

# Annie Brandes-Aitken

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NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Developmental Psychology. New York University

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## Education

<i>Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology</i>	2022 (anticipated)
New York University	
New York, NY	
<i>B.S. in Psychology with Honors, Minor in Statistics</i>	2014
California Polytechnic State University	
San Luis Obispo, CA	

## Research Experience

<i>NSF Graduate Research Fellow</i>	
Neuroscience and Education Laboratory	2017-present
New York University	
Advisors: Clancy Blair, PhD & Natalie Brito, PhD	
<i>Research Assistant</i>	
Education and Neuroscience Lab, Neuroscape Center	2015-2017
University of California, San Francisco	
Advisors: Melina Uncapher, PhD & Adam Gazzaley PhD, MD	
<i>Research Coordinator</i>	
Sensory Neurodevelopment and Autism Program	2014-2017
University of California, San Francisco	
Advisors: Elysa Marco, MD & Joaquin A. Anguera, PhD	
<i>Undergraduate Research Student</i>	
Department of Psychology	2012-2014
California Polytechnic State University	
Advisors: Laura Freberg, PhD & Carrie Langner, PhD	
<i>Summer Research Assistant</i>	
Language Lab & Psychoinformatics Lab	2013
University of Colorado, Boulder	
Advisors: Eliana Colunga, PhD & Tal Yarkoni, PhD	

## Peer Reviewed Publications

**Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Braren, S., Vogel, S., Perry, R., Brito, N., Blair, C. Within-Person Changes in Basal Cortisol and Caregiving Modulate Executive Attention across Infancy. *Development and Psychopathology* (In Press).

Vogel, S., Perry, R., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Braren, S., Blair, C. Deprivation and threat as developmental mediators in the relation between early life socioeconomic status and executive functioning outcomes in early childhood (2021). *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*.

Braren, S., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Perry, R., Williams, K., Lyons, K., Rowe-Harriott, S., Blair, C., Baseline Hypothalamic–Pituitary–Adrenal Axis and Parasympathetic Nervous System Activity Interact to Predict Executive Functions in Low-Income Children. (2021). *Mind, Brain, and Education*.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Braren, S., Gandhi, J., Rowe-Harriott, S., Perry, R., Blair, C., Joint attention partially mediates the longitudinal relation between attuned caregiving and executive functions for low-income children (2020). *Developmental Psychology*.

Perry, R., Braren, S., Opendak, M., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Chopra, D., Sullivan, R., Blair, C. Elevated infant cortisol is necessary but not sufficient for transmission of environmental risk to infant social development: Cross-species evidence of mother–infant physiological social transmission. (2020). *Development and Psychopathology*.

Maternal Psychological Stress Moderates Diurnal Cortisol Linkage in Expectant Fathers and Mothers during Late Pregnancy. Braren, S., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Ribner, A., Perry, R., Blair, C. (2019). *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

Perry, R., Braren, S., Rincon-Cortes, M., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Chopra, D., Sullivan, R., Blair, C. Enhancing Executive Functions through Social Interactions: Causal Evidence Using a Cross-Species Model. (2019). *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Perry, R., Rincon-Cortes, M., Braren, S., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Opendak, M., Pollonini, G., Chopra, D., Raver, C.C., Alberini, C., Blair, C., Sullivan, R. Corticosterone administration targeting a hypo-reactive HPA axis rescues a socially avoidant phenotype in scarcity-adversity reared rats. (2019). *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Braren, S., Swingler, M., Voegtlle, K., Blair, C., Sustained Attention in Infancy: A Foundation for the Development of Self-Regulation in Children from Low-SES Backgrounds (2019). *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.

Payabvash, S., Palacios, E., Owen, J.P., Wang, M.B., Tavassoli, T., Gerdes, M.R., **Brandes Aitken, A.N.**, Marco, E. and Mukherjee, P. (2019). White Matter Connectome Correlates of Auditory Over-Responsivity: Edge Density Imaging and Machine-learning Classifiers. *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience*.

Tavassoli, T., **Brandes-Aitken A. N.**, Chu, R., Porter, L., Schoen, S., Miller, L.J., Gerdes, M.R., Owen, J., Mukherjee, P., Marco, E.J. (2019). Sensory over-responsivity: parent report, direct assessment measures, and neural architecture. *Molecular Autism*.

