

Vita - Joan Marie Sinnott - December 2008

Date of birth: September 13, 1947

Place of birth: Utica, New York

Citizenship: USA

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Present position:

Endowed Professor of Research: USA Foundation Sinnott Chair in Comparative Psychology
Psychology Department
University of South Alabama
Mobile, AL 36688

Education and degrees:

1979-80: Indiana University, NIH Postdoctoral Trainee

1974-78: Johns Hopkins University, NIH Postdoctoral Fellow

1969-74: University of Michigan; 1974: Ph.D. in Psycholinguistics

1967-68: Strasbourg University, France, Junior Year Abroad

1965-69: Indiana University; 1969: B.A. in Psychology

1964: French Summer Study Program, Laval University, Quebec City, Canada

1961-65: Utica Catholic Academy High School, Utica NY

Academic positions:

1998-present: Endowed Professor of Research, Psychology Department, University of South Alabama

1991-present: Adjunct Professor of Research, Speech Pathology & Audiology Department, University of South Alabama

1989-present: Associate Professor of Research, Psychology Department, University of South Alabama

1989: Guest Scientist, Naval Aerospace Research Lab, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.

1984-88: Research Scientist, Primate Psychophysics Lab, Psychology Department, Indiana University.

1979-1983: NIH Postdoctoral Trainee / Research Associate, Infant Perception Lab, Psychology Department, Indiana University. Sponsor: David B. Pisoni.

1974-79: NIH Postdoctoral Fellow & Research Scientist, Neural Encoding Lab, Biomedical Engineering Department, Johns Hopkins University. Sponsor: Murray B. Sachs.

1969-74: Graduate student, Psycholinguistics Department & Primate Hearing Lab, Kresge Hearing Research Institute, Psychology Department, University of Michigan. Thesis advisor: William C. Stebbins.

Honors:

1998-present: Endowed Professor of Research, University of South Alabama
 1990-95: NIH Research Career Development Award, University of South Alabama
 1975-77: NIH Weinburger Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University
 1974: Johns Hopkins Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University
 1969-73: Rackham Prize Predoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan
 1969: Phi Beta Kappa, Indiana University
 1969: B.A. with Honors in Psychology, Indiana University

NIH Grants:

2003-2009: PHS NIH R01 CD 00541-12 “Comparative Speech Perception” (TDC = \$1,161,525)
 1998-2002: PHS NIH R01 CD 00541-08 “Comparative Speech Perception” (TDC = \$581,459)
 1993-98: PHS NIH R01 CD 00541-04 “Comparative Speech Perception” (TDC = \$463,398)
 1990-95: PHS NIH K04 DC00042 “Comparative Auditory Processing” (TDC = \$250,000)
 1988-92: PHS NIH R01 DC 00541-01 “Auditory Perception in Humans and Monkeys” (TDC = \$197,959)
 1984-88: PHS NIH R01 NS20131-01 “Auditory Perception in Humans and Monkeys (TCD = \$99,937)

Professional societies:

Acoustical Society of America
 American Psychological Society

Editorial boards:

1993-97: Associate Editor, Journal of Comparative Psychology

Journals reviewed:

Animal Behavior
 Developmental Psychology
 Infant Behavior and Development
 Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
 Journal of Comparative Psychology
 Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes
 Perception & Psychophysics

Grants reviewed:

Leakey Foundation
National Institutes of Health
National Science Foundation

University committees:

1998-present: Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, University of South Alabama
1990- present: Graduate Faculty Member, University of South Alabama
1999-2001: Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects, University of South Alabama
1992-94: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, University of South Alabama

Departmental committees:

1994- present: Psychology Department Newsletter committee
1994- present: Psychology Department Library committee

Mobile Zoo committees:

2008- present: Chair, Mobile Zoo Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for Comparative Psychology

Teaching:

2007-present. PSY 590: Special Topics: The Evolution of Human Speech and Language. Department of Psychology and Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, University of South Alabama

2007-present. PSY 490: Special Topics: Operant Conditioning of Zoo Animals. Psychology Department, University of South Alabama

1993-2006. PSY 590: Special Topics: Speech Perception. Department of Psychology and Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, University of South Alabama

1993-2006. PSY 490: Special Topics: Zoo Animal Behavior. Psychology Department, University of South Alabama

1973: "Development of Language and Cognition", Psychology Department, University of Michigan

Masters theses chaired:

2008. Leigh Ann Long; "Chow tracking in monkeys" Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2003. Shaila Behara: "Effects of aging on the discrimination of spectral and temporal speech cues in the Mongolian gerbil," Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2003. Stacie Shaw: "Comparing non-native listeners, native listeners, and macaques on the Middle Eastern dental-retroflex speech contrast," Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2003. Anton Speaker: "Responses of zoo animals to face masks rated as 'disturbing' by humans", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2002. Jazmin Camchong: "Effects of training English and Spanish listeners to perceive non-native voicing contrasts", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2002. Casey Gilmore: "Perception of place-of-articulation information in speech sounds by Japanese macaques", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2001. Christopher Gonzales: "Effects of training on perception of the English liquid /r-l/ contrast by native Japanese listeners", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2001. Ambrin Masood: "Effects of training on perception of the Hindi dental-retroflex stop contrast /T-d/ by native American listeners", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
2000. Laura McCardle: "Comparative perception of voicing contrasts by English, Spanish and monkeys listeners", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
1999. Susannah Mosqueda: "Effects of aging on speech discrimination in the gerbil: A Longitudinal study", Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, University of South Alabama
- 1998: Tanya Saporita: "Differences in perception of English and Spanish listeners for the /say-stay/ trading relation", Psychology Department, University of South Alabama
- 1994: Stacy Street: "Absolute thresholds of gerbils to steady-state synthetic English vowels", Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, University of South Alabama
- 1992: Melissa Borneman: "Comparison of human and monkeys sensitivity to a stop-glide BOB-BOW contrast", Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, University of South Alabama
- 1992: Marceline Brown: "Observations of alarm calls in vervets monkeys: Naturalistic observations and use of silhouettes to elicit alarms, Psychology Department, Indiana University

Undergraduate senior honors theses chaired:

1997: Trina Williamson: “The problem of invariance: Humans vs. macaques”, Psychology Department, University of South Alabama

1986: Frank Adams: “Contrasting perception of stop consonants by English and Spanish speakers as measured by a low-uncertainty discrimination procedure”, Psychology Department, Indiana University

PUBLICATIONSPrimary authorship of empirical articles in peer-reviewed journals:

Sinnott J, Gonzales C & Masood A (2007). Training humans in non-native phoneme perception using a monkey psychoacoustic procedure. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 121, 3846-3857.

Sinnott J, Powell L & Camchong J (2006). Using monkeys to explore perceptual “loss” versus “learning” models in English and Spanish voice-onset-time perception. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 119, 1585-1596.

Sinnott J & Gilmore C (2004). Perception of place-of-articulation information in natural speech by monkeys versus humans. *Perception & Psychophysics* 66, 1341-1350.

Sinnott J & Mosqueda S (2003). Effects of aging on speech sound discrimination in the Mongolian gerbil. *Ear & Hearing* 24, 30-37.

Sinnott J & Mosteller K (2001). A comparative assessment of speech sound discrimination in the Mongolian gerbil. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 110, 1729-1732.

Sinnott J & Saporita T (2000). Differences in English, Spanish, and monkey perception of the /say-stay/ contrast. *Perception & Psychophysics* 62, 1312-1319.

Sinnott J & Williamson T (1999). Can macaques perceive place-of-articulation information from formant transition information? *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 106, 929-937.

Sinnott J, Brown C & Borneman M (1998). Effects of syllable duration on stop-glide identification in syllable-initial and syllable-final position by humans and monkeys. *Perception & Psychophysics* 60, 1032-1043.

Sinnott J & Brown C (1997). Perception of the American-English liquid /ra-la/ contrast by humans and monkeys. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 102, 588-602.

Sinnott J, Brown C, Malik W & Kressley R (1997). A multidimensional scaling analysis of vowel discrimination in humans and monkeys. *Perception & Psychophysics* 59, 1214-1224.

