



# Psychology and Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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## Important Dates

University Holiday:	Thursday, April 14 Friday, April 15
Spring Holiday:	Friday, April 15
Classes End:	Wednesday, April 27
Commencement	Sunday, April 8

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## Student Spotlight



Meet Lydia Adams, a junior Psychology major and a Neuroscience and Biology double minor. She works in Dr. Donald Lysle's and Dr. Jonathan Abramowitz's labs.

I work as a research assistant in Dr. Lysle's lab, where I have had the opportunity to assist in research examining an animal model of PTSD known as stress-enhanced fear learning. We study maladaptive fear responses from a neuroimmune perspective and examine the role of proinflammatory cytokines in enhanced fear learning. I am also a research assistant in Dr. Jonathan Abramowitz's laboratory, where I study anxiety disorders such as OCD and PTSD from a cognitive perspective.

### How has the University move to remote learning affected your research or ability to do research?

I had initially begun in Dr. Lysle's lab spring semester of 2020, and the move to remote learning during that semester put a pause on my in-person lab training. Instead, I focused on reviewing the literature and discussed these manuscripts during a journal club with my advisor. During the fall semester of 2020, our lab's operations were still remote, however, I had the opportunity to be involved in manuscript editing, submission, and data analysis.

### What made you choose to work with the lab you're with?

Since the beginning of college, I have been interested in and passionate about developing treatments for individuals with PTSD, so I wanted to get involved in research as soon as I could. When I came across Dr. Lysle's lab, I felt the lab's research focus well-encapsulated my excitement for examining biological mechanisms underlying PTSD in the behavioral context of an animal model. I also was intrigued by the lab's study of neuroimmune mechanisms specifically, as the interaction between these vast and complex systems is a potential key for understanding many psychological disorders. Later during my sophomore year, I began to develop an interest in clinical psychology as well as behavioral neuroscience. A graduate student from Dr. Abramowitz's lab gave a guest lecture about cognitive behavioral therapy in my clinical psychology class, and I was very interested in the research and mechanisms of this treatment, which inspired me to apply for the lab. I love having the opportunity to study anxiety disorders in both an animal model from a neuroimmune viewpoint as well as from a cognitive perspective in clinical populations.

### Do you get to work with any interesting equipment?

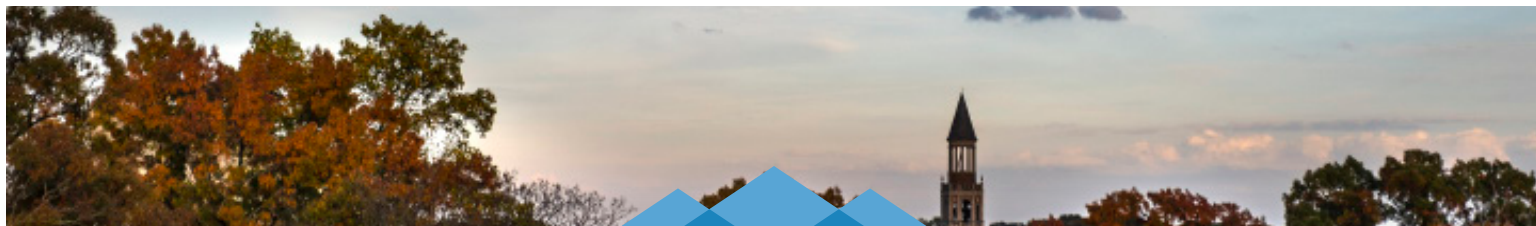
One of the most interesting pieces of equipment I have gotten to use in the lab is a stereotaxic surgical device. This instrument is used to perform stereotaxic surgery on rodents, allowing us to accurately target and manipulate structures within the brain. I used this device to infuse a DREADD (Designer Receptors Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs) virus into the hippocampus of a rat, which altered the functioning of astrocytes in this region.

