Wisdom and Practice. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Fischer, S., **Kontra, C.**, Lyons, D., Sattizahn, J., & Beilock, S.L. (2014). Embodied Physics Learning. Oral Presentation at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Kontra, C., Lyons, D., Fischer, S., & Beilock, S.L. (2012). Physical Physics: embodiment of vector quantities in the classroom. Oral Presentation at the 5th International Conference on Spatial Cognition, “Sapienza” University of Rome, Rome, Italy.

Kontra, C., Lyons, D., Fischer, S., & Beilock, S.L. (2012). Embodied Physics Learning. Poster presented at the Psychonomics Society annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Kontra, C., Lyons, D., Fischer, S., & Beilock, S.L. (2012). Embodiment in the Classroom: A Sensorimotor Understanding of Torque. Oral Presentation at the Chicago Graduate Student Research Symposium, DePaul University, Chicago, IL.

Kontra, C., Fischer, S., Albert, N.B., & Beilock, S.L. (2012). Embodied Physics Learning. (2012). Oral Presentation at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Kontra, C., Albert, N.B., Yang, S., Fischer, S. & Beilock, S.L. (2011). Experiential Learning Supports Conceptual Understanding of Mechanical Physics. Poster presented at the American Association of Physics Teachers Meeting, Jacksonville, FL.

Kontra, C., Albert, N.B., Goldin-Meadow, S., & Beilock, S.L. (2010). An Active Role for Gesture in Spatial Problem Solving. Poster presented at Spatial Cognition, Mt. Hood, OR.

Yamamoto, N., Philbeck, J.W., Fedio, P., Potolicchio, S.J., Caputy, A.J., de Leonni Stanonik, M., & **Kontra, C. (2009).** Navigating across the lifespan: Path integration deficits in patients with mild cognitive impairment. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.

TEACHING

Educational Neuroscience, University of Chicago, *Lecturer & Teaching Assistant*

Cognitive Psychology, University of Chicago, *Teaching Assistant*

Sensation and Perception, University of Chicago, *Teaching Assistant*

Mathematics for Social Sciences, University of Chicago, *Teaching Assistant*

Psychology of Decision Making, University of Chicago, *Teaching Assistant*

SERVICE

University and Department

2010 - 2012 Psychology Graduate Student Organization

Committee member, Professional Development/Academic Life

2010 - 2012 Department of Psychology, Cognitive Area

Coordinator, Workshop on Cognition

Journal Reviews

Reviewer for *Cognition*

Reviewer for *Cerebral Cortex*

Reviewer for *Mind, Brain & Education*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

NSF Spatial Intelligence & Learning Center
Cognitive Science Society
Cognitive Neuroscience Society
Midwestern Psychological Association
Association for Psychological Science
American Association of Physics Teachers