

YOUJUNG CHOI

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

2020- **Assistant Professor**, School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences, Southern Illinois University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017-20 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Department of Psychology, Harvard University
Advisor: Elizabeth Spelke, Professor of Psychology

2015-17 **Postdoctoral Associate**, Department of Psychology, Yale University
Advisors: Drs. Yarrow Dunham, Laurie Santos, Karen Wynn

EDUCATION

2009-15 **Ph.D. in Psychology**, University of Missouri-Columbia
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Yuyan Luo
Dissertation: Infants' false-belief understanding in social interactions

2009-13 **M.A. Psychology**, University of Missouri-Columbia
Advisor: Dr. Yuyan Luo
Thesis: Perspective taking and language comprehension: A comparison between Korean and English infants

2007-09 **M.A. Psychology**, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
Advisor: Dr. Hyun-joo Song
Thesis: Korean adults' beliefs about the essence of others' traits

2001-06 **B.A. Psychology**, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study social cognitive development in infants and young children. My research focuses, first, on how individuals understand others' minds, and second, on how this understanding and other social capacities (e.g., moral understanding, intergroup cognition, language comprehension) play a role in interpreting social interactions.

PUBLICATIONS

Published

1. Yang, F., **Choi, Y.**, Misch, A., Yang, X., & Dunham, Y. (2018). In defense of the commons: Young children negatively evaluate and sanction free riders. *Psychological Science*, *29*, 1598–1611.
2. **Choi, Y.**, Mou, Y., & Luo, Y. (2018). How do 3-month-old infants attribute preferences to a human agent? *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, *172*, 96-106.
3. **Choi, Y.**, Song, H., & Luo, Y. (2018). Infants' understanding of the definite/indefinite article in a third-party communicative situation. *Cognition*, *175*, 69-76.
4. **Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. (2015). 13-month-olds' understanding of social interactions. *Psychological Science*, *26*, 274-283.
5. Luo, Y., & **Choi, Y.** (2013). Infants attribute mental states to nonhuman agents. In M. D. Rutherford & V. A. Kuhlmeier (Eds.), *Social Perception: Detection and Interpretation of Animacy, Agency, and Intention* (pp. 259-282). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
6. Luo, Y., & **Choi, Y.** (2012). Infants attribute to agents goals and dispositions: Commentary on Hernik and Southgate. *Developmental Science*, *15*, 727-728.
7. **Choi, Y.**, & Song, H. (2009). Korean university students' beliefs about the essence of psychological traits. *The Korean Journal of the Human Development*, *16*, 163-184.
8. **Choi, Y.**, & Song, H. (2008). Korean adults' beliefs about the essence of children's traits. *The Korean Journal of Psychology: General*, *27*, 281-301.
9. Song, H., **Choi, Y.**, & Kim, M. (2008). The influence of discourse information on the comprehension of null subject sentences in Korean children. *The Korean Journal of Developmental Psychology*, *21*, 81-97.

Under review

- Choi, Y.**, & Dunham, Y. Actions, actors, and affiliations: Divergent moral and intergroup influences on different forms of social judgment. *Journal of Cognition and Development*.
- Choi, Y.** & Luo, Y. Three-month-old infants' understanding of a human agent's preference. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.
- Choi, Y.**, Luo, Y., & Baillargeon, R. Can an eyeless agent detect an object through an opaque barrier? Epistemic reasoning in 5-month-old infants. *Cognition*.

In Preparation

- Choi, Y.**, Seok, J., & Luo, Y. Infants attribute psychological and biological properties to self-propelled agents.
- Choi, Y.** & Santos, L. Unable versus unwilling: Understanding of human intentions in domesticated dogs and the role of reward.
- Choi, Y.**, Dunham, Y., & Wynn, K. The roles of competition and cooperation in infants' social group affiliations.

