

EDUCATION

University of Miami

Coral Gables, Florida

B.S. in Neuroscience with a Minor in Chemistry

May 2022

Dissertation: "Is the Problem the Solution: Evaluating Idiosyncratic Treatment Outcomes in a Transdiagnostic Youth Sample"

B.A. in Philosophy and Computer Science

Dissertation: "The Moral Machine: Evaluating Normative Ethical Theories with Autonomous Vehicle Moral Dilemmas"

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Imagination and Modal Cognition Lab

Duke University, Institute for Brain Sciences

Research Assistant

January 2025 - Present

Principal Investigator: Felipe De Brigard

Design and implement research protocols, recruit and screen participants, and supervise multi session studies while concurrently managing data pertaining to cognitive functions like attention and memory using standardized tools, ensuring compliance with ethical guidelines, and maintaining accurate databases to support statistical analysis and publications

UQUEST Lab

University of Miami, Dept of Psychology

Research Assistant

August 2021 - May 2022

Principal Investigator: Patricia G. Saab

Developed age-appropriate STEM curricula and lesson plans tailored to underrepresented students at the Overtown Youth Center, incorporating hands-on activities, experiments, and projects to enhance learning and retention while longitudinally tracking student progress and fostering a learning environment that encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving

The Moral Machine Research Project

University of Miami, Dept of Computer Science

Research Assistant

February 2021 - May 2022

Principal Investigator: Geoff Sutcliffe and Debra Lieberman

Assisted in the development and design of the research study investigating moral cognition and decision-making, managed participant recruitment and screening processes, maintained research databases, and conducted statistical analyses of moral judgment data that formed the basis of a senior honors thesis in Philosophy assessing normative ethical theories

Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Lab

University of Miami, Dept of Psychology

Research Assistant

January 2020 - June 2022

Principal Investigator: Jill Ehrenreich-May

Maintained research databases related to youth psychopathology, supported statistical analyses using SPSS and R, and actively contributed to research team meetings by presenting findings and assisting with literature reviews on youth mental health interventions, culminating in a senior honors thesis in Neuroscience examining idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in transdiagnostic youth populations

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. **Sharma, A.**, De Brigard, F., Boere, K., Krempel, R., & Blomkvist, A. (2026, April 10). Memory Without Mental Images: Dissociating Quantity, Accuracy, and Metacognition in Aphantasia and Hypophantasia Using Virtual Reality [Poster presentation]. Triangle Society for Neuroscience 2026 Meeting, North Carolina State Parks Alumni Center, Raleigh, NC, United States.
2. **Sharma, A.**, Blomkvist, A., Krempel, R., Walsh, E., Boere, K., & De Brigard, F. (2026, March 7-10). Memory Without Imagery: Episodic Recall and Meta-Cognitive Performance in Individuals with Aphantasia [Poster presentation]. Cognitive Neuroscience Society 33rd Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
3. Robelo, D., Rivadeneira, G., **Sharma, A.**, Fernández-Miranda, G., Santiago, A., & De Brigard, F. (2025, July 25). The Effect of Reappraisal Strategies on the Emotions Experienced when Remembering Autobiographical Memories of Wrongdoings and their Relation to Forgiveness [Poster presentation]. 2025 Summer Research Showcase, Duke University, Durham, NC, United States.
4. Krishna, A., Tai, M., **Sharma, A.**, & Cousins, C. (2025, April 24). Markov Decision Process of Charitable Donations [Poster presentation]. Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship Poster Showcase, Duke University, Durham, NC, United States.
5. **Sharma A.** Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2022, March 18). Using an Idiographic Outcome Measure to Assess the Effectiveness of Telemedicine Delivery of the Unified Protocols for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders in Youth [Poster presentation]. ADAA Anxiety and Depression Conference, Denver, CO, United States.
6. **Sharma A.** Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, November 19). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [Poster presentation]. ABCT 55th Annual Convention SIG Poster Expo, New York, NY, United States.
7. **Sharma A.**, Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, July 19). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [3-minute thesis presentation]. PRIME Summer Research, Coral Gables, FL, United States.
8. **Sharma A.**, Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, April 23). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [3-minute thesis presentation]. Research Creativity Innovation Forum, Coral Gables, FL, United States.
9. **Sharma, A.**, Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, April 26-30). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [Poster presentation]. Research Celebration, Coral Gables, FL, United States. (Conference canceled)
10. Sutcliffe, G., **Sharma, A.** (2021, May 25). Automated Theorem Proving: Morality Machine [Presentation]. Automated Reasoning with Legal Entities, Luxembourg, Germany.

