Student Spotlight

Meet Avery Wall, a senior Psychology major with minors in Neuroscience and Data Science. She works in Dr. Neil Mulligan and Dr. Jennifer Arnold’s labs.

Her research interests lie primarily in cognitive psychology, particularly in the realms of memory and psycholinguistics. In Dr. Mulligan’s lab, Avery has worked on several studies exploring memory phenomena such as the testing effect, and she has maintained this theme in her honors thesis that explores the impact of beliefs on the testing effect. In Dr. Arnold’s lab, Avery has been involved in experiments looking at the factors that influence how we comprehend pronouns, and, more recently, how we use pronouns in speech.

What do you like most about your work?
One of my favorite things about the research I do is how relevant it is to real life. Many of the projects I’ve been involved with in Dr. Mulligan’s lab, as well as my thesis, have centered around topics that are tangential to education. I have had to read a lot of papers in order to understand the research, but as a bonus, these papers have also helped me become a better student by teaching me what the most effective (and ineffective) ways to learn are. My work in Dr. Arnold’s lab has given me a new appreciation for pronouns, as well as how we produce and understand language in general. This research has made me so much more aware of the small aspects of speech, and I often find myself thinking about why I phrased something a certain way or the different ways in which something could be interpreted.

Do you think you might want a career that involves research?
I would definitely like a career that involves research, and I am currently applying to postbaccalaureate research positions to get more experience in preparation for that. I am really passionate about education, and in the future I would like to do research that bridges the gap between findings from cognitive psychology research and educational practices. I have started to move in this direction with my honors thesis, which is looking at whether an individual’s beliefs about a certain type of study strategy will impact how beneficial the strategy is to them. Research can tell us a lot about the broad concepts that influence learning and memory, and I hope to determine the practical implications of using these concepts in schools in order to improve educational practices.

What is something cool you’ve learned working in your lab that you didn’t know before?
Back when going into the lab was still a thing, I started helping with a project in Dr. Arnold’s lab that involved creating short animated videos that participants would watch and then answer questions about. My first few weeks in the lab were essentially a crash course into an animation program, which, as someone who had absolutely no animation experience at the time, was daunting. However, after those first few weeks I got the hang of things, and I ended up making more animations over the next few years for related studies. I don’t think my animation would win any awards, but I was pretty proud of how they turned out!
Meet a Gil Intern

Meet Alice Novinte, one of our Spring 2022 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience.

In addition to being a Gil intern, Alice also works at the UNC Center for Student Success as a peer mentoring program assistant for the Minority Advisory Program and as a research assistant in the Social Neuroscience and Health Lab. Her research interests are racism-related stress and correlates between discrimination and mental health outcomes for people with multiple marginalized identities. She has explored these interests as a McNair scholar through my summer research project, “The Role of Indirect Exposure to Police Violence in Black Adolescent Suicide Risk and Behavior” and through my work in the SNH lab. After graduation, Alice will attend graduate school for clinical mental health counseling.

“My summer research project, “The Role of Indirect Exposure to Police Violence in Black Adolescent Suicide Risk and Behavior” was funded by a McNair scholar grant. Alice has continued her research in the Social Neuroscience and Health Lab and has gained valuable experience in the field of psychology and neuroscience.

Susan is a licensed clinical social worker and a tobacco treatment specialist. So far at TTP, I have had the opportunity to shadow counselors, attend group meetings, and help compile patient resources. Before becoming a Giller, I had never shadowed, so the experience has been very rewarding. Classroom learning is important, but hands-on learning allows you to learn from experts and to apply what you have only learned in theory to real-life situations. I have learned a lot from the counselors at TTP through shadowing individual and group sessions as well as peer supervision meetings. For those who don’t know, a peer supervision meeting is an opportunity for counselors to share any barriers they are experiencing in treating a patient effectively and receive advice, from their coworkers, on how they should proceed in treating the patient. Attending these meetings has taught me that even professionals need help from their peers and that there is not always a clear answer on how to approach a patient. These are the types of lessons that I can carry with me to graduate school and my professional career. Shadowing counseling sessions has also been very impactful for me because it gives me a chance to be face to face with patients and learn how counselors use different techniques to help their clients feel motivated and empowered to make necessary changes in their life.

