


Sivenesi Subramoney

Postdoctoral Fellow in Psychology

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

July 2025 - Present

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology

Mentors: Fantasy Lozada & Chelsea Williams

EDUCATION

University of California, Merced, USA

2019 - 2025

Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences, Developmental Psychology

With Certificate in Quantitative Methods

Dissertation Committee: Eric Walle (chair), Alexandra Main, Rose Scott, & Dalia Magaña

University of Cape Town, South Africa

2016

M.A. in Neuropsychology (with distinction)

Advisors: Kevin Thomas and Melike Fourie (co-advisor)

University of Cape Town, South Africa

2012

B. Soc Sci Honors in Psychology (First class pass)

Advisors: Kevin Thomas and Melike Fourie (co-advisor)

University of Cape Town, South Africa

2011

B. Soc Sci in Psychology and isiXhosa (with distinction in isiXhosa and degree with distinction)

PUBLICATIONS

Walle, E. A., Özden, Z.B., **Subramoney, S.**, & Ganesh Kumar, M. (in press). Emotional signals. In S. P. Johnson (Ed.), *Handbook of Perceptual Development*. Oxford University Press.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E.A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2025). Emotion brokering in Latinxs: Associations with depressive symptoms and acculturative stress. *Emotion*, 25(6), 1536-1549. doi.org/10.1037/em00001506

Subramoney, S., Walle, E.A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2025). Cultural brokering in immigrant families. *Child Development Perspectives*, 19(3), 165- 171. doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12539

Subramoney, S., Walle, E.A., Main, A., & Magaña, D.(2025). Navigating intercultural misunderstandings: An examination of emotion brokering. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 31(3), 429-441. doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000652

Meiring, L., **Subramoney, S.**, Thomas, K. G., Decety, J., & Fourie, M. M. (2014). Empathy and helping: Effects of racial group membership and cognitive load. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 44(4), 426-438. doi.org/10.1177/0081246314530280

These publications are related to my prior role as a researcher on the neuroimaging component of the Drakenstein Child Health Study

Wedderburn, C. J., Yeung, S., **Subramoney, S.**, Fouche, J.-P., Joshi, S. H., Narr, K. L., Rehman, A. M., Roos, A., Gibb, D. M., Zar, H. J., Stein, D. J., & Donald, K. A. (2024). Association of in utero HIV exposure with child brain structure and language development: A South African birth cohort study. *BMC Medicine*, 22(1), 129. doi.org/10.1186/s12916-024-03282-6

Donald, K. A., Hendrikse, C. J., Roos, A., Wedderburn, C. J., **Subramoney, S.**, Ringshaw, J. E., Bradford, L., Hoffman, N., Burd, T., Narr, K. L., Woods, R. P., Zar, H. J., Joshi, S. H., & Stein, D. J. (2024). Prenatal alcohol exposure and white matter microstructural changes across the first 6–7 years of life: A longitudinal diffusion tensor imaging study of a South African birth cohort. *NeuroImage: Clinical*, 41, 103572. doi.org/10.1016/j.nicl.2024.103572

Pellowski, J. A., Wedderburn, C. J., Groenewold, N. A., Roos, A., **Subramoney, S.**, Hoffman, N., Fouche, J.-P., Joshi, S. H., Woods, R. P., Narr, K. L., Zar, H. J., Donald, K. A., & Stein, D. J. (2023). Maternal perinatal depression and child brain structure at 2-3 years in a South African birth cohort study. *Translational Psychiatry*, 13(1), 96. doi/10.1038/s41398-023-02395-5

Wedderburn, C. J., Ringshaw, J. E., Donald, K. A., Joshi, S. H., **Subramoney, S.**, Fouche, J.-P., Stadler, J. A. M., Barnett, W., Rehman, A. M., Hoffman, N., Roos, A., Narr, K. L., Zar, H. J., & Stein, D. J. (2022). Association of maternal and child anemia with brain Structure in early life in South Africa. *JAMA Network Open*, 5(12), e2244772. doi/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.44772

Subramoney, S., Joshi, S. H., Wedderburn, C.J., Lee, D., Roos, A., Woods, R.P., Zar, H.J., Narr, K.L., Stein, D.J., Donald, K.A. (2022) The impact of Prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE) on gray matter volume and cortical surface area of 2-3 year old children in a South African birth cohort. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 46(7), 1233-1247. doi.org/10.1111/acer.14873

Roos, A., Wedderburn, C. J., Fouche, J.-P., **Subramoney, S.**, Joshi, S. H., Woods, R. P., Zar, H. J., Narr, K. L., Stein, D. J., & Donald, K. A. (2021). Central white matter integrity alterations in 2-3-year-old children following prenatal alcohol exposure. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 225, 108826. doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.108826

Wedderburn, C. J., **Subramoney, S.**, Yeung, S., Joshi, S. H., Narr, K. L., Rehman, A. M., Roos, A., Ipser, J., Robertson, F. C., Groenewold, N. A., Gibb, D. M., Zar, H. J., Stein, D. J., & Donald, K. A. (2020). Neuroimaging young children and associations with neurocognitive development in a South African birth cohort study. *NeuroImage*, 219, 116846. doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2020.116846

Subramoney, S., Eastman, E., Adnams, C., Stein, D. J., & Donald, K. A. (2018). The early developmental outcomes of prenatal alcohol exposure: A review. *Frontiers in neurology*, 9, 1108. doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2018.01108

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/REVISION & IN PREPARATION

+Undergraduate author

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., & Camras, L. A. (under review). Emotional development in different cultural contexts. In M. Yik (Ed.), *Handbook of Emotion and Culture*. Oxford University Press.

