

CURRICULUM VITAE  
**Ryan S. Williams**

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## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy, Psychology (Expected Summer 2023)**

University of Toronto

Supervised by Dr. Jay Pratt and Dr. Susanne Ferber

*Dissertation: Attentional Templates in Context: Understanding the Tuning of Target Features during High- versus Low-Similarity Search*

**Master of Arts, Psychology (2017)**

University of Toronto

Supervised by Dr. Jay Pratt and Dr. Susanne Ferber

*Thesis: "Don't Look Down": Alpha-Band Activity Reveals Selection Prior to Suppression of to-be-Ignored Locations (Supervised by Dr. Jay Pratt and Dr. Susanne Ferber)*

**Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Psychology (2015)**

Toronto Metropolitan University (Formerly Ryerson University)

Supervised by Dr. Julia Spaniol

Thesis: Age Differences in the Attention Network Test: Evidence from Behaviour and Event-Related Potentials

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

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**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Canadian Graduate Scholarship  
Doctoral (September 2017 – December 2020)**

\$116,700 CAD

**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canadian Graduate Scholarship –  
Master's (September 2016 – August 2017)**

\$17,500 CAD

**J. Davidson Ketchum Graduate Scholarship in Psychology (September 2016)**

\$5,000 CAD

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Undergraduate Student Research  
Award (May 2015 – August 2015)**

\$4,500 CAD

**CPA Certificate of Academic Excellence (June 2015)**

## PUBLICATIONS

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Williams, R. S., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (in prep.). Not so spatial, after all? Learned suppression of probable distractor locations acts on spatially invariant, configural representations.

Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., Ferber, S. (in prep). Observers learn and utilize non-diagnostic target probabilities to the same extent independent of attentional template breadth.

Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., Ferber, S. (in prep.). Distractor expectancies mitigate interference across (but not within) stimulus-dimensions.

Williams, R. S., Wang, X. O., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (in prep.). Transfer of attentional sharpening is limited to learned feature-values.

Williams, R. S., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (under review) The specificity of feature-based attentional guidance is equivalent under single- and dual-target search.

Williams, R. S., Pratt, J, Ferber, S., & Cant, J. S. (2021). Tuning the ensemble: Incidental skewing of the perceptual average through memory-driven selection. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 47, 648–661.

Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2020). Directed avoidance and its effect on visual working memory. *Cognition*, 201, 104227:1-12.

Williams, R. S., Kudus, F., Dyson, B. J., & Spaniol, J. (2018). Transient and sustained incentive effects on electrophysiological indices of cognitive control in younger and older adults. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, 18, 313-330.

Williams, R. S., Biel, A. L., Dyson, B. J., & Spaniol, J. (2017). Age differences in gain-and loss-motivated attention. *Brain and Cognition*, 111, 171-181.

Williams, R. S., Biel, A. L., Wegier, P., Lapp, L. K., Dyson, B. J., & Spaniol, J. (2016). Age differences in the Attention Network Test: Evidence from behavior and event-related potentials. *Brain and Cognition*, 102, 65-79.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (Forthcoming). *Tracking the time-course of attentional sharpening using EEG*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society.

Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2022, November). *Not so spatial after all? Learned suppression of probable distractor locations acts on spatially invariant, configural representations*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society. [\[PDF\]](#)

Williams, R. S., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (2022, May). *Examining a hybrid account of salience-based amplification during perceptual average judgments*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society. [\[PDF\]](#)

- Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2021, November). *The influence of distractor expectancies on visual working memory interference across and within feature dimensions*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (2021, May). *Transfer of attentional sharpening across contexts is stimulus-specific*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Wang, X. O., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (2021, March). *Transfer of attentional sharpening across contexts is stimulus-specific*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2020, November). *Graded modulation of stimulus-response bindings by intervening events*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (2020, June). *Multiple target templates are maintained without a cost to precision*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Ferber, S., & Pratt, J. (2019, November). *Attentional template specificity is modulated by task demands for single and multiple control settings*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Montreal, QC. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., Ferber, S., & Cant, J. S. (2019; May). *The contents of visual working memory bias ensemble perception*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, FL. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2018, November). *Non-target cueing benefit in visual working memory is independent of cue-target compatibility*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New Orleans, LA. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Newman, R., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2018, May). *The attentional “white bear” evades visual working memory*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, St. Pete Beach, FL. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Williams, R. S., Pratt, J., & Ferber, S. (2017, November). *Intentional suppression of attention to spatial locations takes time*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, BC. [\[PDF\]](#)