

# Cedar Riener

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## Education

- 2007      *University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.*  
Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology  
Dissertation Title: "An Effect of Mood on Geographical Slant Perception" *Advisor:* Dennis Proffitt
- 1998      *Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.*  
  
A.B. in History of Science (*cum laude*) awarded June 1998.  
*Concentration:* Mind/Brain/Behavior program, focus on the History of Psychology. *Senior Honors Thesis:* From Tears to Anger: The History of the National Alliance for the Mentally III. *Advisor:* Anne Harrington

## Academic Appointments

- 2009-Present    Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA.
- 2007-2009      Assistant Professor, Mills College, Oakland, CA.
- 2006            Instructor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

## Research and Publications

### Research and Review Papers

- Riener, C.R. (in press). Seeing is the hardest thing to see. Using illusions to teach visual perception. In D. Little, P. Felten & C. Berry (Eds.) *Looking and Learning: Visual Literacy across the Disciplines*.
- Riener, C.R. & Stefanucci, J.K. (in press). Perception and/for/with/as action. In L. Shapiro (Ed) *Routledge Handbook of Embodied Cognition*. London: Routledge.

- Riener, C.R., Stefanucci, J.K., Proffitt, D. & Clore, G. (2011). An effect of mood on the perception of geographical slant. *Cognition and Emotion*, 25(1), 174-182.
- Riener, C.R. & Proffitt, D.R. (2010). Depth perception. In I.B. Weiner & W.E. Craighead (Eds.), *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology*. New York: Wiley and Co.
- Witt, J. K., Stefanucci, J. K., Riener, C. R., & Proffitt, D. R. (2007). Seeing beyond the target: An effect of environmental context on distance perception. *Perception*, 36, 1752-1768
- Riener, C. R., Proffitt, D., & Salthouse, T. (2005). A psychometric approach to intuitive physics, *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*. 12(4), 740-746.
- Riener, C. R., Willingham D.B. (2001). Beliefs and object identity and beliefs about object properties, *Current Psychology of Cognition*. 20(3-4), 255-260.

#### Conference Presentations

- Riener, C.R. & Eckles, M. (2013). Do spacing and labels influence aesthetic pleasure? *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association*. March 2, New York, NY.
- Riener, C.R. & Banks, M. (2013). Seductive visual metaphors at the intersection of science, language and art. *Session Leader at Science Online 2013*. January 31<sup>st</sup>, Raleigh, NC.
- Riener, C.R. & Francis, M.R. (2013). Never tell me the odds (part deux: Asteroid field edition). *Session Leader at Science Online 2013*. January 31<sup>st</sup>, Raleigh, NC.
- Riener, C.R. (2012). Brainworks. Represented the book I served as a scientific consultant for (Brainworks) at the *Virginia Festival of the Book*. March 21<sup>st</sup>, Charlottesville, VA.
- Riener, C.R. & Francis, M.R. (2012). Never tell me the odds: Statistics and science reporting. *Session Leader at Science Online 2012*. January 12<sup>th</sup>, Raleigh, NC.
- Calabrese, M. & Riener, C.R. (2012) A splash of flavor: Moral judgment and taste perception. *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association*. February 16<sup>th</sup>, New Orleans, LA.
- Riener, C.R. (2012) Some myths get missed: Dispelling misconceptions of popular psychology in an undergraduate psychology major. *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association*. February 16<sup>th</sup>, New Orleans, LA.
- Riener, C.R. (2012). The myth of learning styles. *Research to Practice Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Performance Improvement*. April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Toronto, Canada. [Invited presentation]

- Riener, C.R. (2010). A game of visual telephone: Demonstration of Gestalt principle of pragnanz. *Conference presentation at Eastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology. June 19th, Staunton, VA.*
- Riener, C. R., Sloan, M., Steinberg, L., Kugay, K., Alcorn, A. (2009). The effect of sleep on perception of hill slant. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association. Portland OR.*
- Riener, C.R., Stefanucci, J.K., Proffitt, D.R. & Clore, G (2008). Does depression change slant perception? *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.*
- Riener, C.R., Witt, J. K., Augustyn, J.S. & Proffitt, D.R. (2006). An influence of "warming up" on distance perception. *Poster presented at the 5th Annual Meeting of the Society for Vision Sciences, Sarasota, FL.*
- Hege, A.C.G., Seder, J.P., Lima, O.K, Riener, C., Malone, L.S., & Proffitt, D.R. (2006). Assessing the educational quality of the undergraduate research assistantship in psychology. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, New York, NY.*
- 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 the 5th Annual Meeting of the Society for Vision Sciences, Sarasota, FL.*
- Riener, C., Stefanucci, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Clore, G. (2003). Mood and the perception of spatial layout. *Poster presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver , BC*
- Riener, C., Stefanucci, J. K., Proffitt, D. R., & Clore, G. (2003). Mood and spatial layout. *Poster presented at the 3<sup>d</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Vision Sciences, Sarasota , FL.*
- Riener, C., Proffitt, D., & Salthouse, T. (2002, March) Intuitive physics: Across tasks and age. *Poster session presented at the annual University of Virginia Graduate Research Fair, Charlottesville , Virginia .*
- Riener, C. & Proffitt, D. (2002). Quantifying spatial presence. Fifth Annual International Workshop on Presence (pp. 345-352). [published conference proceedings]
- Riener, C., Proffitt, D ., & Salthouse, T. (2002, April) Intuitive physics: Across tasks and age. *Poster presented at the bi-annual meeting of the Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta , Georgia .*

### Books and Textbooks

- Riener, C.R. (2011). Several sections in the history and approaches chapter. In D. Devonis (Ed.), *Psychology in the Fastlane: History and approaches chapter*. Dubuque, IA, Bypass Publishing.