Work in Progress

- Choi, Y.**, Correia, S., Onishi, K. H., & Luo, Y. Infants consider others' beliefs when helping them.
- Choi, Y.**, Lee, H., Song, H., & Luo, Y. Infants' understanding of verbal interactions when language understanding requires perspective taking: A cross-linguistic comparison.
- Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. 13-month-olds' understanding of prosocial behaviors in social interactions.
- Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. What behavioral features denote social relationships to infants?
- Choi, Y.** & Santos, L. Dog's theory-of-mind understanding in helping paradigm.
- Choi, Y.**, Seok, J., & Luo, Y. Infants' understanding of other's action-preferences.
- Choi, Y.**, & Spelke, E. Children's knowledge of plants
- Choi, Y.**, & Spelke, E. Understanding about orientation of plants
- Choi, Y.**, & Spelke, E. Infants' understanding of plants' movement: point-light study
- Choi, Y.** & Wynn, K. Infants' understanding of various similarity cues that lead to social preference.

Choi, Y. & Wynn, K. Infants use their theory-of-mind understanding when deciding who is similar to them.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Harvard University (2020, April)
 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard University (2019, November)
 Developmental Psychology, Yonsei University (2019, May)
 Seminar on Cognitive Developmental Psychology, Yonsei University (2019, May)
 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard University (2019, January)
 Developing Minds Lab, Boston University (2018, October)
 Colloquium, Sungshin University, South Korea (2018, May)
 Human Development lab, Yonsei University, South Korea (2018, May)
 Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard University (2017, October)
 Yale-NYU Social Cognition Conference (2017, June)
 Seminar in Language Development, Yonsei University, South Korea (2017, May)
 Morality Lab, Boston College (2017, February)
 Yale Templeton Conference (2016, July)
 Current Work in Developmental Psychology Series, Yale University (2016, March)
 Brown bag in Developmental Psychology, University of Missouri (2015, April)
 Seminar in Moral Development, Yonsei University, South Korea (2014, May)
 Brown bag in Developmental Psychology, University of Missouri (2013, February)
 Seminar in Cognition, Yonsei University, South Korea (2009, June)

Conference Papers (*Gave the talk)

Choi, Y., Jiang, Y., & Luo, Y. (2020, July). Three-month-old infants' understanding of a human agent's preference? In M. Pronovost (Chair), *Exploring the circumstances in which infants attribute dispositions to agents*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Glasgow Scotland.

Yang, F., **Choi, Y.**, Misch, A., Yang, X., & Dunham, Y. (2019, March). Developmental origins of promoting the common good. In J. Martin & K. McAuliffe (Chair), *Choosey children: early-emerging sophistication in children's partner choice decisions*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore MD.

Choi, Y., & Luo, Y. (2018, July). How does a prosocial or antisocial act change interactions between two agents? In Y. Luo (Chair), *Infants' understanding about social interactions, relations, and social structures*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Philadelphia PA.

Luo, Y., & **Choi, Y.** (2015, March). Understanding transitive preference in infancy. In A. Waismeyer (Chair), *Infants and Toddlers' Social Inferences from Causal and Probabilistic Events*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Philadelphia PA

Onishi, K. H., **Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. (2014, July). Infants consider others' beliefs when helping them. In D. Kamps (Chair), *New vistas on the mechanisms involved in infants' representations of others' knowledge and perspective*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.

Choi, Y., & Luo, Y. (2013, January). Understanding social interactions at 13 months of age. In L. Wang (Chair), *Beyond competence: how does belief reasoning interact with other cognitive abilities?* Central European University (CEU) Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), Budapest, Hungary.

Choi, Y., & Song, H. (2009, August). 특질의 본질에 대한 한국 어머니들의 믿음 [Korean mothers' beliefs about others' traits]. Annual Convention Program of the Korean Psychological Association, Seoul, Korea.

