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Professional Experience

Assistant Professor, Purdue University (2007-Present)
Department of Psychological Sciences
Department of Health and Kinesiology (by courtesy appointment)
West Lafayette, IN

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Western Ontario (2007)
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
London, Ontario Canada
Advisors: Melvyn Goodale and Jody Culham

Education

University of Virginia, M.A. (2003), Ph.D. (2007)
Charlottesville, VA
Major: Cognitive Psychology
Advisors: Dennis Proffitt, Daniel Willingham, and William Epstein
Dissertation Thesis: *Reachability Influences Perception via Motor Simulation*
Masters Thesis: *Perceiving Distance: A Role of Effort and Intent*

Smith College, B.A. (2000)
Northampton, MA
Majors: Psychology, Highest Honors; Computer Science
Advisor: Jill de Villiers
Senior Thesis: *Reading Desires: Preschoolers' Limitations*

Research Interests

- Perception of spatial layout
- Embodied perception and cognition
- Perception and action
- Motor skill learning

Publications

Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D.R., & Epstein, W. (2004). Perceiving distance: A role of effort and intent. *Perception*, 33, 570-590.

- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D.R., & Epstein, W. (2005). Tool use affects perceived distance but only when you intend to use it. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, *31*, 880-888.
- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D.R. (2005). See the ball, hit the ball: Apparent ball size is correlated with batting average. *Psychological Science*, *16*, 937-938.
- Witt, J. K., & Willingham, D.T. (2006). Evidence for separate representations for action and location in implicit motor sequencing. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, *13*, 902-907.
- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D.R. (2007). Perceived slant: A dissociation between perception and action. *Perception*, *36*, 249-257.
- Witt, J. K., Stefanucci, J.K., Riener, C.R., & Proffitt, D.R. (2007). Seeing beyond the target: Environmental context affects distance perception. *Perception*, *36*, 1752-1768.
- Witt, J. K., Linkenauger, S. A., Bakdash, J. Z., & Proffitt, D. R. (2008). Putting to a bigger hole: Golf performance relates to perceived size. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, *15*, 581-585.
- Witt, J. K., Ashe, J., & Willingham, D. T. (2008). An egocentric frame of reference for implicit motor skill learning. *Psychological Research*, *72*, 542-552.
- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2008). Action-specific influences on distance perception: A role for motor simulation. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, *34*, 1479-1492.
- Witt, J. K., Linkenauger, S. A., Bakdash, J. Z., Augustyn, J. A., Cook, A. S., & Proffitt, D. R. (2009). The long road of pain: Chronic pain increases perceived distance. *Experimental Brain Research*, *192*, 145-148.
- Linkenauger, S. A., Witt, J. K., Stefanucci, J. K., Bakdash, J. Z., & Proffitt, D. R. (in press). The effects of handedness and reachability on perceived distance. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*.
- Linkenauger, S. A., Witt, J. K., Bakdash, J. Z., Stefanucci, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (in press). Asymmetrical body perception: A possible role for neural body representations. *Psychological Science*.

Submitted Manuscripts

- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (under review). How and when does action scale perception?
- Witt, J. K., & Dorsch, T. (under review). Kicking to bigger uprights: Field goal kicking performance influences perceived size.
- Witt, J. K., Kemmerer, D., & Culham, J. (under review). A functional role for motor simulation in naming tools.

Press Releases Regarding Witt & Proffitt (2005)

- The Grapefruit League (November 29, 2005). *The New York Times*, p. D1
- Science Finds Explanation for Hitting Streaks (December 3, 2005). *Toronto Star*.
- "The Zone" Explained (December 13, 2005). *Cville Weekly*.

See the Ball, Hit the Ball: Study Correlates Perceived Ball Size with Batting Average (December 14, 2005). *Science Daily*, and *NewsWise.com*.

Better Batters See Balls as Bigger (December 15, 2005). *MSNBC*, *Yahoo News*, and *LiveScience.com*.

Is the Ball Big or Small? (December 15, 2005). *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

Study Correlates Perceived Ball Size with Batting Average (December 15, 2005). *Medicalnewstoday.com*, *Medilexicon.com*, *HospitalsWorldWide.com*, and *MonstersandCritics.com*.

Big News (December 16, 2005). *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

Perception Affects Batting Average (December 16, 2005). *Physorg.com*, *NewKerala.com*, *WebIndia123.com*, and *United Press International*.

Batter Up (January 16, 2006). *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Quiz (January 21, 2006). *Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know?* on *NPR*.