Overall, I have already learned a lot in my short time at TTP. For instance, before starting my internship I knew very little about tobacco/nicotine dependence and nothing at all about the different treatments that are available for tobacco cessation. Now, just four weeks after my internship start date, I know all of the medications available to treat nicotine dependence and the techniques used in addiction counseling. Working at TTP has taught me so much and provided me with the opportunity to finally apply the knowledge that I have learned throughout my four years at UNC. More importantly, it has instilled me with increased confidence in my ability to someday be a counselor.”

Want to be a Gil Intern? The Gil Internship gives you the opportunity to earn course credit and receive a monthly stipend—plus, you’ll gain valuable experience in the field of psychology and neuroscience! Learn more about the application process online. Questions can be directed to Emily Dolegowski.

Summer or Special Mentoring Programs

UC Berkeley Social Origins Lab Summer Internship
Deadline: March 16, 2022
Link: https://socialorigins.berkeley.edu/opportunities/. The Social Origins Lab at UC Berkeley, under the direction of Dr. Jan Engelmann, is now accepting applications for the summer 2022 internship program. The lab explores how social and cognitive abilities arise and interact with one another in human development and across species and cultures. In doing so, our research studies primarily involve working with children of various age ranges. Summer interns will work closely with graduate students and gain hands-on experience in multiple aspects of the research process. Responsibilities for interns will include running research studies with young children, helping to recruit participants, collecting and coding video data, and assisting with administrative tasks. The 8-week internship will take place between June 1st - July 27th in Berkeley, CA. Interns will work approximately 30 hours/week and be offered a stipend of $2400.
Indigenous Summer Research Program (ISRP)
Deadline: March 15, 2022
Link: https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/wise/indigenoussummerresearchprogram/.
The Indigenous Summer Research Program (ISRP) is an 8-week summer residential internship with The Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity Center (RISE) at the University of Michigan. At RISE, we aim to improve the understanding and treatment of Indigenous Peoples throughout society. ISRP offers the opportunity to join our mission at RISE to improve the lives of millions of Indigenous people through research. We focus on community building and provide mentorship by Indigenous scholars. Our program is open to students who are 18 or older, especially those early in their studies who may not have access to other research opportunities. The summer program will run from June 13th – August 5th. Students who join the ISRP program will receive a stipend of $2,400 in addition to all lodging, travel, and research materials paid.

Summer Professional Development Award (Research Program), Temple University Infant & Child Lab
Deadline: April 4th, 2022
Link: http://www.templeinfantlab.com/.
The Temple Infant & Child Lab is offering a summer professional development award to bright, energetic students who are eager to peer into the world of child development. The lab conducts both theoretical and applied research on language acquisition, spatial learning, memory development, and playful learning in children aged 2 years to 7 years. Students selected for this award will receive hands-on experience in various aspects of the research process. Each student will train on one or two research projects led by Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and will be paired with a graduate student or post-doctoral fellow mentor who will serve as a resource for questions about their areas of research and graduate school. Each selected student will receive an award of $1,500. This professional development program will take place over 8 weeks during the summer of 2022. Training activities generally cover: Recruiting and scheduling lab participants; Stimuli design and creation; Conducting studies with children; Coding and analyzing data; Discussing relevant journal articles in lab meetings. Required qualifications: Major in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Linguistics, or a related field; Commitment to at least 30 hours per week for 8 weeks; Basic computer skills and proficiency with MS Office; Experience working with children. If interested, please send a resume/CV and cover letter to Jelani Medford, Lab Manager, at jelani.medford@temple.edu. Applications will be accepted until Monday, April 4th, 2022. Please visit our website (http://www.templeinfantlab.com/) for more information about the lab.

