

# Benjamin F. van Buren

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## Academic Appointments

- 2019 - present      Assistant Professor  
The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2018 - 2019        Post-doctoral Research Fellow  
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

## Education

- 2018                Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology  
Yale University, New Haven, CT  
Advisor: Brian Scholl
- 2012                B.A., Philosophy, Cognitive Science, *summa cum laude*  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
Advisor: Anjan Chatterjee

## Honors

- 2019                Travel Fellowship, Academische Stichting Leuven
- 2018                Finalist, Best Illusion of the Year Contest
- 2017                Frederick Hilles Fellowship, Yale University
- 2016                Graduate Conference Travel Fellowship, Yale University
- 2014                NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2011                University Scholars Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2010                Robert Frances Award for Most Outstanding Student Research  
Contribution, International Association for Empirical Aesthetics
- 2010                Benjamin Franklin Scholars Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2010                Ruth Marcus Kanter Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2009                Mellon Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania

## Publications

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (under review). The ‘Blindfold Test’ for deciding whether an effect reflects visual processing or higher-level judgment.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (under review). Who’s chasing whom?: Changing background motion reverses impressions of chasing in perceived animacy.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2021). Hidden intentions: Visual awareness prioritizes perceived attention even without eyes or faces. *Cognition*, 217, 1-7.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2020). Gazing without eyes: A ‘stare in the crowd’ effect induced by simple geometric shapes. *Perception*, 49, 782-792.

Ritchie, J. B, and van Buren, B. (2020). When scenes look like materials: The reversible figure-ground motif in the paintings of René Magritte. *Art and Perception*, 8, 1-12.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2019). Intentionally distracting: Working memory is disrupted by the perception of other agents attending to you — even without eye-gaze cues. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 26, 951-957.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2018). Visual illusions as a tool for dissociating seeing from thinking. *Perception*, 47, 999-1001.

van Buren, B., Gao, T., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). What are the underlying units of perceived animacy?: Chasing detection is intrinsically object-based. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 24, 1604-1610.

van Buren, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2017). Minds in motion in memory: Enhanced spatial memory driven by the perceived animacy of simple shapes. *Cognition*, 163, 87-92.

van Buren, B., Uddenberg, S., and Scholl, B. J. (2016). The automaticity of perceiving animacy: Goal-directed motion in simple shapes influences visuomotor behavior even when task-irrelevant. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 23, 797-802.

van Buren, B., Bromberger, B., Potts, D., Miller, B., and Chatterjee, A. (2013). Changes in the painting styles of two artists with Alzheimer’s disease. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 7, 89-94.

## Presentations

Nguyen, H. B., & van Buren, B. (May, 2022). Objects that look heavier look larger. Talk to be given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/22.

Ning, J. V., & van Buren, B. (May, 2022). Thinking outside the box in the study of visual preferences: External elements determine ‘goodness’ judgments for a dot within a square frame. Talk to be given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/22.

van Buren, B., Ritchie, J. B., Lefèvre, P., & Wagemans, J. (November, 2021). What do visual narratives teach us about psychological event representations? Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, 11/5/21 [Virtual]. Also co-organized the overall symposium, titled ‘Beyond the Button Press: Studying the Mind through Drawings’.

Nguyen, H. B., & van Buren, B. (November, 2021). May the force be against you: Better sensitivity to speed changes that appear self-propelled. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Object Perception and Memory Conference*, 11/4/21 [Virtual]. \*Winner of Best Talk Award.

van Buren, B., Ongchoco, J. K., & Scholl, B. J. (August, 2021). Sensation and imagery combine to create hybrid object representations. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *European Conference for Visual Perception*, 8/24/21 [Virtual].

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y-C, van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). From eyes to minds: Perceiving perception, and attending to attention? Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, 6/30/21 [Virtual].

van Buren, B., Ritchie, J. B., Lefèvre, P., & Wagemans, J. (2020). Event representations omit stretches of time. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 6/19/20, Virtual. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 20(11), 1536, <https://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2771257>.]

van Buren, B. (2019). Experimental methods for distinguishing seeing from thinking. Talk given at University of Pennsylvania, 10/23/19, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

van Buren, B. (2019). Perceiving minds in motion: The nature of perceived animacy. Talk given at University of Pennsylvania, 10/22/19, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Ritchie, J. B., & van Buren, B. (2019). When scenes look like materials: The reversible figure-ground motif in the paintings of René Magritte. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Visual Science of Art Conference*, 8/23/19, Leuven, Belgium.