Subramoney, S., +Cardoza Cortez, M.A. & Walle, E.A., (in prep). The effects of emotion brokering frequency and gender on maternal relationship quality.

Subramoney, S., & Walle, E.A., (in prep). Emotion brokering among South African young adults.

Subramoney, S., & Walle, E.A., (in prep). Children's teaching of novel emotion norms.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Subramoney, S. & Lozada, F.T. (in progress). Emotion flexibility behaviors among minoritized youth.

Subramoney, S., Williams, C.D., Lozada, F.T. et al., (in progress). The associations between cultural and emotion socialization and emotion functioning among emerging adults.

PRESENTATIONS

CHAired CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2023, July). Understanding and navigating cultural differences in emotional communication International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. Limerick, Ireland.

INVITED TALKS

Subramoney, S. (2025, Aug). Emotion Brokering: Helping others navigate intercultural emotion-based misunderstandings. A talk presented at the Developmental Psychology Seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA.

Subramoney, S. (2024, Nov). Emotion Brokering: Helping others navigate intercultural emotion-based misunderstandings. Distinguished Graduate Student in Psychological Sciences Speaker Series, Merced, USA.

CONFERENCE TALKS

Subramoney, S & Lozada, F.T. (2025, September). Emotion flexibility behavior development among minoritized youth. A flash talk presented at the Mid-Atlantic Society of Affective Science, Winston-Salem, USA,

Subramoney, S & Walle, E.A. (2024, July). The relationship between bicultural identity and the emotion brokering experience among U.S. Latinxs. Paper presented at the International Congress for the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, Bali, Indonesia.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2024, May). Emotion brokering: Helping others navigate intercultural emotion-based misunderstandings. Bay Area Developmental Symposium, Palo Alto, USA.

+Cardoza Cortez, M.A., Subramoney, S., & Walle, E.A. (2024, April). The effects of emotion brokering frequency and gender on maternal relationship quality. Talk presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Long Beach, USA.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2023, July). Emotion Brokering: Helping others navigate intercultural emotion-based misunderstandings. International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. Limerick, Ireland.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2023, June). Emotion Brokering and mental health: The role of family support values. Paper presented at the Broader Bay Area Affective Science Society Meeting, Davis, USA.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2022, July). The effects of emotion brokering on mental health: It depends on how you feel about it. Paper presented at the International Society for Research on Emotion Development Preconference, Los Angeles, USA.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2022, July). Emotion brokering in U.S. Latinxs: Associations with mental health and stress. Paper presented at the International Congress of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Virtual.

Subramoney, S., & Walle, E. A. (2021, April). The effects of gender and heritage cultural identity on emotion brokering outcomes. Paper presented at the Society for Affective Science Meeting, Virtual.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

+Undergraduate author

Subramoney, S., +Cardoza Cortez, M.A., & Walle, E.A. (2024, July). The effects of emotion brokering frequency and gender on maternal relationship quality. Poster presented at the International Society for Research on Emotion, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Subramoney, S. & Walle, E.A. (2024, June). The relationship between bicultural identity and the emotion brokering experience among U.S. Latinxs. Poster presented at the Broader Bay Area Affective Science Society Meeting, Berkeley, USA.

Subramoney, S., Özden, Z.B., Ocampo, D., Lopez, L.D., & Walle, E. A. (2023, April). Extrinsic emotion regulation in infancy and early childhood. Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science, Long Beach, USA.

Özden, Z.B., Ocampo, D.B., **Subramoney, S.,** Lopez, L.D., & Walle E.A. (2023, March). Extrinsic emotion regulation in infancy and early childhood. Poster presented at Society for Research on Child Development, Salt Lake City, USA.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2022, July). The effects of emotion brokering on mental health: It depends on how you feel about it. Poster presented at the International Society for Research on Emotion, Los Angeles, USA.

Subramoney, S., Walle, E. A., Main, A., & Magaña, D. (2022, February). The effects of emotion brokering on mental health: It depends on how you feel about it. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference and virtual Emotion Pre-Conference, San Francisco, USA.

