




# Deshawn Sambrano

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## Education

- 2023      **California Institute of Technology**  
Visiting Research Scholar  
Advisor: Colin Camerer
- 2023      **Harvard University**  
Ph.D. in Psychology, Concentration in Cognition Brain and Behavior  
Transferred from New York University (NYU)  
Advisor: Elizabeth Phelps
- 2017      **California State University, Fullerton (CSUF)**  
B.A. in Psychology, Minor in Philosophy  
*Summa cum Laude*  
Advisors: Iris Blandón-Gitlin, Kathleen Preston, Jessie Peissig

## Research Training

- June – July      **Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Scholar**  
2019
- June – Aug      **Stanford Summer Research Early Identification Program Scholar**  
2016      Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jamil Zaki  
Project Title: Motivational Influences on Perceptual Judgments: How What We Want Changes What We See

## Honors & Awards

- 2020 – 2022      Certificates of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University
- 2013 – 2017      Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program Scholar, CSUF
- 2015 – 2017      Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Research Scholar, CSUF
- 2017      Outstanding MARC Scholar Award, CSUF
- 2017      Outstanding Undergraduate Award in Psychology, CSUF
- 2017      Loh Seng Tsai Memorial Scholarship, CSUF
- 2017      Psychology Department Commencement Speaker
- 2017      Ford Foundation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2012 – 2016      Dean's Honor List, CSUF
- 2016      Appreciation for Volunteer Service from Girl Scouts of Orange County

2016	Society for Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Travel Grant
2016	JoAnn Brannock Travel Grant, CSUF
2016	Department of Psychology Travel Grant, CSUF
2015	Department of Psychology Travel Grant, CSUF
2015	Inter-Club Council Travel Grant, CSUF
2014	Certificate of Appreciation from C-REAL
2014	Inducted into PSI CHI, The International Honor Society in Psychology
2014	Recognition of Services Award, Volunteer Services Program, CSUF

## Grants & Fellowships

2022–2023	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), Harvard University
2019–2023	Prize Fellowship, GSAS, Harvard University
2017–2019	McCracken Fellowship, GSAS, NYU
2017–2019	Opportunity Fellowship, GSAS, NYU
2017–2019	Dean's Fellowship, GSAS, NYU
2014	Associated Student's Incorporated Research Grant, CSUF

## Manuscripts

Browning, E. D., **Sambrano, D.**, Meyer, C., & Peissig, J. (*in prep*). Exploring Genuine and Posed Emotion Recognition. Planned to be submitted to *Visual Cognition*.

**Sambrano, D.**, McLaughlin, K. A., & Phelps, E. A. (*in prep*). Early life Adversity is Associated with Reduced Regret Aversion and Attenuated Affect in a Counterfactual Decision Making Paradigm. Planned to be submitted to *Nature Communications*.

Fan, H, Burke, T., **Sambrano, D.**, & Phelps, E. A. (*under review*). Pupil size encodes uncertainty during exploration and predicts trial-by-trial choice variability. Submitted to *PLOS Computational Biology*.

Castillo, J\*, Fan, H\*, Karaman, O.T., Shu, J., Stussi, Y., Kredlow, M.A., Vranos, S., Oyarzun, J.P., Dorfman, H., **Sambrano, D.**, & Phelps, E. A. (*under review*). Overestimating the Intensity of Negative Emotion in Autobiographical Memory: Evidence from the 9/11 attack and Covid-19 pandemic. Submitted to *PLOS Computational Biology*.

Aldema, A., **Sambrano, D.**, Vásquez-Cortés, M., & Young, L. (*in press*). An Experimental Test of the Effects of Fear in a Coordination Game. Submitted to *Journal of Experimental Political Science*.

**Sambrano, D.**, Lormestoire, A., Raio, C., Glimcher, P., & Phelps, E. A. (2022). Neither threat of shock nor acute psychosocial stress affect ambiguity attitudes. *Affective Science* **3**, 425–437.

**Sambrano, D.**, Masip, J., & Blandón-Gitlin, I. (2021). How emotions affect judgement and decision making in an interrogation scenario. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, **26**(1), 62–82.

## **Presentations**

### **Talks**

**Sambrano, D.** (2022, June). *Using Git/Github to Increase Reproducibility of Science*. Invited Talk for the Harvard University Women in Psychology Workshop. Cambridge, MA.

**Sambrano, D.** (2022, Feb). *Pursuing the PhD: Myths and Realities*. Invited Talk for the Harvard University Office of Career Services. Cambridge, MA.

**Sambrano, D.** (2020, Sep). *Neither Threats of Shock nor Psycho-Social Stress Affect Ambiguity Aversion*. Invited Talk for the Harvard University Department of Psychology. Cambridge, MA.