MENTORSHIP

Fall 2025: **Gabriella Rivadeneira**, Duke University

Autobiographical Memories; Forgiveness; Cognitive Reappraisal

Summer 2025: **Daniel Robelo**, Duke University

Autobiographical Memories; Forgiveness; Cognitive Reappraisal

Spring 2025: **Akshara Krishna**, Duke University

Computational Modeling; Welfare-Centric Fair Reinforcement Learning

Spring 2025: **Marvin Tai**, Duke University

Computational Modeling; Welfare-Centric Fair Reinforcement Learning

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Human Resources Department

Substitute Teacher

Supervisors: Karen Coffee and Tatia Davis

Durham & Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Public Schools

June 2025 - Current

- * Provide instructional support and classroom management across various subjects and grade levels in the absence of regular teachers, following established lesson plans while adapting to diverse classroom settings.
- * Maintain safe, respectful, and productive learning environments through effective management of student behavior and supervision of classroom activities.
- * Collaborate with school staff to address individual student needs and ensure adherence to school policies and procedures.
- * Document classroom activities, student progress, and behavioral incidents for regular teachers and administrators, ensuring continuity of instruction and communication.
- * Differentiate instruction and provide individualized support to diverse learners, including students with special needs, English language learners, and gifted students, to ensure all students remain engaged and on task throughout the school day.

Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship

Undergraduate Intern Representative & Alumni Outreach Coordinator

Supervisor: Tyler Reeks

Center for Cognitive Neuroscience

January 2025 - Current

- * Facilitate communication between undergraduate interns, mentors, and program leadership to ensure a supportive and productive learning environment.
- * Advance academic and professional development by organizing workshops, research presentations, and mentoring sessions that enhanced students' understanding of cognitive neuroscience methodologies and career pathways.
- * Promote a positive, safe, and inclusive research community by managing cohort communications, resolving issues, and strengthening alumni connections through targeted outreach initiatives.
- * Serve as a key intermediary between current students and the broader cognitive neuroscience community, strengthening program cohesion and creating pathways for sustained professional engagement beyond program completion.
- * Collect and analyze feedback from interns and alumni to assess program effectiveness and identify opportunities for continuous improvement in mentorship, training, and professional development initiatives.

IMC Lab

Lab Manager and SSNAP Coordinator

Principal Investigator: Felipe De Brigard

Duke University

January 2025 - Current

- * Manage daily operations of a multidisciplinary research lab, ensuring efficient workflow, resource allocation, and adherence to university policies.
- * Coordinate communication between researchers, students, and university administration, fostering collaboration and timely issue resolution.
- * Review and maintain experimental protocols, data records, and documentation, ensuring accuracy and alignment with institutional and ethical standards.
- * Assist with the onboarding and training of lab members, including students and volunteers, in experimental procedures, data analysis, and lab safety protocols.
- * Identify and address potential challenges in research operations, escalating issues to the Principal Investigator when necessary, and maintain organized records of lab activities, research outputs, and correspondence for audits and reviews.

Parks & Recreation Department

Program Instructor

Supervisor: Amanda Johnson

City of Durham

January 2025 - Current

- * Lead yoga classes for diverse participants of all ages and ability levels across various community centers, parks, and public spaces throughout the city, designing sequences that promote physical wellness, flexibility, stress reduction, and mindfulness.

- * Provide individualized modifications based on participant needs, physical limitations, and safety considerations to ensure all individuals can participate comfortably and effectively.
- * Deliver detailed guidance on proper technique, body alignment, and breathing exercises to prevent injuries and maximize health benefits.
- * Coordinate with municipal recreation staff to schedule classes, promote participation through community outreach, and track attendance to assess program engagement and success.
- * Assist with the development and implementation of new programming initiatives aligned with the City's broader community health and wellness goals.

No More Tears

Executive Assistant

Founder: Somy Ali

No More Tears Incorporated

August 2024 - January 2025

- * Managed communications with supporters, donors, and volunteers to maintain engagement and provide updates on organizational initiatives, fundraising campaigns, and impact metrics.
- * Researched and identified potential grant opportunities, preparing and submitting comprehensive grant applications including compelling proposals and supporting documentation.
- * Conducted interview research producing thoughtful, trauma-sensitive questions used in survivor testimonials and celebrity documentaries.
- * Created engaging social media content and promotional materials to raise awareness about sex trafficking and domestic violence, drive donations, and support fundraising campaigns benefiting survivor services for women and children.

FDOT

Contract Support Specialist

Supervisor: Michael Miller

Florida Department of Transportation

August 2024 - December 2024

- * Assisted project managers in monitoring progress and ensuring adherence to timelines, budgets, and contract requirements while coordinating communication between contractors, engineers, and stakeholders to facilitate timely updates and issue resolution.
- * Reviewed and maintained contract documentation including project plans, change orders, and progress reports to ensure accuracy and compliance with FDOT standards.
- * Supported preparation of project-related reports and presentations, tracked project milestones, expenditures, and deliverables to ensure successful execution and regulatory compliance, and assisted with development and review of procurement documents.
- * Identified and mitigated potential project risks, escalated issues to project managers when necessary, and maintained organized records for project audits and reviews.

