

# DEVELOPMENTS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AREA



**Top to bottom:**  
Dr. Susan Gelman  
- **Calvin, Hobbes**  
Gabriela Suarez  
- **Lola**  
Ella Simmons  
- **Simba & Remy**  
Dominic Kelly  
- **Cheddar**

*Developmental Area Pets, Winter 2022*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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I first want to acknowledge the great contribution from Susan Gelman to guide the program through the many pandemic disruptions (and other disruptions as well!) during her final two academic years as the area chair. These have been trying times for everyone, and Professor Gelman provided guidance and support through the challenges we have all been facing. Thanks again, Susan!

Despite continuing disruptions, the area has experienced another excellent year of accomplishments and program growth. Here are some highlights to celebrate, many of which will be explored in more depth elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In the fall, we welcomed an excellent group of incoming graduate students, including **Enrica Bridgewater** (joint with Communications), **Jada Childs**, **Susan He** (AMDP), **Jessica Pitts**, **Yiyan (Rose) Wang**, **Ran (Rachel) Yan**, **Yue (Linda) Zhang**, and **Emma Gross** (joint with Social Work). We are also fortunate to have another very strong cohort of incoming graduate students next September, including **Lester Gomez**, **Emily Briggs**, **Myriam Al Bcherraoui**. This is a truly impressive group with diverse research interests. I want especially to thank the admissions committee, headed by Professor Warneken, and all of those who hosted and helped with admissions weekend, which was held remotely again this year. (We have all become experts at Zoom! But if the public health situation improves, we look forward to resuming more in person meetings and get-togethers.) We also look forward to welcoming Dr. David Menendez, who will be joining the Gelman Lab this summer as a new post-doc.

It was also a productive year for the developmental psychology training grant, which was renewed for another five-year term. During the 2021-22 academic year, the training grant supported four students: **Jenny Cleary** (Clinical), **Averill Cantwell** (Biopsych),



**Prof. Daniel Keating**

*Developmental Area Chair  
Professor of Psychology,  
Psychiatry, and Pediatrics;  
Research Professor, Survey  
Research Center, Institute for  
Social Research*



**Felicia Hardi** (Developmental), and **Deaweh Benson** (Developmental), who, along with postdoctoral fellows (**Natasha Chaku**, **Matthew Nielson**) all participated in a weekly seminar and integrated new dimensions into their research.

We also want to CONGRATULATE AND CELEBRATE the students who are completing, or have completed, their PhD during this academic year: **Michael Demidenko**, **Petal Grower**, **Dominic Kelly**, **Change Kwelese (SW)**, **Joyce Lee (SW)**, **Kevin Constante Toala**, **Nicholas Waters**. Go forth and continue to make us proud!

Last year, Professor Gelman took note of the generous endowment for the Arnold Sameroff Lecture Series on Theoretical Developmental Psychology Fund, and after two missed attempts owing to COVID (in 2020 and 2021), we were able to host Professor **Megan Gunnar**, Regents Professor and Distinguished McKnight University Professor, University of Minnesota, who on April 6 delivered a superb lecture on *Relationships and the Regulation of Stress in Human Development*. It was a great opportunity to socialize as well, as the first in-person colloquium area event since the start of the pandemic, further enhanced by the reception that followed the lecture, and attended by many faculty (including emeriti faculty) and students. Thanks again to Arnold and Susan Sameroff for their generous endowment in support of the biennial series.



On a sadder note, we were saddened to learn of the loss of a distinguished graduate from the developmental area, Dr. David Liu. The *In Memoriam* tribute appears below:

With great sadness, we are sharing the news that a beloved friend and member of the developmental psychology community, David Liu, passed away unexpectedly on March 4, 2022. David was born in Taiwan, and immigrated to the United States with his family. He received his bachelor's in psychology in 1997 from Carnegie Mellon before shifting to the University of Pittsburgh to work as a research assistant where his love of child development blossomed. David completed his PhD in Developmental Psychology at the University of Michigan, under the mentorship of Dr. Henry Wellman, and this is where his broad network of collaborations began to really take root. David's keen ideas and passion for developmental science and his collegial and generative approach attracted folks to him even at this early stage in his career. Following his PhD David embarked on a postdoctoral position at the University of Washington, before taking up faculty positions at UCSD and then the University of Oklahoma.

David's work on the development of theory of mind has made lasting contributions to our understanding of children's thinking across cultures. His seminal 2004 work on elucidating scaling of theory-of-mind tasks has been cited widely and helped to shape work on the sequence of children's mental state understandings.