Big Eyes (January 29, 2006). *Washington Post*.

Better Means Bigger (February 2, 2006). *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

Think Big (June, 2006). *Self Magazine*.

Better at Bat: Psychologists Link Hitting Skills to Vision (August, 2006). *ScienceDaily.com*.

Press Releases Regarding Witt et al. (2008) in PBR

Secret to Better Golf Scores Discovered (July 7, 2008). *Yahoo News* and *LiveScience.com*.

Better golfers 'see' a bigger hole (July 7, 2008). *USAToday.com*.

Perception of hole size influenced by performance (July 7, 2008). *EurekaAlert.com*, *Physorg.com*, *FirstScience.com*, *University500.com*, *Huliq.com*, *esciencenews.com*, *labspace.net*

Better golfers see bigger holes (July 8, 2008). *Fox News*.

Good golf players see the hole as larger than poor players (July 8, 2008). *ScienceDaily.com*, *GolfDiscussions.com*.

The secret(s) to better golf (July 8, 2008). *GolfDigest.com*.

The hole just looks bigger (July 8, 2008). *oobGolf.com*

Do top athletes see the world differently? (July 9, 2008). *The Bryant Park Project* on *NPR*.

Golfers don't always see the big picture (July 9, 2008). *Star-Telegram.com*

Making a "hole" lot of sense out of golfing (July 9, 2008). *Fox 23 News Albany*.

Successful golfers more likely to see larger hole (July 9, 2008). *Sportsmedicine.about.com*.

Golfers see the hole differently (July 9, 2008). *Los Angeles Times*.

Improve your golf game (July 11, 2008). *The Thunder 103.5*.

Size of hole a state of mind? (July 13, 2008). *Lafayette Journal & Courier*.

Are you feeling up to par? (July 20, 2008). *Toronto Sun*.

Athletes in the zone may see the world differently (August 5, 2008). *ABC News*.

Fields of study (August 11, 2008). *ESPN Magazine*.

Five Live (December 30, 2008). *BBC*.

Invited Colloquia

- Witt, J. K. (2009). Embodied Perception: How the body and its abilities influence spatial perception. Invited talk at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
- Witt, J. K. (2008). *Action Abilities Influence Spatial Perception*. Invited talk at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Witt, J. K. (2008). *How the Athlete Inside of Us Influences Perception*. Invited talk at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN.
- Witt, J. K. (2008). *How the Athlete Inside of Us Influences Perception*. Invited talk at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL.
- Witt, J. K. (2008). *Aspects of the Self that Influence Spatial Perception*. Invited talk at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Witt, J. K. (2007). *Seeing Into the Future: An Interaction Between Perception and Action*. Invited talk at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Witt, J. K. (2006). *Seeing Into the Future: An Interaction Between Perception, the Self, and Action*. Invited talk at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.
- Witt, J. K. (2006). *Seeing Into the Future: An Interaction Between Perception, the Self, and Action*. Invited talk at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- Witt, J. K. (2004). *Seeing Into the Future: Research on Action and Perception*. Invited talk at Rutgers University, Newark, NJ.
- Witt, J. K. (2003). *Effort and intention affect perception*. Invited talk at University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.

Conference Presentations

- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2008). *Playing air guitar eliminates effect of ability on perceived distance*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Naples, FL.
- Culham, J. C., Witt, J. K., Valyear, K. F., Dutton, G. N., & Goodale, M. A. (2008). *Preserved processing of motion and dorsal stream functions in a patient with large bilateral lesions of occipitaltemporal cortex*. Talk presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Naples, FL.
- Goodale, M. A., et al. (2008). *Preserved motion processing and visuomotor control in a patient with large bilateral lesions of occipitotemporal cortex*. Talk presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Naples, FL.
- Linkenauger, S. A., Witt, J. K., Bakdash, J. Z., Epstein, W., & Proffitt, D. R. (2008). *The effect of intention and bodily capabilities on the perception of size*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Naples, FL.
- Bakdash, J. Z., Linkenauger, S. A., Stefanucci, J. K., Witt, J. K., Banton, T., & Proffitt, D. R. (2008). *Perceived distance influences simulated walking time*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Naples, FL.

