

**Education**

Ph.D. Indiana University, Psychology, 1998  
Sc. B. with Honors Brown University, Psychology, 1991

**Professional and Academic Positions**

2006- Founding Co-Director, Iowa Center for Developmental and Learning Sciences  
2004- Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Iowa  
1998-2004 Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Iowa

**Selected Honors and Awards**

Fellow, American Psychological Association, 2007  
Robert L. Fantz Memorial Award, American Psychological Foundation, 2006  
Award for Early Research Contributions, Society for Research in Child Development, 2003  
Irving J. Saltzman Award for Outstanding Graduate Achievement, Department of Psychology, Indiana University, 1999  
J.R. Kantor Graduate Award, Alumni Board, College of Arts & Sciences, Indiana University, 1997

**Selected Refereed Publications**

Simmering, V.R. & Spencer, J.P. (in press). Generality with specificity: The dynamic field theory generalizes across tasks and time scales. Developmental Science.  
Simmering, V.R., Schutte, A.R., & Spencer, J.P. (in press). Generalizing the dynamic field theory of spatial working memory across real and developmental time scales. To appear in S. Becker (Ed.) Computational Cognitive Neuroscience [special section]. Brain Research.  
Johnson, J.S., Spencer, J.P., & Schöner, G. (in press). Moving to higher ground: The dynamic field theory and the dynamics of visual cognition. To appear in F. Garzón, A. Laakso, & T. Gomila (Eds.) Dynamics and Psychology [special issue]. New Ideas in Psychology.  
Simmering, V.R. & Spencer, J.P. (2007). Carving up space at imaginary joints: Can people mentally impose spatial category boundaries? Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, 33, 871-894.  
Schutte, A.R. & Spencer, J.P. (2007). Planning 'discrete' movements using a continuous system: Insights from a dynamic field theory of movement preparation. Motor Control, 11, 166-208.  
Simmering, V.R., Spencer, J.P., & Schöner, G. (2006). Reference-related inhibition produces enhanced position discrimination and fast repulsion near axes of symmetry. Perception and Psychophysics, 63, 1027-1046.  
Spencer, J.P., Clearfield, M., Corbetta, D., Ulrich, B., Buchanan, P., & Schöner, G. (2006). Moving toward a grand theory of development: In memory of Esther Thelen. Child Development, 77, 1521-1538.  
Spencer, J.P., Simmering, V.R., & Schutte, A.R. (2006). Toward a formal theory of flexible spatial behavior: Geometric category biases generalize across pointing and verbal response types. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, 32, 473-490.  
Spencer, J.P. & Schutte, A.R. (2004). Unifying representations and responses: Perseverative biases arise from a single behavioral system. Psychological Science, 15, 187-193.

**Edited Volumes**

Spencer, J.P., Thomas, M.S., & McClelland, J.L. (Eds.) (forthcoming). Toward a New Grand Theory of Development? Connectionism and Dynamic Systems Theory Re-Considered. New York: Oxford University Press.  
Plumert, J.M. & Spencer, J.P. (Eds.) (2007). The Emerging Spatial Mind. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Selected Research Support**

“From where to what: The dynamics of spatial cognition” National Science Foundation, John P. Spencer (P.I.), 2006-2009, \$421,297 direct costs.

“Dynamic factors in the development of motor skill”, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, John P. Spencer (co-P.I.), 2002-2007, \$2,578,707 total costs (no cost extension until 2008).

“How location information is maintained in memory”, National Institute of Mental Health, John P. Spencer (P.I.), 2002-2006, \$477,750 total costs (1 R01 MH62480) (no cost extension until 2007).

“Connectionist and dynamic systems approaches to development: On the cusp of a new grand theory or still too distributed?” National Science Foundation, John P. Spencer (P.I.), 2005, \$29,970 direct costs (conference grant).

“Divide and conquer: How reference axes help maintain memory for locations”, National Science Foundation, John P. Spencer (P.I.), 2001-2004, \$303,698 total costs (BCS 00-91757).