Abbie M. Popa, ScB **UC Davis Neuroscience Graduate Group**

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EDUCATION

Currently Enrolled
PhD, Neuroscience (September 2012 - current)
Advanced to Candidacy September 2015
University of California at Davis, Davis, CA
Thesis Topic: Anxiety Impacts Attentional and Inhibitory Control in Adolescence

Undergraduate
Bachelor of Science, Cognitive Neuroscience (September 2006-December 2010)
Brown University, Providence, RI
Graduated with Departmental Honors
Thesis Title: Concordance of Movement and Heart Rate Responses in Fetuses at Risk for Autism

INTERESTS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

Anxiety	Attentional Control	Inhibitory Control
Adolescence	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Resting State fMRI
Event-Related Potentials	Neuroimaging	Physiology

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Accepted to UC Davis FUTURE Certificate Track	2015-16 Academic Year
UC Davis Graduate Student Asssembly Travel Award	2014-15 Academic Year
ERP Boot Camp (Dr. Steven J. Luck)	Completed July 2014
UC Davis Graduate Student Asssembly Travel Award	2013-14 Academic Year

AFFILIATIONS

Society of Biological Society, *Student Member*	2013-present
Society for Neuroscience, *Student Member*	2013-present
Association for Women in Science, *Student Member*	2013-present
American Association for the Advancement of Science, *Student Member*	2013-2014

DISSERTATION

Behavior and EEG Testing of Teen Anxiety
Mentor: Dr. Tony J. Simon June 2013 - present
A study of 40 adolescents with generalized anxiety disorder and 20 typical controls examining attentional and inhibitory control using event-related potentials, heart rate variability, and behavioral data. Participants will complete four tasks as well as self and parent reports of daily function.

PUBLICATIONS

Submitted: **Popa AM**, Cruz J, Wong L, Harvey D, Angkustsiri K, Leckliter I, Perez-Edgar K, Simon TJ. Seeing Eye to Eye with Threat: Atypical Threat Bias Responses in Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- **Popa AM**, Shapiro H, Harvey D, Amato M, Cruz J, Cung N, Reyes D, Simon TJ. Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Show Lower Spatial and Temporal Acuity Than TD Children In Continuously Varying Tasks. Abstract Accepted at the 10th Biennial International 22q11.2 Conference 2016, Sirmione, Italy.
- **Popa AM**, Hunsaker N, Deng M, Garner J, Cruz J, Cung N, Reyes D, Simon TJ. Cortical Tissue Volumes Correlate to Cavum Septum Pellucidum Size in Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome and Typical Controls. Oral Accepted at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2016, Atlanta, GA.
- **Popa AM**, Beaton E, Cruz J, Wong L, Cung N, Harvey D, Simon TJ. Adaptation to a Mild Stressor in Initially Anxious Children was related to their Attention to Perceived

Threat in a Dot Probe Experiment. Poster Presented at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2015, Toronto, ON, Canada.

- **Popa AM**, Angkustsiri K, Brahmbhatt K, Cruz J, Cung N, Harvey D, Leckliter I, Reyes D, Shapiro H, Wong L, Simon TJ. Impact of Cognitive-Affective Interactions on Attentional Control, Inhibition, and Temporal Attention. Oral Presentation Accepted at the 21st International Scientific Meeting of the Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome Educational Foundation, Inc 2014, Las Vegas Nevada.
- **Popa AM**, Angkustsiri K, Brahmbhatt K, Cruz J, Cung N, Leckliter I, Quintero A, Reyes D, Shapiro H, Simon TJ. Timecourse of Response to Threat Stimuli in Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Informs Understanding of Anxiety. Oral Presentation Accepted at the 9th Annual Meeting of the International 22q11.2 Foundation 2014, Mallorca, Spain.
- Angkustsiri K, **Popa AM**, Simon TJ. Atypical Pupillary Responses To Emotional Faces in Children With Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. Oral Presentaion Accepted at the Pediatric Academic Societies and Asian Society for Pediatric Research Joint Meeting 2014 Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- **Popa AM**, Angkustsiri K, Brahmbhatt K, Cruz J, Cung N, Leckliter I, Quintero A, Reyes D, Shapiro H, Simon TJ. Atypical Adaptation Responses to Threat Stimuli in Children with Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. Poster Presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2014, New York, NY.
- Cruz JR, **Popa AM**, Wong LM, Angkustsiri K, Shapiro H, Fox N, Pine D, Perez-Edgar K, Simon TJ. Examining Attention Bias Towards Threat to Understand Cognition and Anxiety Interactions in 22q11.2DS. Poster presented at the 20th International Scientific Meeting of the Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome Educational Foundation 2013, Dublin, Ireland.
- Cruz JR, Wong LM, Angkustsiri K, **Popa AM**, Shapiro HM, Fox N, Pine D, Perez-Edgar K, Simon TJ. Children with Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Exhibit High Levels of Anxiety and Threat Bias in a Dot Probe Experiment. Poster presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2013, San Francisco, CA.
- Sullivan, M. C., Miller, R. J., Winchester, S. B., Barcelos, M., Oliveira, E., & **Popa, A**. (2012, May). Developmental Origins Theory and HPA axis function: Evidence from a Longitudinal Study of Preterm Infants at Young Adulthood. Poster presented at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research, Nursing Research Expo, Boston, MA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

