Tess Gavrielle Levinson, PhD

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Education

March 2024	**Ph.D.**, Boston College Lynch School of Education and Human Development **Department:** Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology **Dissertation:** *Teacher Beliefs on Play and Academic Learning with a Kindergarten Coding Curriculum: A Mixed-Methods Study in the United States and Argentina* **Committee:** Marina Bers (Chair), Scott Seider, Eric Dearing
2022	**M.A.**, Tufts University **Department:** Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development **Thesis:** *Quantifying the Coding Playground: A Pilot Study Creating and Attempting to Validate a Rubric for Positive Technological Development*
2018	**B.S.**, Vanderbilt University **Majors:** Cognitive Studies (Department of Psychology and Human Development) & Disability Studies (Department of Special Education) **Thesis:** *Stereotype Threat, Math Anxiety, and the Development of Gendered Stereotypes*

Honors and Awards

2022	Tufts GSAS Travel Award
2021	Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Student Research Fellowship
2020 – 2022	Tufts Provost Fellow Award
2018	Excellence in Cognitive Studies Award, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
2014 – 2018	Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship

Journal Articles

Levinson, T. & Bers, M. (2024). Robotics in Universal Prekindergarten Classrooms. *International Journal of Technology and Design Education,* 1-22.

Didier, P. R., Moore, T. M., Calkins, M. E., Prettyman, G., **Levinson, T.,** Savager, C., & Wolf, D. H. (2023). Evaluation of a new intrinsic and extrinsic motivation scale in youth with psychosis spectrum symptoms. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, 127.

Bers, M. U., Blake-West, J., Kapoor, M. G., **Levinson, T.,** Relkin, E., Unahalekhaka, A., & Yang, Z. (2023). Coding as another language: Research-based curriculum for early childhood computer science. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 64, 394–404. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2023.05.002

Levinson, T., Prettyman, G., Savage, C., White, L., Moore, T. M., Calkins, M. E., ... & Wolf, D. H. (2023). Activation of Internal Correctness Monitoring Circuitry in Youths With Psychosis Spectrum Symptoms. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*.

Prettyman, G., **Levinson, T.,** Kable, J., Satterthwaite, T. D., Davatzikos, C., Shinohara, R., Calkins, M. E., Elliott, M., Gur, R. C., & Gur, R. E. (2020). Reward System Dysfunction and Impaired Intrinsic Motivation in Adolescents With Psychosis Risk. *Biological Psychiatry*, 87(9), S333–S334.

Conference Proceedings

Levinson, T., Qubti, L., Bekerman, Z., & Bers, M. (2024). Yalla KIBO: A Research-Practice Partnership for Binational, Youth-Led Kindergarten Robotics in Jerusalem. In Lindgren, R., Asino, T. I., Kyza, E. A., Looi, C. K., Keifert, D. T., & Suárez, E. (Eds.), Proceedings of the 18th International Conference of the Learning Sciences - ICLS 2024 (pp. 698-705). International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Ben-Ari, A., **Levinson, T**. **G**., Umaschi Bers, M., & Rosenberg-Kima, R. B. (2023). Coding as a Self-Expression. *Proceedings of the 54th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science.* 1266–1266. https://doi.org/10.1145/3545947.3573244

Bers, M., **Levinson, T.,** Yang, Z., Rosenberg-Kima, R., Ben-Ari, A., Jacob, S., Dubash, P., Warschauer, M., Gimenez, C., Gonzalez, P., & Gonzalez, H. (June 2023). Coding as Another Language: An International Comparative Study of Learning Computer Science and Computational Thinking in Kindergarten. *Proceedings of the 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences-ICLS 2023*, (pp. 1659–1665). https://2023.isls.org/proceedings/

Other Publications

Levinson, T. (August 2023). "Reconstructing the World, One Megabyte at a Time." *URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy Blog.* [Blog]

Levinson, T., & Bers, M. U. (2022). Horizons for Homeless Children CAL-KIBO-PreK Pilot Program Research Findings Report. [Report].

Levinson, T., Hunt, L., & Hassenfeld Z. (June 2021). Including students with disabilities in the coding classroom. In M. U. Bers (Ed.), *Teaching computational thinking and coding to young children*, (pp. 236-248). IGI Global. 10.4018/978-1-7998-7308-2

Presentations

Levinson, T., Qubti, L., Bekerman, Z., & Bers, M. *Yalla KIBO: A Research-Practice Partnership for Binational, Youth-Led Kindergarten Robotics in Jerusalem.* (June 2024). International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS), Buffalo, USA.

