

# Joseph A. Colantonio II

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## EDUCATION|

### **Rutgers University**, Newark, New Jersey, USA

- Doctoral Candidate in Developmental Psychology Sep 2018 – present
  - Advisor: Prof. Elizabeth Bonawitz, PhD
  - Cumulative GPA: 4.00 / 4.00
- M.A. in Psychology Oct 2021
- Non-matriculating Graduate Student Sep 2016 – Sep 2018
- B.A. in Mathematics Sep 2012 – May 2016
  - Honors College, graduated Summa Cum Laude.
  - Awarded jointly by Rutgers University and New Jersey Institute of Technology.
  - Minors: Physics, Psychology
  - Cumulative GPA: 3.89 / 4.00

## EXPERIENCE|

### **RESEARCH**

#### **Computational Cognitive Development Lab**, Harvard University - Graduate School of Education

- Research Staff Sep 2020 – Present
  - Interests: Curiosity; Epistemic Emotions; Learning through Play; Social Cognition
  - Adviser: Prof. Elizabeth Bonawitz

#### **Computational Cognitive Development Lab**, Rutgers University - Newark

- Graduate Research Assistant Sep 2018 – Present
  - Interests: Curiosity; Epistemic Emotions; Learning through Play; Social Cognition
  - Adviser: Prof. Elizabeth Bonawitz
- Post-bachelor Research Technician Sep 2016 – May 2018
  - Project Interests: Children's Biological Reasoning; Social Context in Decision Making; Epistemic Emotions & Cognition
  - Adviser: Prof. Elizabeth Bonawitz
- Undergraduate Honors Research Student, Psychology Department May 2014 – Aug 2016
  - Project Interests: Preschooler's Recursive Reasoning; Quantifying Preschooler's Theory of Mind
  - Advisers: Prof. Elizabeth Bonawitz and Prof. Patrick Shafto

### **TEACHING & MENTORSHIP**

#### **Psychology Department**, Rutgers University - Newark

- Graduate Teaching Assistant Sep 2020 – Present
  - Course: Statistical Methods for the Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences
- Course Coadjutant Sep 2020 – Present
  - Course: Developmental Psychology

#### **Psi Chi National Honor Society**, Rutgers University - Newark

- Graduate Liason Executive Board Member Aug 2020 – Present
  - Coordinate and lead chapter workshops meetings; Coordinate graduate-undergraduate mentorships.

#### **NSF REU**, Rutgers University - Newark

- Summer Intern Recruiter and Supervisor Feb 2020 – Aug 2020

#### **Garden State-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation**

- Peer-led Team Leader Jan 2015 – May 2015
  - Mathematics: Calculus I (135) & II (136), Linear Algebra (350)
  - Computer Science: Computers & Programming I (101) & II (102)

#### **Mathematics Department**, Rutgers University - Newark

- Teaching Apprentice Sep 2014 – Dec 2014
  - Adviser: Prof. William Keigher
  - Course: Precalculus (Mathematics-114)

## NEWS FEATURES|

- **Child Trends News Service - Postitive Parenting News Network**  
*The Power of Awe Sparks Learning*

## ■ Child & Family Blog

*A New Idea For Early Learning In Pre-Schoolers: Inspire Them With Awe*

## AWARDS

## & SCHOLARSHIPS|

- NSF GRFP – Honorable Mention Apr 2020  
National Science Foundation Fellowship award.
- Minority Biomedical Research Support Program Sep 2018 – Aug 2020  
NIH-awarded graduate student research funding. Two-year term.
- Graduate Student Diversity Travel Award Nov 2019  
Financial Aid for travel to the 2019 Cognitive Development Society Meeting.
- Graduate Student Travel Award Jul 2018  
Financial Aid for travel to the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- Post-Baccalaureate Research Experience Program Sep 2016 – May 2018  
Rutgers University - Newark  
NIH grant-funded program for student employment as a research technician.
- Dean's List Sep 2012 – May 2016  
Rutgers University - Newark  
For attaining a semester GPA of at least 3.50.
- Charles Pine Interdisciplinary Award 2016  
Rutgers University - Newark  
Inaugural recipient; for demonstrating outstanding excellence in physical science and mathematics.
- Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society Sep 2015
- Minority Biomedical Research Support Program Sep 2015 – Aug 2016  
NIH-awarded undergraduate research scholar funding.
- Garden State-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Sep 2014
- Dan and Lisa DiFilippo Endowed Scholarship Apr 2015– May 2016  
For demonstrating outstanding academic merit and financial need.
- Arthur B. Newman Honors College Scholars Sep 2013 – May 2016  
For demonstrating outstanding academic merit and financial need.