**Sambrano, D.** (2018, Sep). *Emotional Intelligence Improves Economic Decisions in Social Contexts*. Invited Talk for the New York University Department of Psychology Miniconvention. New York, NY.

**Sambrano, D.**, Leong, Y. C., & Zaki, J. (2016, July). *Motivational influences on perceptual judgments: How what we want changes what we see*. Oral presentation at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium. Stamford, CT.

**Sambrano, D.** & Blandón-Gitlin, I. (2016, April). *The beneficial effects of sadness on decision-making*. Oral presentation at the Humanities and Social Sciences Symposium. CSUF Fullerton, CA.

Fey, T., Blandón-Gitlin, I., & **Sambrano, D.** (2016, March). *Would context manipulation influence older adults' ability to detect deception?* Oral presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society. Atlanta, GA.

**Sambrano, D.** & Peissig, J. J. (2015, November). *Exploring differences between emotional experience and perceived facial expression*. Oral presentation at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research. Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA.

**Sambrano, D.** & Peissig, J. J. (2015, July). *Exploring differences between posed and genuine expressions*. Oral presentation at the Annual Ronald E. McNair Scholar's Symposium. Berkeley, CA.

**Sambrano, D.** (2015, March). *Do we select our political party based on emotional attachment or political ideology?* Oral presentation at Why We Argue & How We Should: Reason & Deliberation in Public Debate Philosophy Symposium. CSUF Fullerton, CA.

Garcia, M., Medina, N., & **Sambrano, D.** (2014, March). *Reinventing a summer research program for students of color: An undergraduate and graduate student partnership*. Oral presentation at the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Conference, Costa Mesa, CA.

## **Posters**

**Sambrano, D.**, Lormestoire, A., Raio, C., Glimcher, P. W., & Phelps, E. A. (2020, Oct). *Neither Threats of Shock nor Acute Social Stress Affect Ambiguity Preferences*. Poster presented at the Virtual Society for NeuroEconomics Conference.

**Sambrano, D.**, Phelps, E. A., & Raio, C. (2020, May). *Neither Threats of Shock nor Acute Social Stress Affect Ambiguity Preferences*. Poster presented at the Virtual Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference.

**Sambrano, D.**, Leong, Y. C., & Zaki, J. (2017, March). *Motivational influences on perceptual judgments: How what we want changes what we see*. Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Conference. Los Angeles, CA.

**Sambrano, D.**, Blandón-Gitlin, I., & Masip, J. (2016, October). *The beneficial effects of sadness on decision-making*. Poster presented at the Society for Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science Conference. Long Beach, CA.

**Sambrano, D.**, Leong, Y. C., & Zaki, J. (2016, July). *Do our desires shape what we see?* Poster presentation at Stanford's Summer Research Early Identification Symposium. Stanford, CA.

Park, J., Preston, K. S. J., Manapat, P. D., **Sambrano, D.**, & Pizano, N. (2016, May). *Consequences of negatively worded items on the predictive capabilities of the NEO-PI-3 using the Nominal Response Model*. Poster presentation at the Association for Psychological Science. Chicago, IL.

**Sambrano, D.**, Preston, K. S. J., Park, J., Manapat, P. D., & Pizano, N. (2016, May). *Decreasing participants' cognitive load while taking surveys under IRT*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychology Association Conference. Long Beach, CA.

**Sambrano, D.**, Preston, K. S. J., Park, J., Manapat, P. D., & Pizano, N. (2016, April). *Emotion regulation and well-being: A structural equation model*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychology Association Conference. Long Beach, CA.

Park, J., Preston, K. S. J., Manapat, P. D., **Sambrano, D.**, & Pizano, N. (2016, April). *Identifying consequences of negatively worded items with the nominal response model*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychological Association. Long Beach, CA.

Espinoza, R. K. E., **Sambrano, D.**, Hunter, B., & Peterson, H. (2015, May). *Influence of jurors' views of mentally ill defendants and level of RWA for racially diverse defendants*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychological Association Conference. Las Vegas, NV.

Person, D., Oganessian, K., & **Sambrano, D.** (2015, May). *Arts integration predicting creativity and motivation in elementary students*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychological Association Conference. Las Vegas, NV.

Person, D., Oganessian, K., & **Sambrano, D.** (2015, May). *Professional development influencing art integration and teacher confidence*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychological Association Conference. Las Vegas, NV.

**Sambrano, D.**, Hunter, B., & Peterson, H. (2014, November). *The effects of mental illness attitudes and political ideology on juror decisions*. Poster presentation at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research. CSUF Fullerton, CA.

Person, D., Oganessian, K., & **Sambrano, D.** (2014, April). *The influence of teacher development on arts integration in elementary schools*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychological Association Conference. Portland, OR.