David was known for his brilliant mind and his contributions to the study of children's social cognition, which came through in his work; however, what those of us lucky to know him will always cherish, his true legacy, was his gentle heart, which came through in his friendships. David brought joy to, and was loved by, many who had the privilege to come to know him, for his compassion and his astute (and regularly amusing) observations of our world, most often shared over a meal and a diet coke. David always carried with him a recognition of the love and sacrifices his parents made for him in their experiences immigrating to the United States and in their support of his educational opportunities, and that was reflected in how much he looked out for others, including through his work with children and in his friendships. David is survived by his parents, his extended family, and by many close friends. He will be greatly missed.



Finally, I want to thank all the faculty, students, and staff in the Developmental Area for their continued hard work, achievements, support, and flexibility in dealing with ongoing challenges of an extraordinary nature. Let's hope that the coming year's focus can be on extraordinary accomplishments instead of extraordinary challenges!

Newsletter Committee

**Editor** Joonyoung Park

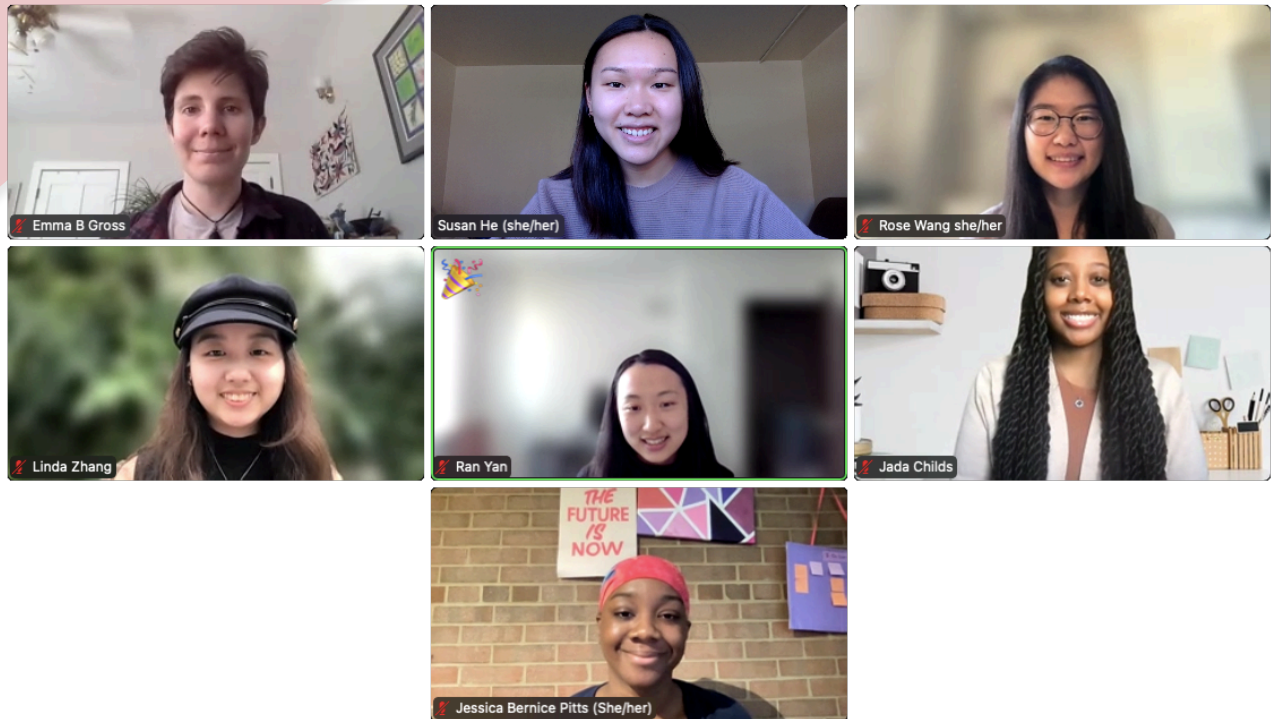
**Contributor** Susan Gelman, Felicia Hardi, Danielle Rosenscruggs, & Valerie Umscheid

**Faculty advisor** Ioulia Kovelman

# WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT!

CONTRIBUTOR: Valerie Umscheid

## NEW STUDENTS



### 2021 cohort

(L-R, from top row): Emma B. Gross, Susan He, Rose Wang, Yue (Linda) Zhang, Ran Yan, Jada Childs, Jessica Pitts

## JADA CHILDS

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** Eastern Michigan University

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** I was a presidential scholar at EMU pursuing my bachelors in psychology. While there, I was apart of the Honors College, EMU Mentor Collective, Psychology Student Advisors, Active Minds, N.A.P.S., and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Vonnie McLoyd

**What are your research interests?** My research interests broadly center around academic efficacy and





stress and health outcomes for African American emerging adults. I am currently specifically interested in Imposter Phenomenon in academia as well as the ways in which environmental characteristics, SES, violence exposure, and discrimination are related to health disparities experienced by African Americans.