### What do you like most about your work?

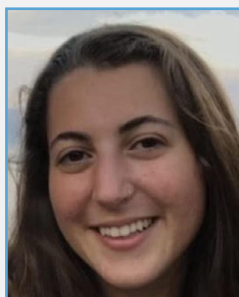
What I like most about my work is being in a research environment surrounded by and collaborating with such bright, passionate, and creative scientists. I love that I am able to learn from and work with others who are also dedicated to questioning, exploring, and understanding how the brain functions with the goal to improve the lives of others. With each experiment and study, we have the opportunity to learn something that contributes to an entire community of scientific knowledge, which I find fulfilling and meaningful.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Psychology and Neuroscience



## Meet our Featured Gil Interns



Meet **Jennifer Persia**, one of our Spring 2022 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience. Jennifer is a junior majoring in psychology and minoring in neuroscience and modern Hebrew. She became involved with research at UNC through the Abramowitz Anxiety and Stress Lab. This year Jennifer has been working on the Mom2Be study, examining the course of perinatal OCD and how the gut microbiome may play a role. Additionally, she has worked on a team to develop and submit an abstract to the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) on the relationship between OCD, depression, and interpretations of intrusive thoughts. On campus, she is involved with the Mental Health Ambassadors club, and was recently been elected Secretary of the Psi Chi National Psychology Honors society here at UNC. Jennifer aspires to complete her master's degree in counseling or social work with the goal of working in the mental health field as a licensed therapist. In the future, she hopes to provide empathetic and evidence-based therapy, with a focus on treating anxiety disorders.

To read more about Jennifer and Exploring Clinical Interests at 3-C Family Services, please check out the [Gil Intern blog](#).



Meet **Alyssa Choate**, one of our Spring 2022 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience. Alyssa is a first-generation college student at UNC-Chapel Hill from Charlotte, North Carolina. She is pursuing a bachelor's of science in Psychology with a minor in Classical Humanities, focusing on Ancient Greece. The second semester of her freshman year, Alyssa was able to shadow the head psychiatrist of the Emergency Psychiatric Department, Dr. Angela Strain, and nurse practitioner Judith Evangelus. Her time shadowing at the UNC Hospital gave her better insight into the inner workings of the emergency psychological field. She met patients with different mental disorders, sat in on a staff meeting regarding room availability for new patients, and observed the staff handle difficult mental health situations. During her junior year, Alyssa gained experience conducting research within the Department of Psychology at UNC. She conducted a conceptual replication study of the Pennycooke and Rand (2019) study on fake news susceptibility in relation to analytical thinking and wrote an APA 30-page paper about my research. At the same time, she also helped conduct a separate social psychology study on the effects that mental contrasting techniques and social anxiety have on perceived effectiveness of instructional techniques and active learning discomfort. In the future, Alyssa hopes to attend graduate school and continue her education further to become a clinical psychologist to help treat adolescents suffering from mood, personality, and eating disorders.

To read more about Alyssa and Individualized Patient Treatments and Services at KKJ Forensic and Psychological Services, please check out the [Gil Intern blog](#).



Meet **Courtney Pfister**, one of our Spring 2022 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience. Courtney is a senior from Waxhaw, North Carolina, majoring in both neuroscience and Asian studies with a concentration in Mandarin Chinese. Throughout my time at Carolina, she has worked in Dr. Gabriel Dichter's Clinical Affective Neuroscience Lab, which uses cross-sectional and longitudinal approaches to understanding and treating mood disorders and autism spectrum disorder. As the lab investigates these topics using MRI and dynamic PET combined with clinical assessments, she has been introduced to the fascinating world of neuroimaging and seen how it is the perfect intersection of clinical interaction, computer science, and neuroscience. Courtney's experience in the lab not only developed her passion for using neuroimaging to explore psychopathology, but also sparked her interest in how different psychotherapy treatments can cause physical alterations in brain structure. These interests have led Courtney to pursue her current Gil Internship with the UNC Early Brain Development Study (EBDS) in the UNC School of Medicine.

To read more about Courtney and Analyzing White and Gray Matter and their Relationship to Neuropsychiatric Disorders at EBDS, please check out the [Gil Intern blog](#).