Missouri CANHU

Social Worker Associate

Supervisor: Susan Holzschuh

Missouri Department of Social Services

March 2023 - August 2024

- * Collected detailed information from callers regarding child welfare concerns, assessed urgency and severity of reported cases to determine appropriate response levels and interventions, and created comprehensive case reports and summaries for review by supervisors and child protection agencies.
- * Coordinated referrals and follow-up with multidisciplinary partners (child protection, mental health, law enforcement, and school personnel) to ensure timely services and continuity of care.
- * Effectively managed crisis situations by providing immediate support and guidance to ensure child safety and well-being.
- * Offered feedback and recommendations for improving hotline operations and response procedures based on field experience and case observations.

City Year

Student Success Coach

Impact Manager: Amber Jenkins

AmeriCorps

August 2022 - March 2023

- * Assisted students in developing essential study skills, organizational strategies, and test-taking techniques while offering emotional and social support to help them navigate personal challenges and build resilience.

- * Monitored students' academic progress and behavior through regular evaluations and observations, maintained accurate records of student progress and interventions, and used data to inform instructional support strategies.
- * Participated in professional development sessions to stay current with educational best practices and collaborated with school staff to create project plans and development strategies for underrepresented students, ensuring both academic and emotional growth.

Lakeside Village Residential College

University of Miami, Housing and Residential Life

Community Assistant

August 2021 - May 2022

Director: Kim Moncada

- * Created and maintained a positive and inclusive community atmosphere by organizing and promoting engaging programs and activities that encouraged student interaction and involvement.
- * Planned, promoted, and executed educational, social, and recreational events that enhanced the residential experience and fostered community engagement.
- * Collaborated with campus departments and organizations to coordinate events supporting student development and well-being, maintained accurate records of incidents, resident interactions, and required documentation.
- * Responded to emergency situations including health crises and safety concerns following established residential life protocols.

Up to Us Organization

University of Miami, Campus Chapter

Co Chair

August 2020 - May 2022

Chapter Supervisor: Andrew Wiemer

- * Developed and executed digital marketing campaigns promoting fiscal education and increasing campaign visibility across campus and community networks.
- * Designed and produced engaging digital content including blog posts, social media updates, infographics, videos, and interactive media to educate target audiences about fiscal literacy and responsible financial decision-making.
- * Identified and established partnerships with schools, non-profits, businesses, and government organizations to collaborate on fiscal education initiatives and expand program reach.

Mahoney/Stanford Residential College

University of Miami, Housing and Residential Life

Desk Assistant

August 2020 - May 2021

Office Supervisors: Takeisha Forbes and Diana Gomes

- * Ensured building security by monitoring access points, issuing visitor badges, enforcing check-in/check-out procedures, and providing front-desk coverage and customer service to residents and guests.
- * Maintained databases and management systems by entering and updating information including contact details, appointment schedules, and inventory records.
- * Provided administrative support to staff and management, assisted with special projects and office events as assigned, and offered solutions to operational challenges such as scheduling conflicts and visitor concerns.

WVUM 90.5

University of Miami, Student Affairs

Underwriting Director

October 2018 - May 2020

General Manager: Josh White

- * Assisted in writing and reviewing scripts for broadcast news segments, ensuring clarity, accuracy, and adherence to station style guidelines.
- * Led sales team and managed client accounts for local businesses interested in partnering with the University of Miami for sports and radio broadcasts.
- * Created comprehensive informational packets including game news, storylines, player profiles, and feature ideas for digital and broadcast platforms to support sales and promotional efforts.
- * Coordinated production and scheduling of underwriting spots, ensuring timely delivery, technical quality, and compliance with FCC underwriting guidelines.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- **October 2024:** The Miami Foundation Micro-Grant (Award: \$1,000)
- **Summer 2021:** PRIME Summer Research Scholarship (Award: \$6,000)
- **Spring 2021:** National Up To Us Campus Competition Finalist (Award: \$2,500)
- **Fall 2020- Fall 2021:** Provost's Honor Roll & Dean's List
- **Fall 2018:** Dean's List

SKILLS, CERTIFICATIONS, RELATED COURSEWORK, AND AFFILIATIONS

- **Memberships:** Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS), Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), Triangle Chapter Society for Neuroscience
- **Certifications:** Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED & BBP Certification, 200-Hour Yoga Teacher Training Certification, Trauma-Informed Yoga Certification, Mastering Project Management with Asana Certification, Project Management in Technical Projects Certification, Project Management Foundations Certification, Reiki Level I/II/Master Teacher Certification
- **Courses:** CSC120/220 Computer Programming, CSC314 Computer Organization and Architecture, CSC315 Intro to Python, CSC322 Systems Programming, CSC317 Data Structures and Algorithms, CSC200 Data Science in R, CSC423 Database Systems, PSY290/390 Research Methods, PHI348 Philosophy of Brain and Behavioral Science, PSY474 Mindfulness Attention & Brain, CSC550 Computational Neuroscience
- **Programming:** Python, Java, R, C/C++, SQL
- **Spoken Languages:** English (proficient), Spanish (familiar)
- **Hobbies:** reading books, meditating, yoga, tarot/fortune telling, sports (football, basketball, golf, soccer, hockey)