**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?** My previous Mentor, Dr. Heather Janisse, who took me under her wing and showed me that psychology was more than just the work in the classroom. She allowed me to both join her lab and use data from her Parents for Healthy Kids project to write my first thesis paper. I saw the passion that she had for the research that she was conducting and her aims to make sure that positive outcomes for African American children would stem from her work. This is what ignited my love for research.

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** I would most likely be in a practitioner based Clinical Psychology program. Once I got to college, psychology was always a constant. I only ever struggled between my love for people and client interaction and my love for research and academia. Ultimately, it came down to mentors and the opportunity to work with Vonnie as well as the chance to gain teaching experience. I may not have client interactions, but the chance to shape minds and inspire another generation the way that those who came before me inspired me was too much to miss out on. Also...Go Blue!

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** I am an avid biker, but I go into hibernation in the winter. I have an extreme dislike for the cold. So, I am just excited to be able to get back out there and hit the trails again, travel, and of course make lots of headway on my 619.

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** I honestly feel like Michigan has it all. Urban life, rural life, you can party in the city if that's your thing, or relax and enjoy nature or visit one of the many cider mills. Not to mention how beautiful it is in the summer and fall months.

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** I love reading, working out, trying new foods and restaurants (the reason why I have to workout), going to the movies, and bike riding.

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**

Probably superhuman willpower. To be able to just will an outcome to be what you want it to be. I guess we all kind of have that super power to an extent though.

**Words you live by?** "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." Maya Angelou

## EMMA B. GROSS

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** BA, Wesleyan University; MSW, Simmons University

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** I was practicing social work in New York City; I did individual, family and group therapy, primarily with low-

income and LGBTQ+ folks.

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Susan Gelman and Dr. Shanna Kattari

**What are your research interests?** Gender identity development, how kids think and talk about gender in themselves and others, and the processes by which people come to understand and accept or reject gender nonconformity in loved ones, especially in the family context.



**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?** Mrs. Ferguson, 3rd Grade

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** I'd probably be practicing social work. I love my research, but I miss my clients!

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** Taking my kid swimming!

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** I love how late it stays light, being so far west in the timezone.

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** I like to cook, read and walk.

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**

Teleportation.

**Words you live by?** Look at that cool leaf!

## SUSAN HE

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** University of Michigan

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** I did my undergrad at Michigan, majoring in psychology and minoring in history. I was an undergrad RA for Dr. Felix Warneken, who is now my advisor!

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Felix Warneken

**What are your research interests?** Children's development of fairness beliefs, moral development, punishment.



**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?**

The most memorable teacher to me, is my 3rd grade ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher. I had just moved to the United States and did not speak the language at all. Mrs. Totino was there with me every step of the way from learning how to spell "cat" to moving up to writing fictional stories. From her, I learned that learning is about being willing to try something new.

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** If I didn't study developmental psychology, I would probably be pursuing a career in law, specifically focusing on juvenile justice and child advocacy reform work!

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** I'm looking forward to visiting Europe for the first time!

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** The apple cider season!

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** I just started rockclimbing, and I'm enjoying it a lot! It's so much fun and rewarding to get up to the top of a route, although it is scary to fall back down. I also love doing jigsaw puzzles and baking.

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**

I'd like the ability to read minds!

**Words you live by?** When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!



## Jessica Pitts

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** Brooklyn College

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** Working in research labs.

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Rona Carter

**What are your research interests?** I'm broadly interested ethnic and racial socialization and how stereotypes influence the ethnic and gender identity of Black youth. Currently, I'm working on a project looking at the socialization of the Strong Black Woman Schema in Black girls from mothers and friends.

**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?** Dr. Yana Kuchirko

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** I would be working for research assistant helping community college student learn about and conduct original and community based entrepreneurial research.

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** Rollerskating.

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** The nature.

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Baking, rollerskating, yoga, reading, escape rooms, and painting.

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**

I would want the ability to fly.

**Words you live by?** You got this!





## ROSE WANG

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** College of William and Mary (B.S. in Psychology and Economics)

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** Finishing undergrad, spending time with family and friends, and traveling in China.

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Felix Warneken

**What are your research interests?** I'm interested in children's prosocial behaviors in experimental and real-world settings. My current project seeks to measure children and adults' implicit attitudes about fairness.

**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?** My fourth grade Chinese teacher, who taught me that anyone can master anything as long as they are passionate about the subject and spend enough time and effort on it

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** Independent film-maker, or a professional chef?

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** Getting some rest, reading, and mentoring MSPICED students!