Meet **Jasmine Padgett**, one of our Spring 2022 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience. Jasmine is a senior majoring in psychology and minoring in cognitive science. During her time at UNC, she has participated in undergraduate research that have helped shaped her interests in psychology. In the Penn Lab led by Dr. David Penn, Jasmine participated in several different research projects centered around schizophrenia and psychosis. She has also worked in the Strengths, Assets, and Resilience (STAR) Lab led by Dr. Shauna Cooper. Her primary research interests are race-related stress and culturally informed treatments for racial/ethnic minorities. Jasmine was able to explore these interests in the McNair Scholars Program, where she completed an independent project on race-related factors that influence social cognitive and neurocognitive assessments for Black women. In the future, Jasmine hopes to go to graduate school for clinical psychology and develop community-based culturally informed treatments for underserved populations.

To read more about Jasmine and Community-Based Interventions for Severe Mental Illness at Threshold Clubhouse, please check out the [Gil Intern blog](#).



## 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 Parik

### **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

**\*\*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.\*\***



## Diversifying Psychology Weekend

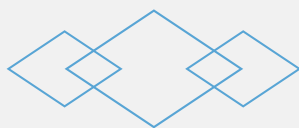


Diversifying Psychology Weekend will be held remotely April 7th to April 9th, 2022.

The UNC Diversifying Psychology Weekend is an opportunity for ethnic/racial minority undergraduates and recent college graduates invested in pursuing doctoral-level training in psychology and neuroscience.

The program includes three days of seminars, panel discussions, and workshops. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to develop a competitive application, meet doctoral students and faculty from our department in formal and informal settings, attend seminars, and receive an introduction to our graduate training opportunities and each of our graduate research programs. This year's DPW will invite students to explore the six graduate programs in the Psychology & Neuroscience department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Clinical, Cognitive, Social, Developmental, Quantitative Psychology, and Behavioral and Integrative Neuroscience (BIN).

For more information, please email [diversifypsychweekend@unc.edu](mailto:diversifypsychweekend@unc.edu).



## Jobs and Opportunities



### Research Coordinator, Claremont McKenna College

**Deadline: May 1, 2022**

The Applied Mind and Health (AMH) Lab, directed by Dr. Stacey Doan at Claremont McKenna College in the Department of Psychological Science, seeks a full-time (with benefits) research coordinator/manager beginning the Summer of 2022. The initial appointment will be for one year. There is a possibility to extend for additional years based on performance and continued funding. The research coordinator will work closely with the PI and lab group on a research program investigating how emotions and relationships affect behavior, health, and physiological outcomes in children, adolescents, and young adults. To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV/resume, and a list of potential recommenders to Dr. Doan at [sdoan@cmc.edu](mailto:sdoan@cmc.edu). Please use the subject line "Lab Coordinator Position". Questions about this position should be directed to Dr. Stacey Doan at [sdoan@cmc.edu](mailto:sdoan@cmc.edu).

### Lab Manager, Duke University

**Deadline: not listed, currently reviewing applications**

The Early Childhood Cognition Lab at Duke University is interested in the inherently active, playful, and socially-guided ways young children learn about the world around them. We are also interested in the various beliefs that children form about the world -- their intuitive "theories" -- and the ways that these beliefs are shaped by children's engagement with their social and cultural environments. The Research Technician II will help conduct research on learning and social cognition in children across ages and cultures. The Research Technician II will assist on multiple projects with children ranging from 2-10 years old, in community, school, and laboratory settings. The position is grant funded for 1 year with possibility for renewal for a second year. Please email [tamar.kushnir@duke.edu](mailto:tamar.kushnir@duke.edu) to apply.