Summer internship opportunity with the Boston College Cooperation Lab
Deadline: March 15, 2022 at 5pm EST
Link: https://forms.gle/k6nFx7H66el2P9Vw6.
The Cooperation Lab at Boston College directed by Dr. Katherine McAuliffe is seeking motivated, reliable, and enthusiastic summer research assistants for our 2022 Summer Internship. Research in the lab focuses on the development of cooperative abilities in children. Summer research assistants (RAs) will gain experience with all stages of the research process, including recruiting families, collecting data, analyzing data, and discussing results. Each summer RA will be paired with a graduate student, post-doctoral fellow, or lab coordinator mentor for the duration of the summer, and have a main project.

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Summer Internship: Developing Social Minds, Boston College
Deadline: March 15, 2022; review of applications has already started
Link: http://www.bccooperationlab.com/reu (email: allbcdev@gmail.com).
The Boston College Developmental Psychology program is now accepting applications for our NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates summer internship. Summer interns will gain hands-on experience in all aspects of socio-cognitive developmental psychology research while also participating in professional development meetings and learning computer programming. This is an excellent program for students who want to learn more about research who may be interested in pursuing graduate school. Successful applicants will work full-time for 10 weeks from May 30 - Aug 5. Students will be paid $600 per week plus provided on-campus housing across 10 weeks to participate. This internship will take place in-person on Boston College’s campus. Students will be provided with on-campus housing in addition to their stipend. There are four participating developmental psychology labs. Students will be accepted to primarily work within one of these labs for the duration of the summer. Students will indicate their lab preference in the application:
THE CANINE COGNITION LAB (Dr. Angie Johnston)
THE COOPERATION LAB (Dr. Katherine McAuliffe)
THE INFANT AND CHILD COGNITION LAB (Dr. Sara Cordes)
THE LANGUAGE LEARNING LAB (Dr. Joshua Hartshorne)

Please (1) complete the application form: https://forms.gle/CdwnRazD1Famcqcb8 and (2) email your CV/resume to allbcdev@gmail.com. You may also submit an unofficial transcript via email, but it is optional. Review of applications will begin on March 1. No applications will be accepted after March 15.
Summer School 2022

Maymester (5/11 - 5/27/2022)
PSYC 220 - Dr. Jeannie Loeb
PSYC 435 - Dr. Jennifer Arnold
PSYC 501 - Dr. Patrick Harrison

Session 1 (5/11-6/16/2022)
PSYC 101 - Dr. Ndidi Adeyanju
PSYC 210 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Natasha Parikh
PSYC 225 - two sections, all asynchronous - Dr. Vicki Chanon
PSYC 230 - Kathryn Weatherford
PSYC 245 - two sections, all asynchronous - Dr. Desiree Griffin
PSYC 245 - remote synchronous - Dr. Charlie Wiss
PSYC 250 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Rosa Li
PSYC 250 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Louis Gariepy
PSYC 260 - two sections, mostly asynchronous - Dr. Steve Buzinski
PSYC 270 - Dr. Thomas Farrer
PSYC 490 (Psychology of Music) - Dr. Natasha Parikh

Session 2 (6/20 - 7/26/22)
PSYC 101 - Dr. Ndidi Adeyanju
PSYC 175 - two sections, mostly asynchronous - Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz
PSYC 210 - remote synchronous - Dr. Carla Fernandez
PSYC 210 - Chris Strauss
PSYC 220 - remote synchronous - Dr. Becca Stephens
PSYC 222 - all asynchronous - Dr. Dave Eckerman
PSYC 230 - Dr. Marsha Dopheide
PSYC 245 - Alexandra Wojda
PSYC 250 - Lindsay Gomes
PSYC 260 - Josephn Leshin
PSYC 270 - remote synchronous - Dr. Carla Fernandez
PSYC 502 - Dr. Elizabeth Jordan
PSYC 504 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Murray McNeil

** Please note that the department does not in any way guarantee these courses for summer 2022. This is the tentative plan - and plans will be “official” when Summer School registration begins. Do also note that Summer School has a policy of canceling courses which do not have sufficient enrollment.**

** Courses are in-person unless otherwise noted above. With regards to in-person courses, to find out if there are any remote components, please check “class features” in ConnectCarolina and/or contact the specific professor.**

Full-Time Positions

Research Assistant, University of North Carolina-Chapel hill
Deadline: not listed; recruitment email received on February 4, 2022
Link: https://unc.peopleadmin.com/postings/221711. Dr. Brenna Maddox at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is hiring a full-time Research Assistant for a PCORI-funded study in suicide prevention for adolescents and young adults on the autism spectrum. Ideal start date is late spring/early summer 2022.