Payabvash, S., Palacios, E., Owen, J.P., Wang, M.B., Tavassoli, T., Gerdes, M.R., **Brandes Aitken, A.**, Cuneo, D., Marco, E. and Mukherjee, P. (2019). White Matter Connectome Edge Density in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Potential Imaging Biomarkers Using Machine Learning Models. *Brain Connectivity*.

**Brandes-Aitken, A. N.**, Anguera, J.A., Chang, Y.S., Demopoulos, C., Owen, J.P., Mukherjee, P., Gazzaley, A., Marco, E (2018). White Matter Microstructure Associations of Cognitive and Visuomotor Control in Children: A Sensory Processing Perspective. *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience*.

Marco, E.J., **Brandes-Aitken,A.N.**, Prakas Nair, V., de Gente, G., Thomas, S., Sherr, E.H (2018). Prevalence of de novo neurodevelopment mutations and SNP enrichment in children with Sensory Processing Dysfunction (SPD): A prospective cohort study. *BMC Medical Genomics*.

**Brandes-Aitken, A. N.**, Anguera, J.A., Rolle, C.E., Desai, S. S., Skinner, S.S., Gazzaley, A., Marco, E. (2018). Characterizing cognitive & visuomotor control in children with sensory processing dysfunction & autism. *Neuropsychology*. 32(2); 148-160.

*Anguera, J.A., Brandes-Aitken, A. N. (co-first authored)*, Antovich, A. D. Rolle, C.E., Desai, S. S., Marco, E. J. (2017). A pilot study to determine the feasibility of enhancing cognitive abilities in children with sensory processing dysfunction. *PLoS One*. 12(4); 1-19.

Demopoulos, C., Yu, N., Tripp, J., **Brandes-Aitken, A. N.**, Desai, S. S., Hill, S. S., Antovich, A. D., Harris, J., Honma, S., Mizuiri, D., Nagarajan, S., Marco, E. J. (2017). Imaging Auditory and Somatosensory Cortical Responses in Children with Autism and Sensory Processing Dysfunction. *Frontiers in human neuroscience*. 11; 259.

Anguera, J.A., **Brandes-Aitken, A. N.**, Rolle, C.E., Skinner, S.N., Desai, S.S., Bower, J.D., Martucci, E.W., Chung, W.K., Sherr, E.H., Marco, E.J. (2016). Characterizing cognitive control abilities in children with 16p11.2 deletion using adaptive “video game” technology: a pilot study. *Translational Psychiatry*. 6(9):e893.

Chang, Y.S., Gratiot, M., Owen, J.P., **Brandes-Aitken, A. N.**, Desai, S.S., Hill, S. S., Arnett, A.B., Harris, J., Marco, E.J., Mukherjee, P (2015). White matter microstructure is associated with auditory and tactile processing in children with and without sensory processing disorder. *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy*. 9:196.

Demopoulos, C., **Brandes-Aitken, A. N.**, Desai, S. S., Hill, S. S., Antovich, A. D., Harris, J., & Marco, E. J. (2015). Shared and Divergent Auditory and Tactile Processing in Children with Autism and Children with Sensory Processing Dysfunction Relative to Typically Developing Peers. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 21(06), 444-454.

## Publications Under Review

Braren, S., Perry, R., **Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Brito, N., Blair, C. Prenatal Mother-Father Cortisol Co-regulation Predicts Infant Executive Functions at 24 Months.

## Publications in Preparation

**Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Brito, N., Blair, C. Bridging Theory with Neuroscience to Understand how the Social Environment Dynamically Shapes Attention in Infancy

**Brandes-Aitken, A.N.**, Braren, S., Brito, N. Caregiver Cumulative Cortisol Predicts Differential Frontal Cortex Maturation: Evidence from Resting EEG Trajectories