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** Sunny days, parks, Frita Batidos, and Blank Slate Creamery!

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Cooking, reading, walks/hikes, watching movies, journaling, and knitting (a new hobby I took up here in Michigan).

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**  
Invisibility!

**Words you live by?** Something is better than nothing.



## RAN YAN

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** Smith College

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** Psychology Major and Part-time finding the best coffee in town.

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Adriene Beltz

**What are your research interests?** Gender/sex differences, internalizing across the lifespan, family relationship.

**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?** Dr. Peter de Villiers

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** Great question, not endeavors but if there is a possibility I would love to be a pilot :)

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** Welcoming my younger sister to Ann Arbor and exercising my 'parent-rights' in the next 4-5 years.

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** Michigan shapes like a mitten!!

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Playing the piano, wandering while listening to music.

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**

Telepathy (or maybe flying).

**Words you live by?** Done is better than perfect.



## YUE (LINDA) ZHANG

**What is/are your prior institution(s)?** Brown University

**What were you doing before coming to the University of Michigan?** Completing my bachelor's degree in Cognitive Neuroscience.

**Who are your current advisors?** Dr. Chris Monk and Dr. Adriene Beltz

**What are your research interests?** Early life experiences and the impact on brain development.

**A teacher that changed the way you felt about learning?** My 5th grade English teacher Ms. Manning -- she had so much faith in me and that I could do something great one day.

**If you were not in developmental psychology what endeavors would you be pursuing instead?** Either an astrophysicist (I am still fascinated with space, time, and stars) or an artist :) It could really go either way.

**One thing you are looking forward to doing this summer?** Getting to see Michigan summer for the first time and kayaking again! And hopefully going to see the Great Lakes at some point :)

**Favorite thing about Michigan so far?** The nature!

**What are some of your hobbies or recreational interests?** Anything related to art/DIY, the occasional baking, traveling (especially going on road trips), and exploring new restaurants/cuisines

**If you could have any superhuman ability, what would it be?**

Teleportation

**Words you live by?** "Dwell on the beauty of life. Watch the stars, and see yourself running with them."

# PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

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CONTRIBUTOR: Danielle Rosenscruggs

## Achievements & Awards

### FACULTY AWARD

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**Susan Gelman:** 2022 Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award, American Psychological Association

**Henry Wellman:** 2022 Mentoring Award from the Association for Psychological Science

### PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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**Adriene Beltz:** Promotion to Associate professor with tenure, pending approval from the Provost and Regents; Became a topic editor for Journal of Neuroscience Research and a statistical consulting editor for The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry

**Katie Jodl:** Promoted to Lecturer IV after successful major review (Fall 2021)

**Henry Wellman:** Will be retiring in July with 45 years of service to UM

### FACULTY GRANTS

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**Adriene Beltz:** "Using astronomical simulation techniques to assess temporal network methods for studying individual differences in learning" funded by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and Jacobs Foundation

### STUDENT AWARDS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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**Kari Sherwood:** Henry J. Meyer Scholarship Award, Rackham Jean Forrest Award, Department of Psychology Summer Research Award

**Andrea Mora:** UM Library Student Mini Grant, Association of Latina and Latino Social Work Educators (ALLSWE) Scholarship, Vivian A. and James L. Curtis Endowed Scholarship

**Joonyoung Cho:** John Longres Award in Psychology, 2022

**Chi-Lin Yu:** The Diversity Scholarship for the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

**Sunghyun Hong:** Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention

**Rita Xiaochen Hu:** Henry Meyer Paper Award

**Ana Patricia Esqueda:** ISR-Rackham Summer Training Award, University of Michigan Summer Research Award, Vizas Graduate Practicum Award, Rackham Conference Travel Grant



## STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

**Michael Demidenko** - New position: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University w/ Dr. Russell Poldrack

**Ana Patricia Esqueda** - Diversity committee representative for LSPA

**Rita Xiaochen Hu** - International Task Force Lead, The Gerontological Society of America Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization

**Andrea Mora** - New Position: Editorial Assistant for the Journal for the Society of Social Work and Research (JSSWR)

**Joonyoung Park** - Co-chair for APSA & PISA

**Kaitlin Paxton Ward** - Received a job offer from Google as a People Analytics Researcher, and a research position at UC Berkeley in the School of Social Welfare.

## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Jonathan Lane** - Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Vanderbilt University

## PROGRAM MILESTONES

**Deaweh Benson** - Completed 619: Becoming an Activist: Critical Action During the Transition to Adulthood, Completed prelims, & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.

**Ana Patricia Esqueda** - Completed 619: The Role of Household Media Use in Shaping Children's First Language Abilities and Second Language Acquisition, Completed prelims, & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.