Lab Manager position at University of Connecticut
Deadline: March 9, 2022, 11:55 p.m. Eastern
Link: https://jobs.hr.uconn.edu/en-us/job/496103/research-assistant-2. The Communication and Development Laboratory (https://comdev.uconn.edu/, PI: Dr. Umay Suanda) in the Department of Psychological Sciences at the University of Connecticut is seeking a full-time lab manager and research assistant. The successful candidate will play an important role in all facets of the laboratory’s research, including (but not limited to): study design, subject recruitment, data collection and analysis, conference submissions and presentations, manuscript preparation and lab managerial duties (e.g., supervising undergraduate research assistants). Research in the laboratory lies at the intersection of cognitive, socio-cognitive, and language development. The laboratory’s research involves observational, experimental, and eye-tracking studies with infants, young children, and adults.

Research Assistant/Associate, University of Manchester
Deadline: not listed
Link: https://www.jobs.manchester.ac.uk/displayjob.aspx?jobid=21744. We are looking for a Research Assistant/Associate to work on an ESRC-funded project evaluating early language intervention for children with Down syndrome.
Post-Bacc Lab Manager/Researcher, Purdue University

Deadline: ongoing

Link: https://my.spsp.org/Careers/Job-Search/JobctI/ViewJob/JobID/3014. The Conflict and Mindset Collaboratory (PI: Dr. Franki Kung) at the Department of Psychological Sciences at Purdue University is seeking to hire a full-time Lab Manager/Researcher. The position will begin in the summer of 2022 for a one-year commitment with the possibility of renewal. This position offers opportunities for substantial research experience (e.g., co-authorship on posters and manuscripts, conference travels) and would be ideal for individuals motivated to pursue graduate studies in psychology (e.g., social, I-O) and/or organizational behavior. To apply, please fill out this online application form (http://bit.ly/labmanager2022) detailing your relevant background and goals, and provide your current CV, (unofficial) transcript, and contact information for at least two references. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Start date is negotiable between June and August 2022, but no later than August 3rd, 2022. If you have questions regarding the application, please feel free to email Dr. Franki Kung (frankikung@purdue.edu).

Full-time Social/Behavioral Science Researcher, University of Houston Identity & Academic Motivation Lab

Deadline: Not listed

Link: https://uhs.taleo.net/careersection/ex1_uhs/jobdetail.ftl?job=STA009341&tz=GMT-06%3A00&tzname=America%2FChicago. The Identity & Academic Motivation Lab (https://uh.edu/education/iamlab/), directed by Dr. Allison Master, is seeking a full-time Social/Behavioral Science Researcher to begin around June 1, 2022. Our lab seeks to understand how students’ identity (how they view themselves and their social groups) affects their motivation in school, from preschool through college. Job tasks may include recruiting and testing research participants in our lab at the University of Houston and at schools (both local and across the country) as well as communicating with families, teachers, principals, and administrators. We especially welcome applications from people with backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in academia. This position is ideal for a recent college graduate interested in gaining research experience before deciding whether to pursue graduate study.

Lab manager, Princeton Baby Lab

Deadline: Applications will be reviewed beginning on March 10, 2022.

Link: https://research-princeton.icims.com/jobs/14203/research-specialist-i-%28lab%29/job?iis=Social+Networks&ieid=po1645105314401708d6&mobile=false&width=966&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-480&jun1offset=-420. The Department of Psychology at Princeton University is seeking a full-time research specialist, under the supervision of Dr. Casey Lew-Williams. The successful candidate will work in the Princeton Baby Lab, and have frequent contact with a wonderful group of postdocs, graduate students, senior thesis students, and research assistants, as well as various faculty members who study development and learning, such as Drs. Adele Goldberg, Jesse Gomez, Uri Hasson, Tania Lombrozo, Erik Nook, Kristina Olson, and Natalia Vélez. Targeted start date is June 1, 2022. This is a one-year term position with the possibility of renewal. Please send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for two references.

