

William Thomas Adler, Ph.D.

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Professional experience

Computational Research Specialist (2018 – present)

Princeton Gerrymandering Project, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Education

New York University, New York, NY (2013 – 2018)

Ph.D., Neural Science

Advisor: Dr. Wei Ji Ma

Carleton College, Northfield, MN (2006 – 2010)

B.A., Psychology

Honors and awards

NYU President's Service Award (2018)

Society for Neuroscience Early Career Policy Ambassador (2017)

NYU Dean's Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award in the Sciences (2016)

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (2015 – 2018)

Henry M. MacCracken Fellow (2013 – 2018)

Magna cum laude, Carleton College (2010)

Distinction in the senior thesis and in the major, Carleton College (2010)

National Merit Scholar (2006 – 2009)

Publications (* indicates equal contributions)

Adler, W.T., Ma, W.J. (submitted). [Limitations of proposed signatures of Bayesian confidence \[preprint on bioRxiv\]](#).

Denison, R.N.*, **Adler, W.T.***, Carrasco, M., Ma, W.J. (submitted). [Humans incorporate attention-dependent uncertainty into perceptual decisions and confidence \[preprint on bioRxiv\]](#).

Adler, W.T., Ma, W.J. (submitted). [Comparing Bayesian and non-Bayesian accounts of human confidence reports \[preprint on bioRxiv\]](#).

Platt, M.P.*, **Adler, W.T.***, Mehlhorn, A.J.*, Johnson, G.C., Wright, K.A., Choi, R.T., Tsang, W.H., Poon, M.W., Yeung, S.Y., Wayne, M.M.Y., Galaburda, A.M., Rosen, G.D. (2013). [Embryonic disruption of the candidate dyslexia susceptibility gene homolog *Kiaa0319-like* results in neuronal migration disorders](#). *Neuroscience*, 248, 585-593. doi:10.1016/j.neuroscience.2013.06.056

Adler, W.T.*, Platt, M.P.*, Mehlhorn, A.J.*, Haight, J.L., Currier, T.A., Etchegaray, M.A., Galaburda, A.M., Rosen, G.D. (2013). [Position of neocortical neurons transfected at different gestational ages with shRNA targeted against candidate dyslexia susceptibility genes](#). *PLoS ONE* 8(5): e65179. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0065179

Presentations (* indicates equal contributions)

Adler, W.T., Denison, R.N., Carrasco, M., Ma, W.J. (2017, September). [When making confidence judgments, people take into account bottom-up and top-down stimulus uncertainty \[poster\]](#). [two-page abstract]. Poster presented at the Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Meeting, New York, NY.

Denison, R.N.*, **Adler, W.T.***, Carrasco, M., Ma, W.J. (2017, May). Accounting for attention in perceptual decisions and confidence. Talk presented by Rachel Denison at the Vision Sciences Society Meeting, St. Pete Beach, FL.

- Denison, R.N.*, **Adler, W.T.***, Carrasco, M., Ma, W.J. (2017, February). Humans flexibly incorporate attention-dependent uncertainty into perceptual decisions and confidence. Talk presented by Rachel Denison at the Computational and Systems Neuroscience Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Adler, W.T.**, Ma, W.J. (2015, March). [Towards a quantitative model of confidence: Testing the Bayesian Confidence Hypothesis](#). Poster presented at the Computational and Systems Neuroscience Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Johnson, G.C., **Adler, W.T.**, Platt, M.P., Wright, K.A., Rosen, G.D., Galaburda, A.M. (2013, November). [Induced neocortical neuronal migration disorder affects cell number in the ventral cochlear nucleus](#). Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Adler, W.T.**, Mehlhorn, A.J., Platt, M.P., Choi, R.T., Wayne, M.M.Y., Galaburda, A.M., Rosen, G.D. (2012, October). [Embryonic knockdown of the candidate dyslexia susceptibility gene KIAA0319-Like results in severe disruptions of neuronal migration](#). Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Rana, N., Medvedev, A.V., **Adler, W.T.**, Kanwal, J.S. (2011, June). Neural correlates of cognitive performance in a visual *n*-back task after auditory distress. Poster presented at the Organization for Human Brain Mapping Meeting, Québec.
- Rana, N., Medvedev, A.V., **Adler, W.T.**, Kanwal, J.S. (2011, May). [Brain networks for coping: Prefrontal activation precedes cognitive task performance following distress](#). Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Adler, W.T.**, London, J.M., Marino, S.E. (2010, November). [Auditory metrical coordination of attention on a visual *n*-back task](#). Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Non-academic publications and media coverage

- Adler, W.T.** (2018, April). [Here's how scientists can become more politically engaged \[Blog post\]](#). *Scientific American*.
- Wykstra, S. (2017, November). [Bringing together research and action](#). *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, 16(1), p. 10.
- Winerman, L. (2017, November). [Psychologists are standing up for science](#). *APA Monitor on Psychology*, 48(10), p. 58.

Teaching experience

- Head Teaching Assistant**, *Introduction to Neural Science* (2015)
Center for Neural Science, Department of Biology, New York University
- Teaching Assistant**, *From Illusions to Inference: Adventures in Human Perception* (2014)
Center for Neural Science, New York University

Selected volunteer experience

Founder, [Scientist Action and Advocacy Network \(ScAAN\)](#)

In 2016, I founded ScAAN, a group of scientists who partner with organizations that are creating positive social change. We have partnered with New York area organizations and legislative campaigns such as the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, Raise the Age NY, and the NY Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement. Our stakeholder-driven partnerships have involved data analysis and the creation of targeted literature reviews.

Data Scientist, [DataKind](#) (2017)

DataKind organizes short- to medium-term projects that pair volunteer data scientists with nonprofit organizations and municipalities. For 8 months, I and one other data scientist worked directly with an education startup that tracks persistence in first-generation college students. We cleaned and combined data from several disparate sources and provided the organization with novel and simple ways to access and visualize their data. Finally, we built a model that could estimate the probability of student dropout using easily available variables such as high school GPA, enabling the client to scale their student coaching program.