

Sagarika Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan

Education

Bachelor of Science in Psychology Aug 2018 - Dec 2021

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Honors Thesis: Age differences and positivity effect in memory for feelings

Departmental Honors: Distinction in Major

Honors College Program: General, Advanced, and Research Distinctions

Institutional Honors: Magna Cum Laude

Certificate in Spanish Aug 2018 - Dec 2021

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Research

Learning, Understanding, Memory, & Neurodevelopment (LUMeN) Laboratory,

Emory University

Aug 2022 – present

Research Specialist & Lab Manager

Principal Investigator: Alexandra O. Cohen, PhD

Project: Intergenerational transmission of emotional memories in parent-teen dyads

This online study aims to understand how we share and experience memories, particularly how emotional memories are shared between parents and their adolescent children.

- Developed research questions and designed a study with a planned sample of 100 parent-adolescent child pairs
- Recruited participants across several online platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and Children Helping Science/Lookit
- Handled participant payments via electronic gift cards
- Oversaw all participant correspondence and scheduling
- Conducted preliminary analyses of emotional concordance between parents and teens

Project: Neurocognitive mechanisms of reward-motivated memory persistence across age

This longitudinal study investigates how real-world reward experiences influence memory and brain function across development.

- Created stimuli for a computer-based fMRI task consisting of multiple appetitive experiences
- Recruited, screened, and scheduled participants aged 10 – 25 years

- Collected fMRI, ecological momentary assessment (EMA), Fitbit (activity and sleep metrics), and survey data
- Handled all participant payments via ClinCard and gift card at multiple time points
- Supervised data management, scheduling, and participant communications delegated to undergraduate research assistants
- Trained undergraduate and graduate students on procedures

Other responsibilities:

- Onboarding and training lab members on lab operations and research protocols
- Documenting and organizing projects on the lab's digital coworking spaces
- Scheduling and coordinating weekly meetings
- Supervising undergraduate research assistants
- Formulating lab values
- Handling communications and records with the Institutional Review Board for all studies
- Managing lab finances, including purchasing and accounting for startup and grant expenses
- Building and maintaining the lab website
- Curating the lab's social media presence

Anxiety Research and Treatment (ART) Laboratory, Georgia State University

Jan 2021 – Aug 2022

Justice and Equity Coordinator

Principal Investigator: Page L. Anderson, PhD

- Synthesized and oversaw the lab's commitment to justice and equity goals
- Curated culturally specific resources on psychoeducation and care for various peoples historically marginalized in psychology
- Updated lab website to improve web accessibility
- Organized and led a journal club on multicultural psychology and cultural competency in clinical psychology
- Directed a review and redesign of the lab's demographics questionnaire to foster inclusivity

Anxiety Research and Treatment (ART) Laboratory, Georgia State University

Jan 2019 – Aug 2022

Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Page L. Anderson, PhD

Project: Acceptability of internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy (iCBT)

This study tested the efficacy of two interventions designed to increase treatment-seeking behavior and the acceptability and use of iCBT programs

- Recruited participants from Atlanta city and metropolitan area
- Administered surveys
- Analyzed follow-up survey data to assess impacts of COVID-19 and loneliness on mental distress

Project: Cognitive biases in control group

This study expanded on the laboratory's prior research on cognitive biases in clinical populations with social anxiety to test the reliability of measures of cognitive bias in a population that did not meet criteria for social anxiety disorder (but may experience sub-threshold symptoms)

- Collected behavioral data through surveys, a computer-based task with the dot-probe paradigm, and a behavior avoidance task involving public speaking

Project: Outcome probability bias task study

The initial study assessing outcome probability bias (OPB) as a symptom of social anxiety involved the design and testing of a novel computer-based task using social imagery. A secondary project was conceived with this task and additional measures to conduct a confirmatory factor analysis.