**Felicia Hardi** - Completed prelims & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.

**Sunghyun Hannah Hong** - Completed prelims: Summer 2021.

**Joonyoung Park** - Completed 619: Pubertal Timing and Sexual Risk-Taking Behavior Among Adolescent Girls: Does Supportive Parenting Matter?, Completed prelims, & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.

**Ella Simmons** - Completed 619: The Role of Counterexamples in Truth Judgments About Generic Statements, Completed prelims, & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.

**Gabriela Suarez** - Completed 619: Longitudinal Analysis of Parent Psychological Well-being Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Completed prelims, & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.

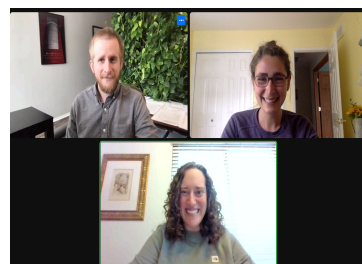
**Kaitlin Paxton Ward** - Advanced to Candidacy: Winter 2022.

**Chi-Lin Yu** - Completed prelims & Advanced to Candidacy: Summer 2021.



*2019 Developmental Area Cohort  
Hang Out (L-R): Felicia, Joonyoung,  
Gabriela, Deaweh, Ella*

*2020 Developmental Area Cohort  
Hang Out (L-R, top to bottom):  
Jay, Valerie, Danielle*



## Publications & Presentations

### PUBLICATIONS

- Demidenko, M. I.,** Huntley, E. D., Weigard, A. S., Keating, D. P., & Beltz, A. M. (2022). Neural heterogeneity underlying late adolescent motivational processing is linked to individual differences in behavioral sensation seeking. *Journal of Neuroscience Research*, 100(3), 762–779. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jnr.25005>
- Hardi, F. A.,** Goetschius, L. G., Peckins, M. K., Brooks-Gunn, J., McLanahan, S. S., McLoyd, V., Lopez-Duran, N., Mitchell, C., Hyde, L. W., & Monk, C. S. (in press, *Journal of cognitive neuroscience*). Differential developmental associations of material hardship exposure and adolescent amygdala–prefrontal cortex white matter connectivity.
- Hu, R. X., & Li, L. W.** (2022). Social Disconnectedness and Loneliness: Do Self-Perceptions of Aging Play a Role?. *The journals of gerontology. Series B, Psychological sciences and social sciences*, gbac008. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbac008>
- Mora, A. S.,** Ceballo, R., & Cranford, J. A. (2022). Latino/a adolescents facing neighborhood dangers: An examination of community violence and gender-based harassment. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 69(1–2), 18–32. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12556>
- Sherwood, K.,** Smith, M. J., Johnson, J., Harrington, M., Ross, B., Blajeski, S., Dawalt, L., Bishop, L., & Smith, J. D. (in press). Mixed methods implementation evaluation of virtual interview training for transition-age autistic youth in pre-employment transition services. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*.
- Sherwood, K., & Kattari, S.** (2021). Reducing ableism in social work education through universal design for learning and policy. *Journal for Social Work Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2021.1997686>
- Suarez, G. L.,** Morales, S., Miller, N., Penela, E., Chronis-Tuscano, A., Henderson, H., & Fox, N. A. (2021). Examining a developmental pathway from early behavioral inhibition to emotion regulation and social anxiety: The moderating role of parenting. *Developmental Psychology*, 57(8), 1261–1273. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001225>
- Suarez, G. L.,** Burt, S. A., Gard, A. M., Klump, K. L., & Hyde, L.W. (2022). The Impact of neighborhood disadvantage on amygdala reactivity: Pathways through neighborhood social processes. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2022.101061>
- Ward, K. P.,** Grogan-Kaylor, A., Pace, G. T., Cuartas, J., & Lee, S. J. (2021). A multilevel ecological analysis of the predictors of spanking across 65 countries. *BMJ Open*, 11(8): e046075. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-046075>
- Ward, K. P.** (2022). The transition to siblinghood: An understudied yet influential process pertinent to social work research. *Social Work*, 67(2), 175-283. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swac009>

- Ward, K. P.,** Lee, S. J., Grogan-Kaylor, A. C., Ma, J., & Pace, G. T. (2022). Patterns of caregiver aggressive and nonaggressive discipline toward young children in low- and middle-income countries: A latent class approach. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 128(5), 105066. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105606>
- Ward, L. M.,** & Cox, V. (2021). Is that a real woman? Reality TV viewing and Black viewers' beliefs about femininity. *Psychology of Popular Media*, 10(4), 411–421. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000291>
- Ward, L. M.,** Grower, P., & Reed, L. (2021). Living life as the Bachelor/ette: Contributions of diverse television genres to adolescents' acceptance of gendered sexual scripts. *Journal of Sex Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.1891519>
- Ward, L. M.,** Rosenscruggs, D., & Aguinaldo, E. (accepted pending revisions). A scripted sexuality: Media, gendered sexual scripts, and their impact on our lives. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*.
- Yu, C. L.,** Kovelman, I., & Wellman, H. M. (2021). How bilingualism informs us about theory of mind development. *Child Development Perspectives*, 15(3), 154-159. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12412>