Levinson, T., Carocca P., F., & Bers, M. *International Scaling of the Coding as Another Language Curriculum through a Research- Practice Partnership in Argentina.* (April 2024). American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, USA. [Roundtable]

Levinson, T. G. *PeaceMaking: Youth Designing Robotics Education for Shared Society in Jerusalem.* (March 2024). Boston College Graduate Student Research Symposium, Chestnut Hill, MA. [Poster]

Blake-West, J., **Levinson, T.,** Otoka, B. & Carocca P., F., (July 2023). *The One Sentence Story: Socio-Emotional Learning in ScratchJr.* Scratch Conference, Cambridge, MA.

Levinson, T., Gonzalez, P., & Gonzalez, H., Gimenez, C., & Bers, M. (June 2023). *Coding as Another Language in Argentina.* In Coding as Another Language: An International Comparative Study of Learning Computer Science and Computational Thinking in Kindergarten. 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences-ICLS 2023. Montreal, QC, Canada.

Levinson, T. & Bers, M.U. (April 2023). *Don't Assume Deficit: Disability, Coding, and Computational Thinking in Early Elementary School.* American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Levinson, T. & Bers, M.U. (April 2023). *Coding Languages: Coding and Computational Thinking in a Language-Diverse Preschool.* American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Ben Ari, A., **Levinson, T.,** Bers, M. U., & Rosenberg-Kima, R. B. (2023). *Nurturing Computational Thinking in an Israeli Kindergarten with the CAL-KIBO Robotics Curriculum.* American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

Blake-West, J., **Levinson, T.,** & Nievera, M. (July 2022). *Co-Creating Pathways from ScratchJr to Scratch.* Scratch Conference, Cambridge, MA. (Co-presented by all authors)

Levinson, T. & Bers, M.U. (April 2022). *Student Centered Computational Thinking for Children with Disabilities.* American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Levinson, T. & Bers, M.U. (April 2022). *Contrasting Perspectives in Computational Thinking Special Education.* American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Levinson, T. (April 2022). *Early Findings from CAL-KIBO at Horizons for Homeless Children.* Fred Rothbaum Student Presentation Day, Medford, MA. [Poster]

Didier, P., Prettyman, G., **Levinson, T.,** Kable, J., Satterthwaite, T., Davatzikos, C., Shinohara, T., Calkins, M. E., Elliott, M., Gur, R. E., Gur, R. C., & Wolf, D. H. (December 2021). *Impaired Intrinsic Motivation in Young People at Risk for Psychosis.* American College of Neuropsychopharmachology, San Juan, PR. [Poster]

Blake-West, J., **Levinson, T.,** & Dubash, P. (July 2021). *Coding as Another Language – ScratchJr.* Scratch Conference, Cambridge, MA. (Co-presented by Jessica Blake-West, Tess Levinson, & Parastu Dubash)

Unahalekhaka, A. & **Levinson, T.** (April 2021). *I Like Your Green Grass: Early Childhood Coding Collaboration During Pandemic Learning.* Fred Rothbaum Student Presentation Day, Medford, MA. (Co-presented by Aim Unahalekhaka and Tess Levinson)

Levinson, T., Prettyman, G., Satterthwaite, T., White, L., Moore, T. M., Calkins, M. E., Ruparel, K., Gur, R. E., Gur, R. C., & Wolf, D. H. (August 2019). *Development of Internal Performance Monitoring Circuitry in Adolescents with and without Subclinical Psychosis Symptoms*. Flux Congress, New York, NY. [Poster]

Levinson, T., Prettyman, G., Satterthwaite, T., White, L., Moore, T. M., Calkins, M. E., Ruparel, K., Gur, R. E., Gur, R. C., & Wolf, D. H. (April 2019). *Activation of Internal Performance Monitoring Circuitry is Reduced in Youth with Psychosis Spectrum Symptoms*. LiBI Symposium, Philadelphia, PA. [Poster]

Levinson, T., Prettyman, G., Satterthwaite, T., White, L., Moore, T. M., Calkins, M. E., Ruparel, K., Gur, R. E., Gur, R. C., & Wolf, D. H. (December 2018). *Activation of Internal Performance Monitoring Circuitry is Reduced in Youth with Psychosis Spectrum Symptoms*. American College of Neuropsychopharmachology, Hollywood, FL. (Presented by Daniel Wolf) [Poster]