## Published Abstracts and Conference Presentations:

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Greaves, A., Brito, N. (2021). Parent cortisol and the neural underpinnings of attention and emotion regulation in infancy. Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual Conference.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Greaves, A., Brito, N. (2020). Contributions of Cumulative Parent Cortisol to the Neural Underpinnings of Infant Attention and Emotion Regulation. Talk presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies. Virtual Conference.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Vogel, S., Perry, R., Blair, C. (2019). Linking Chronic Physiological Stress in Infancy to Sustained Attention in Toddlerhood and Working Memory in Early Childhood. International Society for Developmental Psychobiology. Chicago, IL.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Greaves, A., Perry, R., Brito, N. (2019). Contributions of Cumulative Parent Cortisol, Language in the Home, and Socioeconomic Status to 3-Month Infant Resting EEG Power. FLUX Society. New York, New York.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Blair, C. (2019). Examining Longitudinal Associations of Socioeconomic Risk, Infant Attention and Early Childhood Self-Regulation. Talk presented at the Eastern Psychological Association, New York, NY.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Blair, C. (2019). Influences of Poverty-Related Risk and Physiological Stress on Childhood Self-Regulation: Mediation through Infant Attention. Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development. Baltimore, MD.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Swingler, M., Voegtline, K., Blair, C. (2018). Attention in Infancy: A Foundation for the Development of Self-Regulation in Children from Low-SES Environments. International Society for Developmental Psychobiology. San Diego, CA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Blair, C. (2018). Detection of Novelty in Infants from Low-SES Backgrounds: A Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Study. FLUX Society. Berlin, Germany.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Blair, C. (2018). Joint Attention Mediates the Effects of Poverty and Parenting on Executive Functioning, Inattention and Academic Readiness. American Psychological Science Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Braren, S., Blair, C. (2018). Physiological and Neurocognitive Predictors of Childhood Executive Functioning Development in Low-Income Communities. FLUX Society Satellite Conference. Chapel Hill, NC.

Braren, S., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Blair, C. (2018). Relations Between Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis and Autonomic Nervous System Activity and Children's Executive Functions in Environments of Early-life Stress. Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS), Boston, MA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Anguera, J., Owen, J., Mukherjee, P., Marco, E. (2017). Assessing White Matter Correlates of Cognitive and Visuomotor Control in Children with SPD. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), Washington D.C.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Anguera, J., Owen, J., Mukherjee, P., Marco, E. (2017). Assessing Visuomotor Deficits in Children with SPD. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

Marco, E., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Tavassoli, T., Miller, L. J., Schoen, S. A., Owen, J., Mukherjee, P. (2017). Can Parent Report and Direct Assessment Measures Enhance Sensory Over-Responsivity Phenotyping and Inform the Neural Underpinnings of Sensory Processing Symptoms? International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

Demopoulos, C., Yu, N., Tripp, J., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Desai, S., Hill, S. S., Antovich, A. D., Harris, J., Honma, S., Mizuiri, D., Mota Miranda, N. G., Nagarajan, S., Marco, E. (2017). Evidence for Domain Specificity of Cortical Auditory and Somatosensory Response Delays in ASD. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Anguera, J., Rolle, C., Antovich, A., Desai, S., Marco, E. (2016). Differentially Identifying and Remediating Attention Deficits in Children Affected by Sensory Processing Dysfunction. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA.

Anguera, J., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Rolle, C., Wu, B., Marco, E., Gazzaley, A. (2016). Attention training in children with SPD. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Baltimore, MD.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Skinner, S., Martucci, E., Bowers, J., Anguera, J. Gazzaley, A., Marco, E. (2016). Engaging and adaptive assessment for attention in 16p11.2 deletion carriers. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Baltimore, MD.

Marco, E.J., de Gente, G., Thomas, S., **Brandes-Aitken, A.** N., Sherr, E.H. (2016). Using Whole Exome Sequencing to investigate the genetics of Sensory Processing Disorders. International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Baltimore, MD.

Anguera, J., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Rolle, C., Wu, B., Marco, E., Gazzaley, A. (2015). Attention training in children with SPD. Bay Area Autism Consortium Symposium, Redwood City, CA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Demopoulos, C., Desai, S., Marco, E. (2015). Shared and Divergent Sensory Processing in children with ASD and SPD. Bay Area Autism Consortium Symposium, Redwood City, CA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Skinner, S., Martucci, E., Bowers, J., Anguera, J. Gazzaley, A., Marco, E. (2015). Engaging and adaptive assessment for attention in 16p11.2 deletion carriers. Bay Area Autism Consortium Symposium, Redwood City, CA.