## Articles and Essays

Riener, C.R. (2011, Winter) Learning styles: Separating fact and fiction. *Psychology Teacher Network Newsletter*, February 28.

Riener, C. R., Willingham D.B. (2010) The myth of learning styles. *Change Magazine*, 42(5), 32-35

- One of five recommended articles from *Change magazine* by Margaret Miller (editor)
- Featured in *The Dish* (Andrew Sullivan's blog)

Riener, C.R. (2010) Learning styles: What's being debunked. *Teacher Magazine*, February 24.

## Online Publications

### Invited online essays

Riener, C.R. (2013, September 24). Student learning doesn't depend on how much teachers get paid. [online article] *The Atlantic*, Retrieved from: <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2013/09/student-learning-doesnt-depend-on-how-much-teachers-get-paid/279760/>

Riener, C.R. (2012, November 19). Myths come from values, not ignorance. [guest blog post] *Core Knowledge Blog*, Retrieved from: <http://blog.coreknowledge.org/2012/11/19/myths-come-from-values-not-from-ignorance/>

Riener, C.R. (2012, January 23). Larry Summers calls higher education stubborn and anachronistic, offers suggestions. [guest blog post] *Core Knowledge Blog*. Retrieved from: <http://blog.coreknowledge.org/2012/01/23/larry-summers-calls-higher-education-stubborn-and-anachronistic-offers-suggestions/>

Riener, C.R. (2011, July 19). The Deselection of the bottom 8%: Lessons from eugenics for modern school reform. *Scientific American Guest Blog*, Retrieved from <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2011/07/19/deselection-of-the-bottom-8-lessons-from-eugenics-for-modern-school-reform/>

Riener, C.R. (2011, August 10). Research papers vs blogs: Defending "antiquated" teaching from 21<sup>st</sup> century education reform. [guest blog post] *All Things Education*. Retrieved from: <http://allthingsedu.blogspot.com/2011/08/research-papers-vs-blogs-defending.html>

## Science Outreach Writing

My blog: Cedar's Digest (<http://cedarsdigest.wordpress.com>)

- Traffic: approx. 30,000 views per year (based on 2012)

Riener, C.R. (2012, January 29). Purple doesn't exist. Some thoughts on male privilege and Science Online [blog post] - 5,365 views – *semifinalist for 3 Quarks Daily Science Prize*

Riener, C.R. (2012, December 19). Sandy Hook and useless common sense on guns [blog post] – 2,975 views

Riener, C.R. (2012, November 18). Myths come from values, not from ignorance [blog post] – 1,874 views

Riener, C.R. (2012, December 8). A day at an elementary school with a cognitive psychologist. [blog post] – 1759 views

### Science Outreach Speaking

2013            Use Your Illusions – Math and Science Innovation Center – Richmond, VA

2013            The Science of Illusions – Learning Diagonal Conference – Ashland, VA

2013            Psychology of Illusions – Science Pub RVA – Richmond, VA

### Honors and Awards

2012            Semifinalist for 3 Quarks Daily Science writing prize

2009            Runner-up in international essay contest sponsored by the Fraser Institute on "Excellence in the Pursuit of Measurement." (2009) -*title of essay: "Measuring Curiosity in Schools"*

2006-2007     University of Virginia Faculty Senate Dissertation Year Fellowship (1 of 4 chosen University-wide) - *\$25,000 award for excellence in teaching and research*

2006            University of Virginia Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (1 of 17 chosen University-wide)

2005-2006     University of Virginia, Psychology Department Distinguished Teaching Fellowship (1 of 4)

2000-2004     Presidential Graduate Fellowship, University of Virginia (University-wide award)

### Teaching

Courses taught: General Psychology, Sensation and Perception, Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive Science, Research Methods in Psychology, Systems and Theories of Contemporary Psychology, Psychology of Illusions, Kids These Days (a First Year Seminar on Childhood and Psychology)

## Service

### Local Lectures

- 2013 Teaching with Technology – Socrative and Phrase Express – R-MC Tech Tips
- 2012 Learning Styles and the Testing Effect – Faculty orientation workshop
- 2012 Admitted Students Day Lecture – The Psychology of Illusions
- 2011 Depth Perception and Perspective – Guest Lecture in Math Honors Course
- 2011 Psychology of Time – Guest lecture in Time FYC
- 2011 Psychology of Sound and Music – Guest lecture with Politics and Music
- 2011 Seeing is believing?– Guest lecture in Science and Pseudoscience
- 2011 Learning Styles – Myths and Misconceptions – Guest lecture, Honors Program
- 2011 Writing workshop – Writing in the Sciences
- 2010 Faculty staff lunch lecture series – The Science of Illusions

### Administrative

- 2013 AD-Hoc Committee on the First Year Experience
- 2010-present Assessment Committee (chair 2012-)
- 2011-present Academic Advisor to Delta Zeta chapter
- 2009-present Chapter advisor – Psi Chi Psychology Honorary Society
- 2009–present Scholarship Interviewer
- Search Committees – Political Science, Biology, Communication Studies

### Manuscript Reviews

- *Mind, Brain and Education*

- *Emotion*
- *PLosONE*
- *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*
- *Harvard University Press (books)*
- *Theory and Psychology*
- *Perception*
- *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*
- *Syllabus*

#### Professional Affiliations

Association for Psychological Science

American Association of University Professors

Society for the Teaching of Psychology