22q11.2 Research Center and Clinic
Dr. Tony J. Simon — MIND Institute at UC Davis, Davis CA
Graduate Student Researcher — June 2013 - present
Rotation Student — April 2013 - June 2013

- Analysis of behavioral, eye gaze, and pupillometric data from a dot probe threat bias experiment as they relate to self report measures of anxeity and cognition in 47 children with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and 32 typically developing children
- Design, pilot testing, data collection, and analysis of four ERP experiments examining adolescent's with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and typical controls on attentional and inhibitory control using neutral and emotional stimuli for a five-year NIH funded grant.
- Task development for five behavioral experiments on the same study
- Analysis of resting state fMRI data from over a hundred participants with and without 22q11.2 deletion syndrome to examine differences in three networks isolated using ICA

Reactivation of Neural Ensembles during Very Recent Memory
Dr. Brian J. Wiltgen — Center for Neuroscience at UC Davis, Davis CA
Rotation Student — January 2013 - April 2013

- Behavioral testing of 6 mice in a fear learning paradigm and preparation and imaging of tissue to determine coactivation of neurons during learning and memory

Poly-I:C Non-human Primate Model of Autism
Dr. Melissa D. Bauman — MIND Institute at UC Davis, Davis CA
Rotation Student — September 2012 - December 2012

- Development of tracing protocol and interrater reliability tests for lateral ventricles in macaque subjects' structural MRI scans
- Tracing of lateral ventricles in 24 subjects to assess structural abnormalities in primates at risk for autism due to maternal immune activation

Brown Center for the Study of Children at Risk
Dr. Mary C. Sullivan
Dr. Stephen J. Sheinkopf — Women and Infants Hospital, Providence RI
Research Assistant — January 2011 - May 2012

- **Preterm Infant to Adult Study:** A study comparing a longitudinal sample of young adults who had been born pre- or full term on several measures, including cardiology, executive function and stress response.
- **Autism Cry Study:** A study comparing cries from infants at high or low risk for autism to develop an early predictor of the disorder

Concordance of Movement and Heart Rate Responses in Fetuses at Risk for Autism
Dr. Stephen J. Sheinkopf — Brown University, Providence RI
Senior Honors Thesis Project — September 2009-December 2010

- Developed a research question and methodology; collected, analyzed and reported on data
- Based on actocardiograph data, compared a sample of fetuses at high risk for autism (one or more confirmed siblings or parents with autism) to a group of normal controls on concordance between movements and heart rate. This was observed at rest and in response to social and asocial stimuli

Virtual Environment Navigation Laboratory (VENlab)
Dr. William H. Warren — Brown University, Providence RI
Research Assistant — May 2007-December 2010

- Ran 6 experimental paradigms in virtual reality and the real world on human participants to study navigation and locomotion

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Theory and Practice
Dr. David Badre — Brown University, Providence RI
Class Research — September 2009-December 2009

- Designed, executed, analyzed, and reported an fMRI experiment in small groups. Our experimental stimuli were comprised of neutral words, words expressing fear, neutral faces, and faces expressing fear to measures brain activation in response to different modalities of fear stimuli

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The Groden Center
Providence, RI
Treatment Teacher — June 2009-December 2009

- Worked as a treatment teacher in a classroom for adolescents with severe autism and profound behavioral problems doing individualized lessons and therapies
- Helped take children and adolescents with severe autism on community field trips

Writers' Group
The Swearer Center at Brown University, Providence, RI
Facilitator — February 2009-May 2009

- Planned and facilitiated weekly lessons and activities with a student organized group that prepares writing workshops for adults with developmental disabilites in the local

community.

Bonn Nontapum
Cross Cultural Solutions, Bangkok, Thailand
Volunteer September 2008- December 2008

- Performed play and life skill activities with children at a home for children with special needs in Thailand

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Neurobiology
Dr. Lee M. Miller UC Davis Department of Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, Davis CA
Teaching Assistant April 2015-June 2015

- Planned nine weeks of discussion sections with two co-TAs. Prepared material for an hour of homework review, practice problems, and discussion of lecture material and readings.
- Independently led 3 one hour discussion sections for a total of 75 students each week.
- Held weekly office hours attended by around six students each session.
- Answered numerous e-mails and arranged individual meetings for students who needed extra help.
- Developed one homework assignment.
- Graded two short answer midterms and one short answer final exam for 200 students with one co-TA.

Laboratory on Genes and Behavior
Dr. Rebecca D. Burwell Brown University Department of Psychology, Providence RI
Teaching Assistant January 2010-May 2010

- Responsible for setting up equipment for behavioral experiments run on knockout mice, including the Morris Water Maze, tail suspension and basic habituation tasks
- Explained procedures to students and helped them run the tasks

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Women in Science and Engineering
Davis, CA
Mentor September 2015 - Present

Explorations, UC Davis Undergraduate Research Journal
Davis, CA
Editor February 2015 - August 2015
Managing Editor, Physical and Life Sciences September 2015 - Present

Neuroimaging Journal Club
Davis, CA
Student Co-Facilitator September 2013 - Present

UC - Davis Neuroblog
Online through UC Davis
Graduate Student Contributer September 2013 - Present

The Graduate Academic Achievement and Advocacy Program
Davis, CA
Graduate Student Volunteer and Mentor September 2013 - June 2015

Graduate Student Assembly
Davis, CA
Departmental Representative September 2013 - June 2015

Brain Awareness Week
Davis, CA
Graduate Student Presenter March 2013 - Present