## FACULTY TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- Beltz, A. M.** (2022, March). Intensive longitudinal data analysis with group iterative multiple model estimation (GIMME). Invited presentation given at the Causal Inference from Longitudinal Data Workshop sponsored by the Jacobs Foundation and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, virtual.
- Beltz, A. M.** (2022, February). From average differences to different from average: When gender matters for emotion and anxiety. Virtual presentation for the Ann Arbor District Library "Exploring the Mind" Community Talk.
- Ward, L. M.** (2021, October). A scripted sexuality: Media use, gendered sexual scripts, and consequences for youths' sexual socialization. Presented as the opening plenary for the annual (and virtual) Meeting of the Canadian Sex Research Forum.
- Ward, L. M.** (2021, Feb). Making Toys for all Children: Creating Inclusive and Bias Free Play Experiences. Fisher Price Speaker Series. Online keynote presentation.

## STUDENT TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- Benson, D.** (2022, March). Becoming an Activist: Critical Action During the Transition to Adulthood. Poster session presented at the meeting of Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.
- Cho, J.,** Dunkle, R., & Pace, G. (2021, November). Motivations to Join And Stay A Member Of A Village For Older Adults. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
- Esqueda, A.P.,** Tardif, T., (2021). The Role of Household Media Use on Children's Language Abilities. [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development, virtual.



- Hardi, F.**, Goetschius, L. G., McLoyd, V. C., Lopez-Duran, N. L., Mitchell, C., Hyde, L. W., Beltz, A., Monk, C. S. (2021, December). Adolescent data-driven neural networks prospectively predict adult anxiety symptoms related to COVID-19 economic adversity. Poster and oral talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. San Juan, PR.
- Hardi, F.**, Goetschius, L. G., McLoyd, V. C., Lopez-Duran, N. L., Mitchell, C., Hyde, L. W., Beltz, A., Monk, C. S. (2022, April). Adolescent data-driven functional network connectivity prospectively predicts adult anxiety symptoms related to COVID-19 economic adversity. Oral talk presented at the NIH Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Health Impacts of COVID-19 Initiative Grant Results Webinar. Virtual.
- Hong, S.**, Hardi, F., Maguire-Jack, K. (2022) Linking mother's ethnoracial identity and educational attainment to adolescent's social skills: The mediating role of early child attachment security. Oral presentation at the ResilienceCon, Virtual due to COVID-19.
- Mora, A.**, Pérez, J., Ibrahim, A., Hunter, J., Wasi, H., & Gutierrez, L. (November 2021). MSW Faculty Views Towards Racial and Social Justice. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 67th Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL. (Panel)
- Park, J.** (2022, March). Pubertal timing and sexual risk-taking behavior among adolescent girls: Does supportive parenting matter? Poster session presented at the meeting of Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.
- Sherwood, K.** (2022, May). Transition-Age Autistic Youth: Are We Meeting Their Needs? Co-Leader of the Special Interest Group at the 2022 International Society for Autism Research annual meeting, Austin, TX.
- Suarez, G. L.**, Burt, S. A., Gard, A. M., Klump, K. L., & Hyde, L. W. (2021). Exposure to Community Violence is Associated with Heightened Amygdala Reactivity to Threat. Poster presented at the Society for Developmental Psychology, Virtual Conference.
- Ward, K. P.** (2022, January). Predictors and trajectories of mothers' nonviolent discipline use: A longitudinal multilevel examination. Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.
- Ward, K.P.**, & Lee, S. J. (2021, August). Experiencing criticism of parenting predicts poorer parental wellbeing during COVID-19. Paper presented in C.M. Rodriguez (Chair), Parenting under pressure: Child and parent mental health and harsh parenting during a pandemic. Annual Conference of the American Psychological Association, virtual.
- Ward, K. P.** & Lee, S. J. (2021, July). Parenting stress, observed responsiveness, and child wellbeing among families with low income. [Oral presentation]. International Congress of Psychology conference, virtual.
- Ward, K. P.**, Grogan-Kaylor, A., Lee, S. J., Ma, J., & Pace, G. T. (2021, April). Examining nine forms of parental discipline across 60 low- and middle-income countries: A multilevel Bayesian approach. [Oral presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development, virtual.