Person, D., Cuellar, M., Barnett, C., **Sambrano, D.**, Fisk, R., & Arauz, K. (2014, February). *Reinventing a summer research program: A graduate and undergraduate student partnership*. Poster presented at California State University, Fullerton's Research Symposium: Pursuing Excellence in Educational Practice. CSUF Fullerton, CA.

## Work Experience

### Center for Research on Educational Access and Leadership (C-REAL)

May 2014 – *Statistician Lead*

Dec 2014      Director: Dr. Dawn Person, Professor of Educational Leadership

- Organized and led meetings; diagnosed and resolved data analysis and data write-up issues; merged data files to create longitudinal datasets; edited office manuscripts; led professional development workshops
- Led and co-led four projects: 1) integrating the arts into elementary school curricula, 2) introducing high school students to research, 3) creating interventions for college and high school students interested in nursing careers, and 4) personalizing middle school education in English and mathematics through gamified learning
  - o Organized data collection; ran statistical analyses; co-authored an annual report for each project

Oct 2012 – *Research Assistant*

May 2014

- Led and co-led three projects: 1) integrating the arts into elementary school curricula, 2) introducing high school students to research, and 3) creating interventions for college students interested in teaching
  - o Organized data collection; ran statistical analyses; co-authored an annual report for each project

## Teaching Experience

*Guest Lecturer for Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*, Feb, April 2022

ANOVA: Grouping Variances and Overlapping Distributions (used [Shinyio.apps](#))

T-Tests: Pitfalls and Effect Sizes (used [Shinyio.apps](#))

*Guest Lecturer for Scientific Programming and Computing*, April 2018

Best Practices in Scientific Programming

*Guest Lecturer for Multivariate Statistics for Psychology*, April 2015

Introduction to Times Series Analysis

## Teaching Fellow

### Harvard University

*Introduction to Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*, Spring 2021–2022

*Introduction to Psychological Science*, Fall 2021

*Essentials of fMRI for Cognitive Neuroscientists*, Fall 2020

## Teaching Assistantships

### NYU

*Scientific Programming and Computing*, Spring 2018

### CSUF

*Advanced Psychological Statistics*, Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

*Multivariate Statistics for Psychology*, Spring 2016

*Elementary Statistics in Psychology*, Spring 2015 – 2016

*Research Methods in Psychology*, Fall 2014

## Technical Skills

Proficient in:

- Languages: Python, R,  $\LaTeX$ , MATLAB, Bash, JavaScript, HTML, CSS
- Photo and video editors: Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop
- Stimulus Presentation software: Expyriment, jsPsych, Psychopy, PsyToolKit, Superlab
- Statistical software: EQS, *Mplus*, FlexMIRT, Comprehensive Exploratory Factor Analysis (CEFA), Excel, SPSS
- Survey generators: Qualtrics, PsyToolKit, Google Forms
- Operating Systems: Linux, macOS, Windows
- Databases: MongoDB, SQL
- Version Control: Git, Github, Gitlab
- Backend Webserver: Flask, Django
- Machine Learning Packages: PyTorch
- Data Analysis Packages: Scipy, Numpy, Pandas, Stats models
- Webscrapping Packages: Requests, BeautifulSoup, Httpx

## Academic Affiliations & Memberships

Society for Neuroeconomics

Cognitive Neuroscience Society  
Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)  
Association for Psychological Science (APS)  
SACNAS  
Psychology Department Student Association (PDSA), CSUF  
Western Psychology Association (WPA)

## Outreach and Service

2019 - 2021 **MARC Scholar Mentor**

- Mentored two undergraduate students to gain experience in research and prepare for graduate school

2019 **Diversity Undergraduate Research Initiative, NYU, New York, NY**

- Mentored two undergraduate students to develop an experiment, run subjects, analyze data, and present at a local conference

2016 **Girl Scouts of Orange County STEM Expo, CSUF, Fullerton CA**

- Facilitated a booth that exposed girl scouts to some fundamental principles of attention and perception and introduced psychology as a STEM field

2012 – 2015 **Maywood Education Fair (4th – 7th annual), Maywood, CA**

- Organized facilities day of event
- Facilitated a workshop to teach elementary school children what college is and the importance of attending college

2014 **Social Justice Summit, CSUF, Fullerton CA**

- Organized rooms and assisted workshop facilitators

2014 **Equity and Outcomes: Institutional Strategies for Improving Access and Success for Underrepresented Students Educational Symposium, CSUF, Fullerton CA**

- Organized facilities for research presenters

2014 **Pursuing Excellence in Educational Practice Research Symposium, CSUF, Fullerton CA**

- Organized facilities for research presenters

2013 **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: On Your Campus/In Your Classroom Conference, Brea, CA**

- Organized facilities for research presenters and assisted workshop facilitators

2013

**Mindfulness and Learning Research Symposium, CSUF, Fullerton CA**

- Organized facilities day of event
- Assisted in planning and organizing the event