### Lab Manager, Smith College

**Deadline: application review starts April 1, 2022**

Link: [https://smithcollege.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/smithcollege/job/Smith-College/Lab-Manager\\_R-202200141](https://smithcollege.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/smithcollege/job/Smith-College/Lab-Manager_R-202200141)

The Mind in Development Lab (P.I. Dr. Maya Rosen) in the Neuroscience Program at Smith College (Northampton, MA) invites candidates to apply for a lab manager position beginning September 2022. Our research examines the impact of environmental experience on children's development. Under the supervision of Dr. Rosen, the individual in this position will be involved in managing an active research lab and a large NIH-funded study. The candidate will participate in all aspects of the research process, including recruitment of children and families, preparation of IRB applications, data collection from children and caregivers, programming behavioral tasks, and maintenance of a database for participant recruitment and tracking. These duties will primarily focus on a longitudinal study examining the neural, cognitive and environmental mechanisms linking socioeconomic status and academic achievement. Data collection for this study involves acquisition of functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) and MRI data, intensive measures of the home environment, and cognitive and academic assessments.

### Lab Manager, Stanford University

**Deadline: currently reviewing applications (started on March 28, 2022)**

Link: <https://careerssearch.stanford.edu/jobs/social-science-research-coordinator-lab-manager-16462?et=1I9GJajLp>

The Social Concepts Lab in the Department of Psychology at Stanford University (PI: Steven O. Roberts) is seeking a full-time lab manager to begin in August 2022. The lab integrates social, developmental, and cognitive psychology to identify and dismantle the psychological bases of racism. The lab manager will work closely with Dr. Roberts to manage the day-to-day operations of the lab. These operations include 1) recruiting, training, and supervising research assistants, 2) data collection, management, and analysis, 3) supporting and collaborating with PhD and thesis students, and 4) managing budgets, IRB protocols, lab scheduling, lab websites, and grant applications.

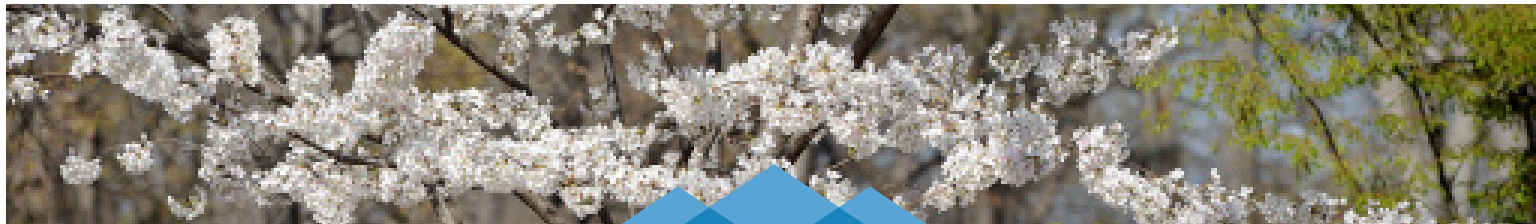
### Lab Manager, Emerging Minds Lab at Arizona State (PI: Kelsey Lucca)

**Deadline: currently reviewing applications (started on March 21, 2022); apps reviewed until position is filled**

Link: <https://sjobs.brassring.com>

The Emerging Minds Lab at Arizona State University, directed by Dr. Kelsey Lucca, is recruiting a full-time lab manager to begin in Summer 2022. The lab manager will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of an NSF funded project on the development of curiosity in infancy and early childhood. The lab manager will work closely with the lab director and other lab members to assist in all aspects of running the lab. There may be opportunities to develop independent projects, attend conferences, and co-author manuscripts. This is an ideal position for a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual looking to gain more research experience on topics related to cognitive development before pursuing a PhD in a related field.





Research Assistant, Harvard & MIT

**Deadline: currently reviewing applications (started on March 18, 2022)**

The Department of Psychology at Harvard University and the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences at MIT invite applications for a full-time Research Assistantship, joining an exciting NSF Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence project. The goal of this project is to explore how children and adults engage in “loopholes” (doing what someone asked, but not what they wanted). We are looking for an individual with a BA/BS (or an expectation to receive a BA/BS before July 1, 2022) in cognitive science, cognitive development, linguistics, psychology, neuroscience, mathematics, computer science, or a related field who is excited to receive training in developmental and computational psychological/cognitive science research. This person will contribute to the design of experiments with children and adults, as well as participate in participant recruitment and data collection, data analysis and visualization, the design and implementation of computational models and model comparison, and the writing and presentation of research findings. Strong candidates will be eager to learn with an ability to work independently, as well as with a team, and excellent communication and organizational skills. Prior behavioral research experience, quantitative and computational skills, including R/Tidyverse, Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, are a plus but not required. Initial appointment will be for a 12-month period and will be renewable subject to performance and availability of funding. The anticipated start date is June 2022, but the position is available immediately. The research assistant will work locally in Cambridge, MA. Questions may be directed to (Mr. John Muchovej: [jmuchovej@g.harvard.edu](mailto:jmuchovej@g.harvard.edu)). The cover letter should describe your relevant coursework, research experience, computer skills, and why you are excited about the position.