Choi, Y., Arunachalam, S., Song, H., **Choi, Y.**, & Trueswell, J. (2009, April). *Syntactic bootstrapping from the serial verb construction in Korean*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Denver CO (+Youngen Choi)

Posters

- Choi, Y.**, Lee, H., Luo, Y., & Song, H. (2020, July). *Understanding a third-party communicative situation: A comparison between American and Korean infants*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Glasgow Scotland.
- Choi, Y.**, & Wynn, K. (2018a, July). *The roles of competition and cooperation in infants' social group affiliations*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Philadelphia PA.
- Choi, Y.**, & Wynn, K. (2018b, July). *Understanding of various similarity cues which lead to social preference*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Philadelphia PA.
- Choi, Y.**, & Dunham, Y. (2017, April). *Children's decisions to socially interact based on moral understanding and social group membership*, Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Austin TX.
- Yang, F., **Choi, Y.**, Misch, A., & Dunham, Y. (2017, April). *Children's evaluations of free riders*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Austin TX.
- Choi, Y.**, Seok, J., & Luo, Y. (2016, May). *Infants' understanding of others' action preferences*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), New Orleans LA.
- Choi, Y.**, Song, H., & Luo, Y. (2014, July). *Perspective taking and language comprehension: A comparison between Korean and American infants*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.
- Choi, Y.**, Seok, J., & Luo, Y. (2014, July). *Infants attribute psychological and biological properties to self-propelled agents*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Berlin, Germany.
- Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. (2013, April). *How do three-month-old infants attribute preferences to agents?* Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Seattle WA.
- Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. (2011, October). *Eighteen-month-old infants are sensitive to what others can see when understanding others' speech*. Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Philadelphia PA.
- Choi, Y.**, & Song, H. (2010, March). *Infants can consider what objects others can see when interpreting others' speech*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Baltimore MD.
- Province, J., **Choi, Y.**, & Luo, Y. (2010, March). *Helping infants encode height information in tube events*. Biennial Meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS), Baltimore MD.
- Choi, Y.**, & Song, H. (2009, October). *The effect of lexicalization on Korean children's inferences about personal characteristics*. Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), San Antonio TX.
- Choi, Y.**, & Song, H. (2009, April). *Korean mothers' beliefs about others' traits*. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Denver CO.
- Choi, Y.** (2008, July). *Korean adults' essentialist beliefs about children's traits*. International Conference of Cognitive Science (ICCS), Seoul, Korea.
- Song, H., & **Choi, Y.** (2008, July). *Korean children's use of discourse information when understanding null-subject sentences*. International Conference of Cognitive Science (ICCS), Seoul, Korea.
- Song, H., **Choi, Y.**, & Jin, K. (2007). *Referential choices in Korean narratives*. International Conference on Cognition, Consciousness, and Culture (ICCCC), Seoul, Korea.

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Yang, F., Choi, Y., Mitch, A., Yang, X., & Dunham, Y. (2018). In defense of the commons: Young children negatively evaluate and sanction free riders. *Psychological Science*. DOI: 10.1177/0956797618779061.

News Coverage (print & online news & magazines)

“Even 4-year-olds dislike freeloaders” *Yale News* (2018 July 23)
<https://news.yale.edu/2018/07/23/even-4-year-olds-dislike-freeloaders>

Choi, Y., & Luo, Y. (2015). 13-month-olds’ understanding of social interactions. *Psychological Science*, 26, 274-283.

Television Interviews

“How much do babies understand about relationships?” *Fox News Channel* (2015 Feb 7)
<http://video.foxnews.com/v/4037971663001/#sp=show-clips>

News Coverage (print & online news & magazines)

“Little Intellectuals” *Illumination magazine* (2015 Spring/Summer)
http://illumination.missouri.edu/s15/little_intellec

“Babies Can Identify Complex Social Situations and React Accordingly” *MU News Bureau* (2015, Feb 10)
<http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2015/0210-babies-can-identify-complex-social-situations-and-react-accordingly-2/>

“Babies Understand Friendship, Meanies and Bystanders” *LiveScience*. (2015 Feb 4)
<http://www.livescience.com/49678-babies-understand-social-false-beliefs.html>

“Are babies more intelligent than we think? Infants aware of complex relationships and understand friendship and bullying even when they are just 13 MONTHS old” *The Daily Mail* (UK) (2015 Feb 4)
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2939901/Are-babies-intelligent-think-Infants-aware-complex-relationships-understand-friendship-bullying-just-13-MONTHS-old.html>