- Ward, K. P.,** Grogan-Kaylor, A., Pace, G. T., Lee, S. J., & Ma, J. (2021, January). Examining 9 Forms of Parental Discipline across 60 Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Bayesian Multilevel Analysis. [Oral presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research, virtual.
- Ward, K. P.,** Lee, S. J., & Chang, O. D. (2022, January). "Tell me what I'm doing wrong:" Criticism of parenting and associations with mental health during COVID-19 [Poster presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, D.C.
- Ward, K. P.,** Wood, D., Young, T., Olsen, A., & Sorensen, K. (2021, April). The effectiveness of a retreat intervention for female survivors of child sexual abuse. [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development, virtual.
- Yan, R.** (2022, March). A role for mothers in the link between COVID - 19 stress and adolescent mental health. Poster session presented at the meeting of Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.
- Yu, C. L. &** Wellman, H. M. (2022, April). Young Children Treat Puppets (and Dolls and Pictures) Like Real Persons. Poster presented at the 2022 Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Madison, WI.
- Yu, C. L.,** Eggleston, R., Kovelman, I., & Brennan, J. (2022, April). Using functional near-infrared spectroscopy to study developmental aspects of naturalistic narrative comprehension. Symposium presentation at the 2022 Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Madison, WI.

## Personal Milestones



**Sunghyun Hong** gave birth to Caleb Bohyun Beck in early February 2022.



**Gabriela Suarez** got married in August, 2021.

**Rita Xiaochen Hu** got married to Yutong Wang, a Ph.D. Candidate in UM's Electrical and Computer Engineering program.





**Kari Sherwood** adopted a 17-year-old youth (Heropsyne) from foster care on December 2, 2021. She also has two other children: Karys (12) and Kai (9).

**Andrea Mora** gave birth to 3rd baby boy, Aaron Mateo Mora Carlos, in November 2021.



## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS!



**Berenice Castillo** defended dissertation titled *"Three Studies Examining Externalizing Behavior and Substance Use Among Diverse Youth"*  
Committee Chairs: Dr. John Schulenberg and Dr. Andrew Grogan-Kaylor



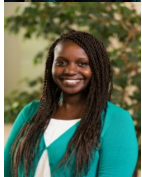
**Kevin Constante** defended dissertation titled *"An Exploration of Ethnic Identity and Social Reorientation among Youth"*  
Committee Chair: Dr. Deborah Rivas-Drake



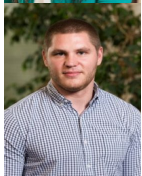
**Michael Demidenko** defended dissertation titled *"Neural Characteristics of Reward in Adolescents: Neural substrates of Risk-taking, Researcher Degrees of Freedom and Person-specific Networks"*  
Committee Chair: Dr. Daniel Keating



**Petal Grower** defended dissertation titled *"Exploring the components and consequences of enjoyment of sexualization for Black women"*  
Committee Chair: Dr. L. Monique Ward



**Change Kwesele** defended dissertation titled *"Shibukeni!": Exploring the Mental Health Perceptions and Experiences of Young Adult Children of African Immigrants through the Lens of Sociocultural Influences"*  
Committee Chair: Dr. Rona Carter



**Nick Waters** defended dissertation titled *"Understanding the Nature and Role of Executive Functions in Children's Academic Development"*  
Committee Chair: Dr. Pamela Davis - Kean



# TARGETING CHILDREN'S BELIEFS AND MISCONCEPTIONS CONCERNING COVID-19

BY: Susan Gelman



**Members of U-M's Conceptual Development Lab are working on** a project designed to map out what elementary-school children understand about COVID-19, and to design a home-based instructional intervention to teach them key concepts about this new disease. Developing effective means of educating children about disease transmission is vitally important, not only for scientific literacy, but also for public health. Investigators on the project include Prof. Susan Gelman, Dr. Danielle Labotka, and incoming post-doctoral fellow David

Menendez. This research is funded through a grant to Dr. Gelman from the National Science Foundation through the EHR Core Research (ECR) program, which supports work that advances the fundamental research literature on STEM learning.