Lab Manager, Harvard University

**Deadline: currently reviewing applications (started on March 18, 2022)**

Link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWqF5sjzcbxfy\\_tjYu5TDKH8CvFV4G\\_1HpDUWO-p10IP0Uw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWqF5sjzcbxfy_tjYu5TDKH8CvFV4G_1HpDUWO-p10IP0Uw/viewform)

The Computational Cognitive Development Laboratories at Harvard University, directed by Drs. Tomer Ullman (Psychology) and Elizabeth Bonawitz (Grad. School of Ed) are currently recruiting a full-time Lab Manager to coordinate and conduct research. The lab manager will be responsible for recruiting and overseeing studies in both labs. Preferred start date is June 1st (with some flexibility), with a 2-year desired commitment, further extendable depending on fit.

Lab Manager, Cognitive Development Laboratory, Ohio State University (PI: Vladimir Sloutsky)

Link: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oGLqMcres39\\_KjWap3pNp3\\_MfcMCcdnFijhMwTHooX4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oGLqMcres39_KjWap3pNp3_MfcMCcdnFijhMwTHooX4/edit?usp=sharing)

The review of applications will start immediately and will continue until the position is filled. The successful candidate may start as early as May 1, 2022. A 1-2-year commitment is preferred. To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter describing your research experiences and career goals, resume, and contact information for three references electronically to Sophie Ireton ([ireton.19@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:ireton.19@buckeyemail.osu.edu)). Please also be prepared to arrange three letters of recommendation. If you have questions about the position or the lab, please contact Vladimir Sloutsky directly ([Sloutsky.1@osu.edu](mailto:Sloutsky.1@osu.edu)).

Lab manager, Language and Development Lab, UC Berkeley (PI: Mahesh Srinivasan)

**Deadline: April 6th**

The [Language and Cognitive Development Lab](#) at the UC Berkeley Department of Psychology, directed by Prof. Mahesh Srinivasan, is seeking a full-time lab manager for a 1-2 year appointment beginning this July. Research in the lab addresses how linguistic, social, and cognitive abilities arise and interact with one another in human development and across cultures.

For information about how to apply, please see posting #33268 on the [Berkeley Jobs website](#). Please include a CV and cover letter (in one file) detailing your interests and experience, and how they fit with the goals of the lab and requirements of the position. Please also identify the names of at least two academic references on your resume. Applications submitted by April 6th will be given full review. All questions about the position can be directed to Grace Horton ([lcdmanager@berkeley.edu](mailto:lcdmanager@berkeley.edu)).

Senior Research Associate, Attention Brain & Behavior Lab at Mount Holyoke (PI: Jane Couperus)

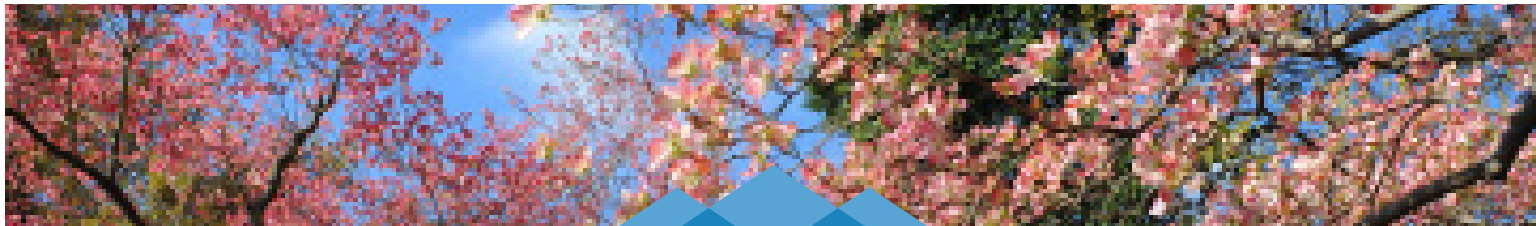
Link: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/1024/cw/en-us/job/492952/sr-research-associate>