Prettyman, G. E., **Levinson, T. G.**, Shankar, S., Satterthwaite, T., Davatzikos, C., Bilker, W., Elliott, M., Ruparel, K., Kable, J., Wolf, D. H. (December 2018). *Abnormal ventral striatum activation during effort discounting correlates with clinical amotivation severity in schizophrenia.* American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Hollywood, FL. [Poster]

Levinson, T., Hong, C., & Fazio, L. (May 2018). *Math Anxiety, Stereotype Threat, and Gender Stereotypes.* Vanderbilt Psychology Day, Nashville, TN. [Poster]

Research Experience

Curatorial Research Fellow
Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY
June 2024 – Present
- Lead mixed-methods evaluation of teen and young adult programming at five Zoos and Aquariums in New York City

Doctoral Research Assistant
DevTech Research Group
PI: Dr. Marina Bers
Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Studies and Human Development, Tufts University, Medford, MA
September 2020 – Present
- Co-wrote curricula for PreK through 2nd grade incorporating computer science and robotics learning with literacy, approaches to learning, social emotional learning, and character strengths development.
- Partner with local and international community organizations to implement and research early childhood curricula including leading in-person and virtual trainings; designing research instruments; overseeing data collection; analyzing data using qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies; and writing reports for stakeholders.
- Develop Positive Technological Development observational rubrics for classrooms, teachers, and student behavior.

*Prof. Bers, the DevTech Research Group, and I moved to Boston College from Tufts in Fall 2022

Clinical Research Coordinator
Brain and Behavior Laboratory, Department of Psychiatry
PI: Dr. Daniel Wolf
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
May 2018 – July 2020
- Managed ongoing R01 grant studying amotivation and psychosis spectrum disorders, including organization of regulatory and financial paperwork, participant enrollment, and data
- Ran participant visits consisting of behavioral tasks, fMRI tasks, and clinical interviews
- Organized, preprocessed, and analyzed clinical and fMRI data using R, MATLAB, and FSL
- Presented first-author posters examining fMRI and behavioral correlates of internal performance monitoring and psychosis spectrum symptoms across adolescence

Undergraduate Honors Thesis
Department of Psychology and Human Development
PI: Dr. Lisa Fazio
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

May 2016 – May 2018
- Devised the research question for an experiment to investigate the interaction of math anxiety and gender-based stereotype threat on middle school math performance
- Developed research protocols for the study including data collection, coding, and analysis
- Coded data in Excel and SPSS; Conducted statistical analysis using ANOVA models.

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Building Knowledge Lab, Department of Psychology and Human Development
PI: Dr. Lisa Fazio
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
January 2015 – April 2016
- Worked under Dr. Lisa Fazio on projects studying children's math learning and memory
- Coded behavioral and performance data from videos and surveys
- Organized data in preparation for statistical analysis and for communication with school administrators

Education & Applied Experience

Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Fellowship Organizer
Union For Reform Judaism: Youth Organizing Team and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
June 2023 – Present
- Developed and piloted a values-based YPAR program for eleventh and twelfth grade students located in regions across the country, including biweekly virtual programming and an in-person retreat.
- Created and adapted existing YPAR resources and methodologies to support a hybrid model of instruction.
- Facilitated the Youth Organizing Team's and the RAC's first research initiative, including training staff on research practices and serving as PI for the IRB protocol.

Lead Instructor
URJ Six Points Sci Tech Academy, Byfield, MA
October 2019 – Present
- Developed project-based two-week curriculum for students entering grade 11 emphasizing integration of social action with STEM.
- Developed cognitive psychology and neurosciences curriculum emphasizing student-led experiment design for students entering grades 5-10, and transitioned curriculum to remote format for virtual camp programming.
- Mentored college-age staff in developing summer curricula, creating lesson plans, and teaching, as well as with graduate school plans and applications.

Service

Ad-hoc Reviewer
Early Childhood Research Quarterly
International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction

Department Service
Tufts University Doctoral Student Voices
Service Co-Chair
May 2021-May 2022

Community Involvement

URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy
Camp Superhero, Alumni Committee
July 2019 – Present

Special Olympics of Pennsylvania – Philadelphia
Social Events Co-Chair, Young Professionals Committee
November 2018 – August 2021