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My research is focused on the functional roles of the prefrontal cortex and the medial temporal lobe in the reconstruction of LTM, as well as functional networks that support qualitatively different experiences in the fidelity of memory. I examine behavioral and neural measures from the perspective that long-term memory retrieval can be based on generalization from a simple gist of a prior experience and discrimination based on a rich mental image of a particular episode.

2013-present Assistant Professor of Neurology
University of California, San Francisco

2008-2013 Postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, San Francisco,
under the mentorship of Adam Gazzaley, M.D., Ph.D.

2004-2008 Graduate student at the University of California, San Diego, under
the mentorship of John Wixted, Ph.D. and Larry Squire, Ph.D.

2002-2004 Research assistant in the Gabrieli Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory
at Stanford University, under the mentorship of John Gabrieli, Ph.D.,
Adam Anderson, Ph.D. and Mara Mather, Ph.D.

Education University of California, San Diego Ph.D. in Psychology
University of California, San Diego M.A. in Psychology
Stanford University non-matriculated graduate student
Harvard Business School Executive Program in Competition & Strategy
University of California, Berkeley A.B. in Journalism

Awards NIH Pathway to Independence Award (NIA KAG043557 2013-18)

UCSF RAP Pilot Award for Junior Investigator of \$25,000 (2013)

Innovative Research Grant of \$27,900 awarded by the Kavli Institute for Brain
and Mind (2007 to Peter Wais and John Wixted)

Publications:

Wais, P.E. (2014). The neural correlates of discrimination and generalization in recognition memory. *in preparation*

Wais, P.E., Steiner, D., Stark, C.E.L., & Gazzaley, A. (2014). Confidence rises and accuracy declines for high-fidelity memory in normal aging. *Submitted*

Wais, P.E. & Gazzaley, A. (2014). External distraction impairs categorization abilities in older adults. *in revision*

- Wais, P.E. & Gazzaley, A. (2014). Distractibility during retrieval of long-term memory: domain-general interference, neural networks, and increased susceptibility in normal aging. *Frontiers in Psychology—Cognition*, 5, 280:1-12.
- Wais, P. E. (2013). The limited usefulness of models based on recollection and familiarity. *Journal of Neurophysiology* 109, 1687-1689.
- Wais, P.E., Martin, G. & Gazzaley, A. (2012). The impact of visual distraction on retrieval of long-term memory in older adults. *Brain Research*, 1430. 78-85.
- Wais, P.E., Kim, O. & Gazzaley, A. (2012). Distractibility during episodic retrieval is exacerbated by perturbation of left ventrolateral prefrontal cortex. *Cerebral Cortex*, 22. 717-724.
- Wais, P. E. & Gazzaley, A. (2011). The impact of auditory distraction on retrieval of visual memories. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 18. 1090-1097.
- Mickes, L., Wais, P. E. & Wixted, J. (2011). Strong memories are hard to scale. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 140. 239-257.
- Wais, P. E. (2011). Hippocampal signals for strong memory when associative memory is available and when it is not. *Hippocampus*, 21. 9-21.
- Wais, P.E., Rubens, M., Boccanfuso, J. & Gazzaley, A. (2010). Neural mechanisms underlying the impact of visual distraction on retrieval of long-term memory. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 30. 8541-8550.
- Wais, P.E., Squire, L. & Wixted, J. (2010). In search of recollection and familiarity signals in the hippocampus. *The Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 22. 109-123.
- Mickes, L., Wais, P. E. & Wixted, J. (2009). Recollection is a continuous process: implications for dual process theories of recognition memory. *Psychological Science*, 20. 509-515.
- Wais, P. E. (2008). fMRI signals associated with memory strength in the medial temporal lobes: a meta-analysis. *Neuropsychologia*, 46. 3185-3196.
- Wais, P.E., Mickes, L., & Wixted, J. (2008). Remember/Know judgments probe degrees of recollection. *The Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 20. 400-405.
- Mickes, L., Wixted, J. & Wais, P. E. (2007). A direct test of the unequal-variance signal-detection model of recognition memory. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 14. 858-865.
- Wais, P.E., Wixted, J., Hopkins, R. & Squire, L. (2006). The hippocampus supports both the recollection and the familiarity components of recognition memory. *Neuron*, 49. 459-466.

Anderson, A., Wais, P. E. & Gabrieli, J. (2006). Emotion enhances remembrance of neutral events past. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 103. 1599-1604.

Mather, M., Canli, T., English, T., Whitfield, S., Wais, P.E., Ochsner, K., Gabrieli, J. & Carstensen, L. (2004). Amygdala responses to emotionally valenced stimuli in older and younger adults. *Psychological Science* 15, 4. 259-263.

Presentations:

American Psychological Science Conference 2010 Symposium “Memory and the Medial Temporal Lobe: Current Evidence and Implications for Psychological Science”

Ad hoc reviewer for:

Cerebral Cortex, Journal of Neuroscience, Hippocampus, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, The Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, Neuropsychologia, Annals of Neurology, Human Brain Mapping, Acta Psychologica, Experimental Psychology, Frontiers in Psychology— Cognition