This is a one-year grant funded position that may be extended to a second year contingent on funding. Current research topics in the lab include neural representations of visual selective attention in adults and children as well as individual differences such as socioeconomic status and their impact on cognition. We use behavioral and brain imaging techniques (event related potentials) to answer a variety of research questions based in these topics.

Research Associate I, Center for Health Assessment Research and Translation, University of Delaware (PI: Jerry Slotkin)

**Deadline: The position is currently open but we will wait for someone who is about to graduate as well (in other words, start date is flexible through summer 2022).**

Link: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sLQIVmXxyoW5C1t\\_UuOOIOgwzl60EwVi/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106250968550494117450&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sLQIVmXxyoW5C1t_UuOOIOgwzl60EwVi/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106250968550494117450&rtpof=true&sd=true)



Lab Manager/Research Specialist, Memory & Computational Cognition Lab at Rutgers University Newark (PI: Kimele Persaud)

**To apply, please email [Kimele.persaud@rutgers.edu](mailto:Kimele.persaud@rutgers.edu) a cover letter, a resume or CV, and the name, title, and email addresses of at least two academic or professional references. Review of application materials will continue until the position is filled.**

This position will manage and contribute to research on understanding how individuals across different groups leverage their prior knowledge and expectations to help encode, store, and reconstruct information from memory. The responsibilities of the lab manager include developing and implementing online and in-person laboratory experiments with both adults and children, scheduling and testing participants, performing data analysis, and other general office related tasks (e.g., sending emails, ordering supplies, hosting lab meetings, etc.). The position requires keen attention to detail, organizational and planning abilities, and excellent interpersonal skills. This position is for an initial contract of one-year, with the possibility of two additional years pending positive performance. The preferred start date is June 15, 2022. For more information about MC2 Lab research, please visit, <https://sites.rutgers.edu/mc2-lab/>.

Qualification Requirements: 1) Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Statistics, Education or a related field is required. 2) 1-2 years of psychology related research experience (a combination of education and/or work experience will be considered). 3) Previous experience with developing experimental stimuli, design, planning and executing empirical studies. Recommended: 1) Familiarity with Matlab and/or other programming languages (e.g., Python, C++, JavaScript). 2) Previous experience designing online studies (e.g., Qualtrics Surveys, JS Psych, psiTurk) 3) Experience with data analysis (R, SPSS, or JASP), presentation, and reporting. 4) Previous experience conducting behavioral studies with children.

Lab coordinator/research assistant, Cognitive Development Lab at Wesleyan University (PI: Anna Shusterman)

**Deadline: The position is open now and we are looking for somebody who can start in June at the latest.**

Link: <https://careers.wesleyan.edu/postings/8629>

The Cognitive Development Lab at Wesleyan University, directed by Dr. Anna Shusterman, seeks a full-time lab coordinator starting in Summer of 2022. The lab coordinator will assist with studies on the development of numerical and spatial thinking in preschool children and on research-practice collaborations in educational settings. The primary focus of this position will be the implementation of a new NSF-funded project to develop and test a research-based, guided-play mathematics intervention in preschools.

Full time Research Coordinator, Language and Cognition Lab, Stanford University (PI: Mike Frank)

Link: <http://m.rfer.us/STANFORDWITHvd>

The research coordinator will assist with empirical research on language development and the relationship between language and cognition. The research coordinator will have opportunities for contribution to ongoing research projects, leading to the possibility of contributing to scientific presentations and publications. This position is ideal for individuals who wish to further their research training.



**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.  
Graduates must [register](#)!**