

Neil Garrett, PhD

Daw Lab

Princeton Neuroscience Institute

Email: [ngarrett \(at\) princeton.edu](mailto:ngarrett@princeton.edu)

Web: www.neilgarrett.org

Twitter: [@garrett_neil](https://twitter.com/garrett_neil)

Current Position

09/2016 – Present Postdoctoral Researcher, Daw Lab Princeton University
Supervisor: Nathaniel Daw

Education

09/2012 – 06/2016 Ph.D. Experimental Psychology University College London
Supervisor: Tali Sharot

09/2010 – 09/2011 MSc Cognitive and Decision Sciences University College London
Supervisor: Benedetto De Martino

09/2001 – 06/2004 BSc Economics and Philosophy London School of Economics

Publications

Garrett N, González-Garzón AM, Foulkes L, Levita L & Sharot T (2018, preprint) Updating Beliefs Under Perceived Threat. Available at SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3155415

Garrett N & Sharot T (2017) Optimistic update bias holds firm: Three tests of robustness following Shah et al. *Consciousness & Cognition*, 50, 12-22.

Garrett N, Lazzaro S, Ariely D & Sharot T (2016) The Brain Adapts to Dishonesty. *Nature Neuroscience*. 19, 1727-1732.

Sharot T & **Garrett N** (2016) Forming Beliefs: Why Valence Matters. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*. 20(1).

Moutsiana C, Charpentier C, **Garrett N**, Cohen MX & Sharot T (2015) Human frontal-subcortical circuit and asymmetric belief updating, *Journal of Neuroscience*. 35(42): 14077-14085.

Garrett N, Sharot T, Faulkner P, Korn CW, Roiser JP & Dolan RJ (2014) Losing the rose-tinted glasses: neural substrates of unbiased belief updating in depression. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 8:639.

Garrett N & Sharot T (2014) How robust is the optimistic update bias for estimating self-risk and population base rates? *PLOS ONE*, 9(6).

Charpentier C, Moutsiana C, **Garrett N** & Sharot T (2014) The brain's temporal dynamics from a collective decision to individual action. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 34(17): 5816-5823.

Moutsiana C, **Garrett N**, Clarke RC, Lotto RB, Blakemore SJ & Sharot T (2013) Human development of the ability to learn from bad news. *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110 (41): 16396–16401.

De Martino B, Fleming S, **Garrett N** & Dolan RJ (2013) Confidence in value-based choice. *Nature Neuroscience*, 16, 105–110.

Publications Under Review/In Preparation

Ossola P, **Garrett N**, Sharot T & Marchesi C (in preparation) Biases in Belief Updating in Bipolar Disorder

Invited Talks

- 05/2018 Manhattan Area Memory Conference, Columbia University, USA
- 10/2017 EmTech Conference, Toulouse, France
- 09/2017 Parallel Distributed Processing (PDP) Seminar Series, Princeton University, USA
- 08/2017 Law and the Whole Truth, University of Glasgow, UK
- 04/2017 Neuroscience and Social Decision Making Seminar Series, Princeton University, USA
- 06/2016 European Conference on Positive Psychology, Angers, France
Keynote Lecture: How the Human Brain Forms Optimistic Beliefs
- 05/2016 Daw Lab, Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University, USA
- 05/2016 Summerfield Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- 01/2016 Marr Club, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
- 09/2015 Society for Neuroeconomics Conference, Miami, USA
Symposium session: Social preferences and strategic interactions.
- 04/2015 Harvard Intergroup Neuroscience Lab, Harvard University, Boston, USA
- 03/2015 Affective Brain Lab Seminar Series, University College London, London, UK
- 03/2015 EEG Journal Club, Department of Psychology, Goldsmiths University, London, UK
- 09/2014 Saxe Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA
- 09/2013 Society for Psychophysiological Research Conference, Florence, Italy
Symposium session: Neural mechanisms underlying positive and negative cognitive biases in emotion.
- 10/2012 Society for Neuroscience Conference, New Orleans, USA
Nanosymposium session: Effects of Feedback, Reinforcement and Reward on Human Learning.

Poster Presentations

- 04/2015 Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS) Conference, Boston, USA
- 11/2014 Society for Neuroscience Conference, Washington DC, USA
Session: Human Decision-Making, Social and Emotional Factors
- 09/2013 Society for Neuroeconomics Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland

Collaborations

McLean Medical School, Harvard University
Department of Neuroscience, University of Parma

Teaching

UCL, MSc in Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology (2015/2016): Affective Neuroscience Module (Contributing Lecturer)
 UCL, MSc in Social Cognition (2014/2015, 2015/2016): Understanding Individuals and Groups Module (Contributing Lecturer)
 UCL, MSc in Research Methods (2014/2015): Cognitive Psychology Module (Contributing Lecturer)
 UCL, MSc in Neuroscience (2015/2016): Cognitive Systems Neuroscience Module (Contributing Lecturer)
 UCL, MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience (2015/2016): Cognitive Neuroscience II: Elaborative and Adaptive Processes (Contributing Lecturer)

Awards/Research Grants

2018-2022 Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship (lead PI, 209108/Z/17/Z): £250,000

2015 Summer Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara

2014 SLMS Student Conference Fund, University College London
 Scholarship to attend 2014 Society for Neuroscience Conference.

2014 Graduate School Research Project Fund, University College London
 Funding to undertake project at Harvard Medical School investigating attention and learning biases in bipolar patients.

2013 Guarantors of Brain Travel Award, University College London
 Scholarship to attend 2013 Society for Psychophysiological Research conference.

2012 UCL Impact Award: £32,535
 3-year PhD studentship in collaboration with Centre for Advanced Hindsight (Duke University).

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN); Emotion; Cerebral Cortex; Cognition and Emotion; Cognitive, Affective & Behavioural Neuroscience (CABN); Consciousness and Cognition; Brain Structure and Function; Journal of Experimental Psychology; Psychological Science

Students Supervised

Gabriella Montinola: UCL Affiliate Student
 Anja Hallan Wolff: UCL Internship Student
 Molly Wilner: UCL Affiliate Student
 Sarah Hadden: UCL Internship Student
 Raeesa Anjum: UCL Undergraduate Student

Essays In Popular Media

The Conversation: *Why being dishonest is a slippery slope*
Aeon Magazine: *Dishonesty gets easier the more you do it*
The Dana Foundation: *How dishonesty can snowball*

Public Engagement

01/2017 Imperfect Cognitions Blog (article on Optimistic Belief Updating)
06/2016 Michelle Mcquaid Podcast series (<http://www.michellemcquaid.com>)
03/2016 Imperfect Cognitions Blog (article on [Depressive Realism](#))
07/2013 Wrong! Wellcome Collection, London (July 2013)
09/2012 Dara O Briain's Science Club (UK TV show, broadcast BBC2)

Press Coverage (selected)

The Guardian: *From porkies to whoppers: over time lies may desensitize brain to dishonesty*

New York Times: *Why Big Liars Often Start Out as Small Ones*

TIME Magazine: *The Fascinating Reason Why Liars Keep On Lying*

New Scientist: *Lying feels bad at first but our brains soon adapt to deceiving*

Wired: *The more we lie, the easier it is for our brains to be increasingly more deceitful*

Associated Press: *Slippery slope: Study finds little lies lead to bigger ones*

Huffington Post: *How lying changes your brain in just a short period of time*

Discover Magazine: *From Fibs to Fraud: Why Lying Is a Slippery Slope*

The Telegraph: *Little white lies make it easier to go on and tell big whoppers*