- Culled and created visual stimuli depicting various social situations for a novel task assessing OPB
- Collected data through surveys, a computer-based task, a semi-structured clinical interview, and a behavior avoidance task using virtual reality
- Aided in conducting analyses on potential effects of race on OPB

Project: Mobile application choice study

This project investigated the effects of participant choice on the sustained use of mobile mental health applications.

- Aided in designing the data collection and randomization modules in REDCap
- Consented and enrolled participants in the study via telephone
- Guided participants through initiating use of mobile mental health applications

- Trained junior research assistants on study protocols and participant interactions

Project: Using mobile applications for self-care

This study involved analysis of key themes in college students' self-reported experiences of various mental health and self-care oriented mobile applications.

- Coded qualitative data to extract broad themes on the nature of interest and use of mobile applications for self-care and betterment of mental health

Cognition & Aging Laboratory, Georgia State University Aug 2020 – Aug 2022

Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Sarah J. Barber, PhD

Thesis: Age differences and positivity effect in memory for feelings

The thesis was conceived as an extension of an existing study in the laboratory on age differences among adults in affective forecasts related to the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election.

- Conducted literature review and developed research questions investigating age differences in how younger (18-35) and older (65+) adults remember their own past feelings about the 2020 United States Presidential Election
- Collected, processed, and analyzed survey data as part of a multi-session online study

General responsibilities:

- Prepared surveys for studies through Qualtrics and Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk)
- Conducted literature reviews for various projects on affective forecasting, borrowed memories, and aging effects in cognitive functions
- Cleaned and organized data for several studies on cognition and aging
- Led and participated in journal clubs and within-lab projects to engage in broader cognitive aging research

Project: The intergenerational transmission of memory and the foundations of collective memory

This independent project was completed under Dr. Barber's advisement as part of Honors coursework for the Psychology of Human Memory seminar.

- Conducted an independent literature review on the transmission of memories and related transmission of trauma psychopathology across generations and impacts of this transmission on recipient generations, as well as the formation of collective memory as a product of sharing past experiences

Principal Investigator: Paul N. Ulrich, PhD

- Aimed to identify and characterize the molecular functions of a mitochondrial trypanosomatid protein using review of literature and predictive algorithms
- Designed and conducted experiments of co-immunoprecipitation and immunofluorescence assays to isolate a hypothetical protein coded by *Crithidia fasciculata* mitochondria to determine potential biochemical functions
- Assisted the lab's Graduate Teaching Assistant with preparing materials and solutions for the course and junior students

Peer-reviewed Publications

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Kausar, H., & Barber, S. J. (2023). Younger and older adults' memory of past feelings surrounding an election. *Memory*. DOI: 10.1080/09658211.2023.2272780

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Udry, J., Wright, B., & Barber, S. J. (submitted). 'How worried were you?': Biases in how younger and older adults remember their prior feelings about COVID-19.

Conference Presentations

Udry, J., **Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Wright, B., & Barber, S. J. (2023).** 'How worried were you?': Biases in how younger and older adults remember their prior feelings about COVID-19. Poster presentation accepted to the annual Psychonomic Society meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Wang, V., Patel, V., & Cohen, A. O. (2023). *Intergenerational transmission of emotional memories in parent-teen dyads*. Poster presentation given at the annual Flux Society Congress, Santa Rosa, CA.

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Wright, B., & Barber, S. J. (2023). *Younger and older adults' memory of COVID-19 worry*. Poster presentation given at the annual Aging Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Kausar, H., & Barber, S. J. (2022). *Age differences in memory accuracy for feelings surrounding the 2020 U.S. presidential election*. Poster presentation given at the biennial Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Kausar, H., & Barber, S. J. (2022). *Age differences and positivity effect in memory for feelings*. Oral presentation given at the annual Aging Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Peraltilla Alfaro, M., **Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S.,** Molloy, A., & Anderson, P. L. (2020). *The impact of loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic on mental distress*. Oral presentation given at the annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S., Naran, A. B., & Ulrich, P. N. (2020). *Characterization of molecular function of a hypothetical C. fasciculata mitochondrial protein*. Oral presentation given at the annual STEM Undergraduate Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Moseley, T., **Devarayapuram Ramakrishnan, S.,** Draheim, A. A., & Anderson, P. L. (2020). *The effect of race on outcome probability for public speaking*. Poster presentation given at the annual Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Service, Outreach, & Teaching