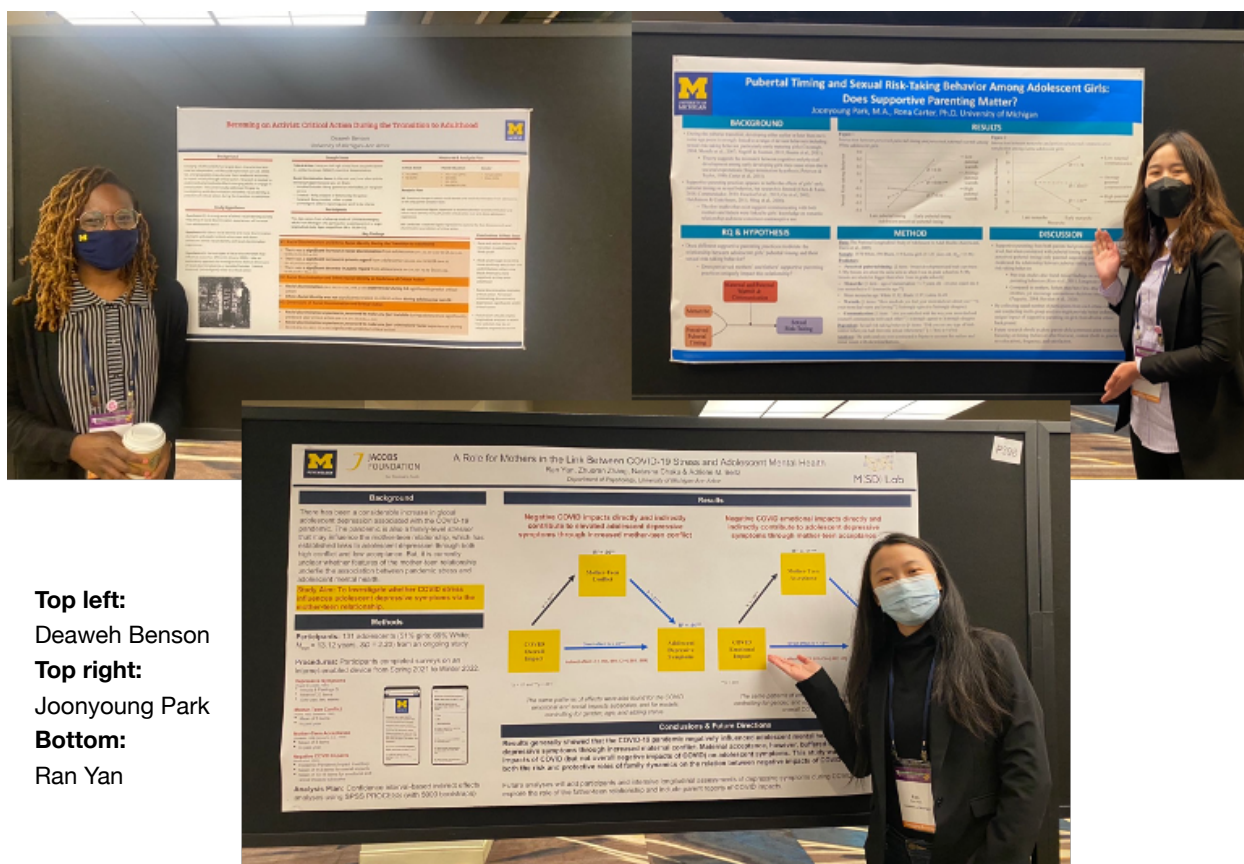
**In three studies**, the team is focusing on US children ages 5-12 years growing up in three distinct community contexts. Research questions include: At what ages do children understand aspects of viral transmission that are non-obvious or invisible? At what ages can children go beyond isolated facts they have learned and figure out what to do in new situations? How is children's biological reasoning influenced by non-biological factors, such whether a potential contact is a friend or a stranger? How does children's reasoning about a global pandemic that has already massively disrupted their daily lives (COVID-19) compare with a more familiar illness (the flu)? Can young children successfully learn about core aspects of disease transmission by means of an illustrated storybook? The researchers hope that findings from the project will inform parents, educators, and public health professionals regarding gaps and misconceptions in children's understanding of the transmission of viral disease in general, and COVID-19 in particular, as well as evidence-based scientific data on how most effectively to target educational efforts with children to improve both scientific literacy and adherence to public health guidelines. It will also be a source of theoretically significant data of central interest to STEM education, regarding how to teach children about vital scientific processes that they cannot see, how non-biological concepts influence children's biological reasoning, and the role of community context in biological understandings.





# CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT: SRA

By: Joonyoung Park



**Top left:**  
Deaweh Benson

**Top right:**  
Joonyoung Park

**Bottom:**  
Ran Yan

This year's **Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial meeting** was held in **New Orleans, Louisiana** from March 3rd to 5th, 2022. Since the meeting was held in in-person format, many developmental area members who participated flew to New Orleans to present their research. The conference not only focused on research but also integrated the New Orleans community's key stakeholders (adolescents, community change-makers) to emphasize the importance of the reciprocal link between research and community. Since the conference happened two days after Mardi Gras, the participants were able to enjoy the conference along with great food, music, weather(!), and culture in New Orleans.