van Buren, B. (2019). Perceived intentionality as a Gestalt phenomenon: Grouping and global motion processing determine whether we see ‘chasing’ in simple shapes. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Belgian Association for Psychological Science*, 5/14/19, Liège, Belgium.

van Buren, B., Ritchie, J. B., Lefèvre, P., & Wagemans, J. (2019). Drawing attention: Analysis of comics reveals capacity limits on event representations. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Concepts, Actions, and Objects workshop, 5/4/19, Rovereto, Italy.

van Buren, B. (2019). Perceiving minds in motion: The nature of perceived animacy. Talk given at Université Catholique de Louvain, 2/28/19, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Who's chasing whom?: Changing background motion reverses impressions of chasing in perceived animacy. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *European Conference for Visual Perception*, 8/29/18, Trieste, Italy.

van Buren, B. (2018). Ownership of expressive properties. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Visual Science of Art Conference*, 8/24/18, Trieste, Italy.

van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). The 'Blindfold Test' for deciding whether an effect reflects visual processing or higher-level judgment. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/18, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 56, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/18/10/56/> .]

van Buren, B. (2018). Empirical methods for studying aesthetic experience. Talk given at Albertus Magnus College, 3/19/18, New Haven, CT.

van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). The 'Blindfold Test' for deciding whether an effect reflects visual processing or higher-level judgment. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, 6/30/17, Baltimore, MD.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). 'Mind Contact': Might eye-gaze effects really reflect more general phenomena of perceived attention and intention? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/17, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 17(10), 60, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/17/10/60/> .]

van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). Who's chasing whom?: Changing background motion reverses impressions of chasing in perceived animacy. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/17, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 17(10), 214, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/17/10/214/> .]

van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2016). Minds in motion in memory: Enhanced spatial memory driven by the perceived animacy of simple shapes. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for Psychological Science*, 5/27/16, Chicago, IL.

van Buren, B., Gao, T., & Scholl, B. J. (2016). What are the underlying units of perceived animacy?: Chasing detection is intrinsically object-based. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/15/16, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 16(12), 394, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/16/12/394/> .]

van Buren, B., Uddenberg, S., & Scholl, B. J. (2015). The automaticity of perceiving animacy: Goal-directed motion in simple shapes influences visuomotor behavior even when task-irrelevant. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/19/15, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 15(12), 1187, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/content/15/12/1187/> .]

van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2014). Perceived animacy influences other forms of visual processing. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, 5/20/14, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 14(10), 1023, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/content/14/10/1023/> .]

van Buren, B. (2011). Modeling the functional development of human visual motion area MT+. Paper given at the annual meeting of the *International Conference on Natural Computation*, 7/26/11, Shanghai, China.

van Buren, B., Bromberger, B., Potts, D., Miller, B., & Chatterjee, A. (2010). Patterns of change in the painting styles of artists with Alzheimer's disease. Talk given at the biannual meeting of the *International Association for Empirical Aesthetics*, 8/28/10, Dresden, Germany.

## **PhD Student Advising**

Deidre Dunin

*Research:* Perception of faces, perception of food

Zsuzsanna Lakatos

*Research:* Motion perception, perception of animacy

Hong Ngyuen (co-advised with Dr. Joan Miller)

*Research:* Perception of forces, visual attention, perceptual organization

Jiangxue Ning (co-advised with Dr. Joan Miller)

*Research:* Aesthetics of spatial compositions, perception of social interactions

## **MA Student Advising**

Silas Choudhury

*Research:* Categorical perception of faces; perception of clothing and fashion

Loren Matelsky

*Research:* Social perception; spatial navigation

Sara Obaid al Islam

*Research:* Visual attention on social media websites

Mariah Woodruff

*Research:* Object perception; interaction design

## **Courses Taught**

Graduate: *Visual Perception & Cognition* (GPSY5102), *Advanced Topics in Visual Cognition* (GPSY6441), *Perception in Artificial Worlds: Experiments in Design & Psychology* (studio course for graduate students in the NSSR and Parsons School of Design, co-taught with Colleen Macklin)

Undergraduate: *Fundamentals of Visual Perception*, *The Psychology of Aesthetics & Design*