“Babies Know What’s Up” *New York Magazine* (2015 Feb 3)
<http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/02/babies-know-whats-up.html>

Yonhap News (South Korea) (2015 Feb 3)
<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2015/02/03/0200000000AKR20150203052800017.HTML?input=1195m>

“Babies Can Follow Complex Social Situations” *Psychological Science Press* (2015 Feb 2)
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/babies-can-follow-complex-social-situations.html>

“Babies understand more than we think about right and wrong” *Sciguru* (2015 Feb 2)
<http://www.sciguru.org/newsitem/18338/babies-understand-more-we-think-about-right-and-wrong>

“The Toddlers Are on to You” *Pacific Standard* (2015 Feb 2)
<http://www.psmag.com/health-and-behavior/the-toddlers-are-on-to-you>

TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Harvard University

Lecture, Develop the syllabus, organize course materials, make lesson plans, lead discussions, grade all papers and assignments, and advise students individually.

- Contemporary Issues in Psychology, Sophomore Tutorial (Spring, 2020)
- Contemporary Issues in Psychology, Sophomore Tutorial (Academic year 2018-19)

Teaching Assistant, Harvard University

Led sections, graded all assignments, and advised students individually.

- Evolutionary Psychology (Fall 2019)

Teaching Assistant, University of Missouri

Led discussions during the class, graded all assignments, and advised students individually.

- Developmental Psychology (Fall 2014, Spring, 2015)
- Women's Academic and Professional Development (Spring, 2015)
- General Psychology (Fall, 2011, Spring, 2013, Fall, 2014)
- Human Memory (Fall 2012, Spring, 2013)
- Cognitive Psychology (Fall, 2012)
- Research Methods in Psychology II (Spring, 2012)

Teaching Assistant, Yonsei University

Led discussions, graded all assignments, and advised students individually.

- Forensic Psychology (Fall, 2008)
- Cognitive Development (Spring, 2008)

Guest lecturer, University of Missouri

- Theory of Mind, in Developmental Psychology, October, 2014
- Gender Development, in Developmental Psychology November, 2014

Advising & Supervision

More than a dozen undergraduate assistants at the University of Missouri (2009-15), Yale University (2015-17), and Harvard University (2017-)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Research Grant

The Pershing Square Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior (\$39,901) (2020-2022)
(P.I.: Dr. Elizabeth Spelke)

Fellowships

Korean Honor Scholarship, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (\$1,000) (2012)
Huggins Fellowship, University of Missouri (\$13,500) (2013-14)
Huggins Fellowship, University of Missouri (\$13,500 each year) (2009-11)
Summer Grant Writing Fellowship, University of Missouri (\$1,824) (2014)

Institutional Support

Curator's Grant-in-Aid scholarship, University of Missouri (\$700) (2015)
Scholarship for research in Psychology, Brain Korea (BK) 21, Korea Research Foundation (Korean \$2,650) (2008, 2009)
Teaching scholarship (\$1,600) (2008)
Teaching scholarship (\$3,200) (2007)
Scholarship for outstanding academic record, Yonsei University (\$710) (2002)

Teaching Awards

George W. Goethals Award, Harvard University (Fall, 2018)
Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University (Fall, 2018)
George W. Goethals Award, Harvard University (Spring, 2020)

Travel Awards

Graduate Student Travel Award (\$1,000), International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS) (2014)

Travel Award (\$800), Graduate & Professional Council-University of Missouri (2013, 2014)
Student Travel Grant (\$2,450), Psychology-University of Missouri (2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015)
Travel Award (\$400), Graduate & Professional Council-University of Missouri (2013)
Student Travel Award (\$300), Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) (2009)
Student Travel Grant (\$1,100), Psychology-Yonsei University, South Korea (2009)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-hoc Reviewing for Journals

Cognition

Frontiers in Developmental Psychology

The Korean Journal of Developmental Psychology

Review Panels for Professional Conferences

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting (2019), Panel 20: Social Cognition

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Psychological Science
Cognitive Development Society
International Congress on Infant Studies
Society for Research in Child Development