Lab Coordinator, Cognitive Development Lab, Wesleyan University

Deadline: March 11, 2022; applications considered on a rolling basis

Link: https://careers.wesleyan.edu/postings/8497. The lab coordinator will assist with studies on the development of quantitative thinking and decision making in children and adults, including a series of NSF-funded studies of numerical cognition and decision making. Responsibilities include hiring and coordination of undergraduate research assistants; recruiting and scheduling participants; maintaining a participant family database; coordinating relationships with local collaboration sites such as children's museums; data management and analysis; implementing online and in-person studies (study preregistration; IRB submissions, study programming); running participants through studies; supporting a positive research group culture; conducting literature searches; and assisting with the preparation of conference abstracts, manuscripts, and grants. The lab coordinator will have the opportunity to be directly involved in research, to earn authorship on journal articles, to attend research conferences, and to participate in other professional development activities.

Language Acquisition Research Coordinator, UCLA Department of Linguistics

Deadline: March 14, 2022

Link: hr.mycareer.ucla.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=83053. Language Acquisition Research Coordinator at UCLA: The UCLA Department of Linguistics is recruiting a curious, dynamic, and organized candidate to work as the full-time Lab Coordinator for the language acquisition research lab. Responsibilities include organizing and managing subject recruitment, interacting with parents and children, aiding in experimental design, testing infants, maintaining data spreadsheets, and facilitating undergraduate and graduate research projects.
The Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee has 8 subcommittees, each led by two faculty members. In this newsletter, we wanted to highlight the work of the Faculty Recruitment and Retention (R&R) subcommittee chaired by Drs. Jennifer Arnold and Daniel Bauer. As with all subcommittees this year, the Faculty R&R subcommittee is pursuing goals in line with the overarching aims laid out by the JEDI committee – focusing on representation, restructuring, and retention (see our blurb in the November 2021 newsletter!).

With regards to representation, the Faculty R&R subcommittee is focused on successfully recruiting BIPOC faculty through utilizing existing mechanisms such as the VITAE (Valuing Inclusion to Attain Excellence) and the Carolina Postdoc hiring program and by helping to recruit diverse candidates for all new positions within the department.

With regards to retention, the Faculty R&R subcommittee has focused on giving feedback to the leadership team in the department (Chair and Assistant Chair) in the department about enhancing the mentorship provided to junior faculty through workshops and increasing acknowledgement of this mentorship service. With regards to restructuring, the Faculty R&R subcommittee has focused on making changes to how institutional knowledge is passed down in the department, such as how materials for recruitment of faculty are made available to committees in an effort to increase the likelihood that a diverse group of candidates are recruited for every potential hire!

Departmental events, including diversity-related events, are posted publicly for our community at https://psychology.unc.edu/events. We invite you to check out upcoming events and join us! If you have a diversity-related event you’d like us to include on the calendar, please reach out to the Communication & Transparency Committee (Co-Chairs: Margaret Sheridan and Kurt Gray).

This semester, the department, with the help of the Faculty R&R subcommittee successfully recruited Anna Kwaennison Fetter as a Carolina Postdoc. She will be working closely with Dr. Margaret Sheridan and others in the Developmental and Clinical Psychology as well as with scholars across campus when she comes to UNC in the fall (Go Tarheels!). Her work focuses on investigating culturally specific risk and resilience factors in adolescents and young adults who identify as indigenous or Native American in the US.

College of Arts and Sciences Spring Commencement 2022 will be held Sunday, May 8 at 9 a.m. in Kenan Stadium.

The Psychology and Neuroscience Commencement Ceremony will be held Sunday, May 8 at 1PM in Carmichael Arena.