- Sinnott J, Street S, Mosteller K & Williamson T (1997). Behavioral measures of hearing in gerbils: Effects of age and genetic origin. *Hearing Research* 112, 235-246.
- Sinnott J & Brown C (1993). Effects of varying signal and noise levels on pure tone frequency discrimination in humans and monkeys. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 93, 1535-1540.
- Sinnott J & Brown C (1993). Effects of varying signal duration on pure tone frequency discrimination in humans and monkeys. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 93, 1541-1546.
- Sinnott J, Brown C & Brown F (1992). Frequency and intensity discrimination in Mongolian gerbils, African monkeys, and humans. *Hearing Research* 59, 205-212.
- Sinnott J & Kreiter N (1991). Differential sensitivity to vowel continua in Old World monkeys and humans. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 89, 2421-2429.
- Sinnott J (1989). Detection and discrimination of synthetic English vowels by Old World monkeys and humans. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 86, 557-565.
- Sinnott J (1987). Modes of perceiving and processing information in birdsong. *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 101, 355-366.
- Sinnott J & Adams F (1987). Differences in human and monkeys sensitivity to acoustic cues underlying voicing contrasts. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 82, 1539-1547.
- Sinnott J, Owren M & Petersen M (1987). Auditory frequency discrimination in primates: Species differences. *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 101, 126-131.
- Sinnott J, Owren M & Petersen M (1987). Auditory duration discrimination in Old World monkeys and humans. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 82, 465-470.
- Sinnott J & Aslin R (1985). Frequency and intensity discrimination in human infants and adults. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 78, 1986-1992.
- Sinnott J, Petersen M & Hopp S (1985). Frequency and intensity discrimination in humans and monkeys. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 78, 1977-1985.
- Sinnott J, Pisoni D & Aslin R (1983). A comparison of pure tone auditory thresholds in humans infants and adults. *Infant Behavior and Development* 6, 3-17.
- Sinnott J (1980). Species-specific coding in birdsong. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 68, 494-497.

Sinnott J, Sachs M & Hienz R (1980). Aspects of frequency discrimination in passerine birds and pigeons. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology* 94, 401-415.

Sinnott J, Beecher M, Moody D & Stebbins W (1976). Speech sound discrimination by monkeys and humans. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 60, 687-695.

Sinnott J, Stebbins W & Moody D (1974). Regulation of voice amplitude by the monkey. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 58, 412-414.

Chapters:

- Sinnott J (2005). Recent developments in animal speech perception. In *Recent Research Developments in Acoustics*, Vol. III, Transworld Research Network, Trivandrum, India.
- Sinnott J (1998). Comparative phoneme boundaries. In S. Ehrlich, I. Elishakoff & P. Filippi (eds.), *Current Topics in Acoustical Research*, Vol II. Trivandrum, India: Research Trends.
- Sinnott J (1995). Methods to assess the processing of speech sounds by animals. In G. Klump, R. Dooling, R. Fay & W. Stebbins (eds), *Methods in Comparative Psychoacoustics*. Basel, Switzerland: Birkhauser-Verlag.
- Sinnott J (1994). Comparison of human and monkey differential sensitivity for speech, non-speech, and animal speech sounds. In J. Menon (ed), *Current Topics in Acoustical Research*, Vol. I. Trivandrum, India: Research Trends.
- Sinnott J (1989). Internal cognitive structures guide birdsong perception. In R. Dooling & S. Hulse (eds), *The Comparative Psychology of Audition*. NY: Erlbaum.

Other publications:

- Brown C & Sinnott J (1994). Perception of chirps by Sykes monkeys and humans. *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 108, 243-251.
- Brown M, Kreiter N, Maple J & Sinnott J (1992). Silhouettes elicit alarm calls from captive vervet monkeys. *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 106, 350-359.
- Hopp S, Sinnott J, Owren M & Petersen M (1992). Differential sensitivity of Japanese macaques and humans to peak position along a synthetic coo call continuum. *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 106, 128-136.
- Brown C & Sinnott J (1990). The perception of complex acoustic patterns in noise by Blue monkey and human listeners. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 4, 79-90.
- Owren M, Hopp S, Sinnott J & Petersen M (1988). Absolute auditory thresholds in three Old World monkey species and humans. *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 102, 99-107.
- Hienz R, Sachs M & Sinnott J (1981). Discrimination of steady-state vowels by blackbirds and pigeons. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 70, 699-706.
- Hienz R, Sinnott J & Sachs M (1980). Auditory intensity discrimination in blackbirds and pigeons. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology* 94, 993-1002.
- Sachs M, Woolf N & Sinnott J (1980). Response properties of neurons in the avian auditory system. In A. Popper & R. Fay (eds), *Comparative Studies of Hearing in Vertebrates*, Springer, New York.

Sachs M, Sinnott J & Hienz R (1978). Behavioral and psychological studies of hearing in birds. *Federation Proceedings* 37, 2329-2335.

Hienz R, Sinnott J & Sachs M (1977). Auditory sensitivity of the redwing blackbird and brown-headed cowbird. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology* 91, 1365-1376.

Jarvella R & Sinnott J (1972). Contextual constraints on noun distributions to some English verbs by children and adults. *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior* 11, 47-53.