## PUBLICATIONS|

## COMMENTARY

Persaud, K., I. Bass, Colantonio, J., Macias, C., and Bonawitz, E. (*in press*, 2020) Opportunities and Challenges Integrating Resource-Rational Analysis with Developmental Perspectives. [Peer commentary on “Resource-rational analysis: understanding human cognition as the optimal use of limited computational resources” by F. Lieder & T. L. Griffiths]. *Brain and Behavioral Sciences*.

## MANUSCRIPTS

Colantonio, J., Durkin, K., Caglar, L. R., Shafto, P., and Bonawitz, E. (*in revision*) The Intentional Selection Assumption.

Kominsky, J., Begus, K., Bass, I., Colantonio, J., and Bonawitz, E. (*in prep*) Innovations and Adaptations of Developmental Research Methods for Online Environments.

Colantonio, J., Walden, Z., Dehrone, T., and Bonawitz, E. (*in prep*) Empowering Exploration: Learned Sharing Strategies Increase Variability in Preschoolers’ Play.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Colantonio, J., and Bonawitz, E. (2018) Awesome play: Awe increases preschooler’s exploration and discovery, in *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.*, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, Aug 2018.

## THESES

Colantonio, J. (2016) “Quantifying Children’s Development Across Standard False-Belief Trials.” *Rutgers University Undergraduate Honors Thesis*. Advisers: Elizabeth Bonawitz and Patrick Shafto.

## PRESENTATIONS| TALKS

- Colantonio, J., Bascandzief, I., Theobald, M., Brod, G. and Bonawitz, E. “*Theory-Based Bayesian Models of Elementary School Children’s Pupillary Surprise*,” Symposium paper to be presented at Society for Research in Child Development, Wisconsin, USA. Mar 2021.(Conference to be held virtually due to COVID-19)
- Colantonio, J., Sharp, S., Mackey, A., and Bonawitz, E. “*Promoting Question Asking to Foster Curiosity: An Intervention Study*,” Symposium paper to be presented at Society for Research in Child Development, Wisconsin, USA. Mar 2021.(Conference to be held virtually due to COVID-19)
- Colantonio, J., and Bonawitz, E. “*Affecting play: Awe increases preschooler’s exploration and discovery*,” Lightning Talk presented at the Curiosity, Explanation, Exploration Workshop, Princeton, New Jersey, USA. Jun 2019.
- Colantonio, J., Walden, Z., Dehrone, T., and Bonawitz, E. “*When Innovators Succeed: Empowerment Strategies Increase Preschoolers’ Exploration*,” Speed Talk presented at the Play and Learning Conference, Newark, USA May 2019.
- Colantonio, J., and Bonawitz, E. “*Affecting play: Awe increases preschooler’s exploration and discovery*,” Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Mar 2019.
- Colantonio, J., and Bonawitz, E. “*Affecting play: Awe increases preschooler’s exploration and discovery*,” Talk presented at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Jul 2018.
- K. Blacker, Colantonio, J., LoBue, V., and Bonawitz, E. “*Reasoning about the process of illness transmission improves preschoolers’ later avoidance of sick individuals*,” Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development., Austin, Texas, USA. Apr 2017.

## POSTERS

- Colantonio, J., Bascandzief, I., Theobald, M., Brod, G. and Bonawitz, E. “*Modeling pupillary surprise response in elementary school children with theory-based Bayesian models*,” Poster session presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada. Aug 2020.(Conference held virtually due to COVID-19)
- Colantonio, J., Walden, Z., Dehrone, T., and Bonawitz, E. “*When Innovators Succeed: Empowerment Strategies Increase Preschoolers’ Exploration*,” Poster session presented at the 10th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Kentucky, USA Nov 2019.
- Colantonio, J., Walden, Z., Dehrone, T., and Bonawitz, E. “*When Innovators Succeed: Empowerment Strategies Increase Preschoolers’ Exploration*,” Poster session presented at the Guided Playful Workshop of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, Canada. Aug 2018.
- Colantonio, J., and Bonawitz, E. “*Awesome play: Awe increases preschooler’s exploration and discovery*,” in *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*., Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Aug 2018.
- Durkin, K., Colantonio, J., Caglar, L., Bonawitz, E., and Shafto, P. “*Why are these my options? Roles of social inferences in choice behavior*,” Poster session presented at the 10th Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Portland, Oregon, USA. Oct 2017.
- Durkin, K., Colantonio, J., Caglar, L., Bonawitz, E., and Shafto, P. “*Why are these my options? Roles of social inferences in choice behavior*,” Poster session presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Jun 2017.

## SKILLS|

**Programming:** Python, HTML, CSS, Github

**Software:** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, MS Office, SPSS, Qualtrics, HitFilm, Atom, Jupyter

[CV compiled on 2021-07-07]