



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

**COMPUTATIONAL
NEUROSCIENCE
CENTER**



Shanahan
Family
Foundation

2026 CoNECTome
Thursday, May 21, 2026
South Campus Center 316

- 12:30 - 12:35pm Welcome
- 12:35 - 1:05pm *"A network mechanism for perceptual learning"*
Carl Schoonover, Senior Scientist, Allen Institute for Neural Dynamics
- 1:05 - 1:20pm *"Noradrenergic modulation of basolateral amygdala activity enhances population synchrony in an anxiogenic state"*
Madison Martin, Graduate Student, Bruchas Lab
- 1:20 - 1:35pm *"The brain-wide representational geometry of multi-timescale behavior"*
Xander Ladd, Graduate Student, Steinmetz Lab
- 1:35 - 1:50pm *"Neural Population Dynamics During Feeding"*
Derrick Tang, Graduate Student, Arce-McShane Lab
- 1:50 - 2:05pm *"Latent behavioral states in a dynamic foraging task"*
Faeze Aminmansoor, Graduate Student, mentors Adrienne Fairhall and Karel Svoboda
- 2:05 - 2:15pm Break
- 2:15 - 1:00pm *"The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Cell Types in Describing Neuronal Physiological Features"*
Harshil Sharma, Allen Institute, Visiting Scientist, mentor Stefan Mihalas
- 2:15 - 2:30pm *"A generative model of mouse cortical connectivity"*
Zihan Zhang, Graduate Student, mentors Eric Shea-Brown and Stefan Mihalas
- 2:45 - 3:45pm Panel: AI tools for neuroscience across species and scales
- 3:45 - 4:00pm Break
- 4:00 – 4:30pm *"Engineering neuroprotection and neuroplasticity in primate cortex"*
Azadeh Yazdan-Shahmorad, Associate Professor, Bioengineering
- 4:30 – 5:30pm Keynote: *"Tracking the Fidelity of Internal Neural Representations"*
Alex Williams, Assistant Professor, NYU/Flatiron Institute



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2026 CoNECTOME Friday, May 22, 2026

South Campus Center 316

- 9:00 - 9:30am *"Robust online learning in recurrent networks with neuromodulatory feedback"*
Uygar Sümbül, Associate Investigator, Allen Institute
- 9:30 - 10:00am *"Statistical machine learning for dynamic functional connectivity networks"*
Ali Shojaie, Professor, Statistics
- 10:00 - 10:30am Break
- 10:30 - 11:00am *"On The Relationship Between Cognition, Computation, and Agency"*
Will Dabney, Research Team Lead, DeepMind
- 11:00 - 11:30am *"Probing mechanisms of language prediction and inference in the human brain"*
Benjamin Grannan, Assistant Professor, UW Neurological Surgery
- 11:30-12:00pm *"Social Reinforcement Learning"*
Natasha Jaques, Assistant Professor, UW CSE
- 12:00 -1:25pm Lunch (in SOCC lobby)
- 1:25 - 1:40pm Introductions from new Shanahan Fellows:
Janne Lappalainen, CiCi Zheng, Libby Zang
- 1:40 - 1:55pm *"Structured Neural Dynamics in Artificial Cognitive Systems"*
Shuchen Wu, Shanahan Fellow, mentors Rajesh Rao and Carl Schoonover
- 1:55 - 2:10pm *"Adaptive Behavior in a Dynamic Patch Foraging Environment"*
Tiffany Ona and Scott Sterrett, Postdoctoral Fellows, mentors Cindy Poo and Laura Driscoll
- 2:10 - 2:25pm *"Parabrachial cholinergic neurons solve the temporal credit assignment problem in postingestive learning"*
Weston Fleming, Postdoctoral Fellow, mentor Garret Stuber



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- 2:25 - 2:45pm Break
- 2:45 - 3:55pm Panel: Navigating collaborations across academia and industry
- 3:55 - 4:55pm Keynote:
Ann Kennedy, Associate Professor, Scripps Research
- 5:00-7:00pm Reception – SOCC Terrace