Volunteer May 2023 – present

Science ATL

- Helped promote public engagement with STEAM at various ScienceATL programs

Atlanta Science Festival Exhibitor Mar 2023 – present

Science ATL

- Presented engaging psychology and neuroscience-related activities with the LUMeN Lab at the annual Atlanta Science Festival in Piedmont Park

Teaching Assistant Jun 2020 – Dec 2021

Georgia State University

- Assisted Dr. Andrea G. Weyermann with the Theories of Personality course
- Attended all class meetings
- Assessed student assignments
- Met with students for advisement and tutoring
- Prepared quizzes and supplemental online teaching materials

Crisis Counselor Mar 2020 – present

Crisis Text Line

- Volunteered ~350 hours of crisis support through text-messaging and shared relevant resources with those in crisis

Clinic Intern Dec 2018 – Jan 2019

Peachtree Pediatric Psychology

- Attended phone calls from incoming and current patients
- Recorded and maintained patient information on a HIPAA-compliant online clinic database
- Filed virtual and physical documentation for patients including medical information, professional notes, tests, and resources
- Occupied children coming in for education testing and evaluations for ASD, ADHD, etc.
- Shadowed the psychologist in the clinic during patient meetings and testing sessions

Digital Content Creator Sep 2019 – present

Freelance

- Produced digital content and copy to share a variety of literature and literary media
- Independently reviewed backlist and forthcoming works of literature
- Collaborated with other content creators to create booklists and promotional content for upcoming releases
- Worked with several major publishing houses and authors to produce various literary programs, interviews, promotional content, and marketing campaigns

Co-founder & Manager Dec 2020 – present

South Asian Bookish Creators

- Created the South Asian Bookish Creators (SABC) directory to expand and connect the network of South Asian content creators promoting literary content for publishers
- Managed the community hub associated with SABC, including planning and facilitating virtual social events and engagement

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

Runner-up Best Undergraduate & Post-baccalaureate Presentation Feb 2023

Aging Research Conference

Best Undergraduate & Post-baccalaureate Presentation Feb 2022
Aging Research Conference

University Assistantship Program Jan 2021 – Dec 2021
Georgia State University Honors College program that grants a stipend to select students in university-based undergraduate research assistant positions

HOPE Scholarship Aug 2018 – Dec 2021

Centennial Merit Scholarship Aug 2018

Georgia State University President's List
Summer 2019, Fall 2021

Georgia State University Dean's List
Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Grant Submissions

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship submitted Oct 2023

Skills

Language

English (native proficiency), Tamil (native proficiency), Spanish (limited working proficiency), Hindi (limited working proficiency)

Clinical Interviews

Diagnostic Interview for Anxiety, Mood, and OCD and Related Neuropsychiatric Disorders (DIAMOND)

Trained in this semi-structured clinical interview for DSM-V psychiatric disorders for a study with the Anxiety Research and Treatment laboratory (specifically focusing on the social anxiety disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and major depressive disorder modules)

Software

R/RStudio, IBM SPSS, PsychoPy, MS Office Suite, Google Suite, Qualtrics, REDCap, Twilio, Mendeley, Adobe Creative Cloud, Calendly, Lookit, WordPress, Squarespace

Relevant Coursework

Human Development: Individual and Family Issues, Human Sexuality, Psychopathology and Abnormal Psychology, Theories of Personality, Cognitive Psychology, African American Psychology, Psychology of Human Memory (CTW), Introduction to Research Design and Data Analysis, Advanced Research Design and Analysis (CTW), Enduring Questions in Bioethics and Social Justice (CTW), Behavior Modification

References

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