- Wolf, M., et al., (2008). *Perserved visual abilities following large bilateral lesions of the occipitaltemporal cortex*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Naples, FL.
- Witt, J. K. (2007). *Tool use and intention affect perceived distance*. Talk presented during symposium on Embodied Cognition and Perception at Psychonomics, Long Beach, CA.
- Witt, J. K., Linkenauger, S. A., Bakdash, J. Z., & Proffitt, D. R. (2007). *Golf performance makes the hole look as big as a bucket or as small as a dime*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Linkenauger, S. A., Witt, J. K., Bakdash, J. Z., & Proffitt, D. R. (2007). *Handedness affects body schema*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2006). *Effects of Effort and Intention on Perception: The Locus of the Effect*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Linkenauger, S. A., Witt, J. K., Stefanucci, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2006). *Ease to grasp an object affects perceived distance*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Riener, C. R., Witt, J. K., Augustyn, J. S., & Proffitt, D. R. (2006). *An influence of "warming up" on distance perception*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2005). *Seeing Into the Future: An Interaction Between Perception and Action*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Riener, C. R., Witt, J. K., Stefanucci, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2005). *Seeing Beyond the Target: An Effect of Environmental Context on Distance Perception*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Schnall, S., Witt, J. K., Augustyn, J., Stefanucci, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Clore, G. (2005). *Invasion of Personal Space Influences Perception of Spatial Layout*. Poster presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Witt, J. K., & Willingham, D. T. (2005). *The role of action in implicit and explicit motor sequence learning*. Poster presented at the Society for Cognitive Neuroscience Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2004). *Baseball and Perceived Size*. Talk presented at Psychonomics. Minneapolis, MN.
- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2004). *Remapping of Near Space Influences Perceived Distance*. Poster presented at the Society for Cognitive Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2003). *The role of effort and intention in distance perception*. Talk presented at Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting. Sarasota, FL.
- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2002). *Perceiving distance: The role of effort and intent*. Talk presented at Psychonomics. Kansas City, MO.
- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2002). *Effort and intention influence distance perception*. Poster presented at the EBBS Workshop: Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms of Visuomotor Control. La Londe, France.
- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2002). *Effort and perception*. Talk presented at CSAIL. Hood River, OR.
- Witt, J. K., & Proffitt, D. R. (2002). *Effort and perception of near space*. Poster presented at CSAIL. Hood River, OR.
- Witt, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Epstein, W. (2002). *Effort and intention influence distance perception*. Poster presented at Third Annual Robert J. Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition. Charlottesville, VA. Awarded First Place Prize.
- Witt, J. K., & de Villiers, J.G. (2001). *Reading desires: Preschoolers' limitations*. Poster presented at SRCD. Minneapolis, MN.

Professional Service

Peer-Reviewer for *Psychological Science*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *Perception*, *Experimental Brain Research*, *Experimental Psychology*, *Psychological Research*, *Cognition*.

Grant reviewer for *National Science Foundation*.

Faculty advisor for Men's and Women's Ultimate Frisbee teams, Men's Squash team at Purdue University.

Teaching Interests

- Introduction to Perception
- Introduction to Cognition
- Introduction to Statistics and Research Methods
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Seminar: Theories of Perception
- Seminar: Perception and Action
- Seminar: Embodied Cognition

Teaching Experience

PSY 310 - Sensory and Perceptual Processes, Purdue University

Awards

Gold medalist, US National Ultimate Frisbee team, World Games, Germany (2005)
First Place (\$500), UVA Graduate Research Fair. Charlottesville, VA. (2002)
Sigma Xi, International Honor Society for Scientific and Engineering Research (2000)
Psi Chi, National Honors Society for Psychology (2000)
Highest Honors, Senior Thesis, Smith College (2000)
WISA Scholar-Athlete (1999-2000)

Society Memberships

Vision Sciences Society
Cognitive Neuroscience Society
Association for Psychological Society

References

Dennis Proffitt, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400400, Charlottesville, VA 22904
Email: drp@virginia.edu, Phone: (434) 924-0655

William Epstein, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400400, Charlottesville, VA 22904
Email: we7v@virginia.edu, Phone: (434) 296-8933

Dan Willingham, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400400, Charlottesville, VA 22904
Email: willingham@virginia.edu, Phone: (434) 982-4938

Judy DeLoache, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400400, Charlottesville, VA 22904
Email: jdeloache@virginia.edu, Phone: (434) 243-3577

Melvyn Goodale, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Western
Ontario
6312 Social Science Centre, London, ON N6A 5C2 Canada
Email: mgoodale@uwo.ca, Phone: (519) 661-2070

Jody Culham, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Western Ontario
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