Subramoney, S., & Walle, E. A. (2021, February). Emotion brokering: Navigating cross-cultural differences in emotion norms. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Emotion Pre- Conference, Virtual. [Best poster award winner]

Subramoney, S., Wedderburn, C. J., Roos, A., Ipser, J. C., Zar, H. J., Woods, R. P., Stein, D.J., Narr, K.L., Joshi, S & Donald, K. A. (2020, June). Altered subcortical grey matter volume in 2-3 Year Old children with prenatal alcohol exposure in a South-African birth cohort. Research for Society on Alcoholism. [Meeting cancelled]

Wedderburn, C. J., Yeung, S., **Subramoney, S.,** Fouche, J.P., Joshi, S.H., Narr, K.L., Rehman, A.M., Roos, A., Gibb, G.M., Zar, H.J., Stein, D.J., Donald, K.A. (2020, July). Mapping cortical structure and neurocognitive development of HIV-exposed uninfected children in South Africa: Neuroimaging outcomes from a South African birth cohort. International AIDS Conference, virtual.

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, USD 27,214	Spring 2025
Distinguished Graduate Speaker in Psychological Sciences	2024
Outstanding Graduate Student in Developmental Psychology	2023- 2024
Graduate Student Travel Grant, USD 350	2023
Psychological Sciences Graduate Student Research Award, USD 4,150	2020- 2023
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) Award for Graduate Study, USD 27,900	2020 - 2023

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

National Research Foundation Innovation Masters Scholarship, ZAR 70 000/year	2013 - 2015
National Research Foundation Freestanding Scholarship, ZAR 20 000	2012
Humanities Faculty Scholarship, ZAR 20 000/year	2010- 2011
Class medal- achieved first position in class (Xhosa Communications)	2010
Deans Merit List	2009- 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Guest Lectures (60-80 student classes)

Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Psychopathology	April 2024
Childhood Sexual Development, Human Sexuality	March 2023

Teaching Assistantship Discussion/Seminar Leader (30 student classes)

Analysis of Psychological Data with <i>Ana Simeos</i> (rating: 6.1 out of 7)	Fall 2023
Analysis of Psychological Data with <i>Ren Lui</i> (rating: 6.4 out of 7)	Fall 2021

Teaching Assistantship (60-80 student classes)

Social Cognition with <i>Jason Emory</i> (rating: 6.5 out of 7)	Fall 2024
Psychopathology with <i>Robert Yancey</i> (rating: 6.1 out of 7)	Spring 2024
Human Sexuality with <i>Ross Avilla</i> (rating: 6.1 out of 7)	Spring 2023
Research Methods with <i>Jason Emory</i> (rating: 6.1 out of 7)	Fall 2022

Culture/Racial/Ethnic Diversity with <i>Daniel Mello</i> (rating: 6.7 out of 7)	Spring 2022
Developmental Psychology with <i>Jason Isbell</i> (rating: 6.4 out of 7)	Spring 2021
Clinical Neuropsychology with <i>Alexander Khislavsky</i> (rating: 6.1 out of 7)	Fall 2020
Abnormal Child Psychology with <i>Paul Carroll</i> (rating: 6.4 out of 7)	Spring 2020
Stereotype and Prejudice with <i>Paul Carroll</i> (rating: 6.4 out of 7)	Fall 2019

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Tutor for Research Methodology (I and II) and Statistics with <i>Muya Koloko</i>	2013-2017
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MENTORSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Co-advised undergraduate research projects/theses

Marcela Cardoza Cortez	2024
Bailey Weikel-Feekes	2021

Students mentored in research lab

Alexandra Espinoza, Emily Rodriguez	2024-2025
Emily Rodriguez, Jessica De Haro, Gagandeep Kaur	2023- 2024
Leslie Simental, Elisa Sosa	2022-2023
Maria Perez	2021-2023
Jazmin Sandoval	2020- 2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

AD HOC JOURNAL REVIEWS

Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine
 International Journal of Intercultural Relations Social Psychology of Education (Co-reviewed)

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMY

Reviewer, National Conference for Undergraduate Research	Dec, 2025
UC Merced Graduate student panel for prospective students	2021-2024

MEDIA COVERAGE

Article on cultural brokering and psychological adjustment featured on UC Merced News	Jan 2025
Research on emotion brokering featured on ABC 30 Action News	June 2024
Article on emotion brokering featured on UC Merced News	April 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Assistant (PI Kirsty Donald), University of Cape Town	2017-2019
Training Facilitator of the Early Learning Outcomes Measure	2016-2018

Research Assistant at Child Development Research Lab, University of Cape Town 2013-2017

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

International Society for Research on Emotion, student member	2022- Present
International Congress for Research on Cross-Cultural Psychology, student member	2022- Present
Society for Affective Science, student member	2021- Present
South African Neuropsychology Association	2018- 2019
American Psychological Association (APA), International Affiliate	2017-2019

COURSES AND CERTIFICATES

Principles of Pedagogy, research-based teaching series, UC Merced	2023
Preparing to Teach in the Online Environment, UC Merced	2020
Accredited Early Learning Outcomes Measure Assessor	2016