Rolle, C., Anguera, J., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Wu, B., Marco, E., Multi-tasking training in children with Sensory Processing Disorder, (2015), Entertainment Software & Cognitive Neurotherapeutics Society (ESCoNS) Conference, San Francisco, CA.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Freberg, L. Early to bed and early to rise, does it really make a man healthy, wealthy and wise? (2014). The Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Science. Portland, Oregon.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Freberg, L. Loneliness and Health Promoting Behaviors – the Role of Motivation and Discipline. (2014). The annual meeting of the American Psychological Science. San Francisco, CA.

Williams, J., Hernandez, A., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**. Evidence for an Innate Desire for Concealment when Sleeping (2014). The annual meeting of the American Psychological Science. San Francisco, CA.

Anguera, J.A., Rolle, C., Desai, S., **Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Gibbons, J., Harris, J., Gazzaley, A., & Marco, E. The influence of distraction on discrimination and visuomotor tracking in sensory processing deficient & autistic children. (2013) Entertainment Software & Cognitive Neurotherapeutics Society (ESCoNS) Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

## Invited Talks & Lectures

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Brito, N. (2020/2021). Introduction to EEG Methods in Research. Talk presented to neurology medical residents at New York University School of Medicine. New York, NY.

**Brandes-Aitken, A.**, Blair, C. (2019). Associations of Early Cognitive Control in Infancy. Talk presented at the Bezos Family Foundation Summit, Scottsdale, AZ.

## **Honors, Awards & Fellowships**

Felix M. Warburg Memorial Steinhardt Scholarship New York University	2021
Travel Award, Society for Improving Psych. Science Rotterdam, NL	2019
Linda & Arthur Carter Steinhardt Scholarship New York University	2019
Travel Award, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology San Diego, CA	2018
Graduate Research Fellowship National Science Foundation	2017-2020
Best Research Presentation Award Bay Area Autism Symposium	2015
Research Travel Award Cal Poly	2014
Graduated Magna Cum Laude Cal Poly	2014
Psy Chi Honor Society Cal Poly	2011-2014

## **Consulting Experience and Professional Services**

Brooklyn College Adjunct Lecturer	2021
Social Creatures Community Impact Director	2020-2021
Silicea Labs Data Science Consultant	2020
UCSD Empathy Research Study Statistician Consultant	2020

## **Volunteer Outreach Experience**

Quality Undergraduate Education and Scholarly Training (QUEST) program Mentor	2019
Brain Awareness Week Panel on Neuroscience and Policy Organizer and Co-Moderator	2018
Scientist Action and Advocacy Network Member	2018-Present
Girls Advancing in STEM Mentor/Speaker	2016-2017

Cal Poly NCAA Athletic & Academics Department  
Statistics Tutor 2013-2014

Intensive Autism Therapy  
Assistant Autism Therapist 2009-2011

### **Ad Hoc Reviewing**

Developmental Science	2021 Developmental Psychology	2020
Developmental Science (co-reviewed with C.B.)		2018
Psychiatry Research		2018

### **Trainings and Certifications**

Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS) Training Martinos Institute for Biomedical Engineering at Harvard University	2017
Autism Diagnostic Observation Session Research Certified University of Washington	2015
MRI Training and Research Certified University of California, San Francisco	2014

### **References**

Clancy Blair, PhD  
Professor of Psychology  
New York University  
[Clancy.Blair@nyu.edu](mailto:Clancy.Blair@nyu.edu)

Natalie Brito, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology  
New York University  
[Natalie.Brito@nyu.edu](mailto:Natalie.Brito@nyu.edu)

Elysa Marco, MD  
Associate Professor of Neurology  
University of California, San Francisco  
[elysa.marco@ucsf.edu](mailto:elysa.marco@ucsf.edu)

Joaquin Anguera, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology  
University of California, San Francisco  
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Assistant Professor of Neurology  
University of California, San Francisco  
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Laura Freberg, PhD  
Professor of Psychology  
California Polytechnic State University  
[lfreberg@calpoly.edu](mailto:lfreberg@calpoly.edu)