

Eliany Perez

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University of Florida

Department of Psychology

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✦ Decision making | ✦ Risk tolerance |
| ✦ Explore-exploit tradeoff | ✦ fMRI |
| ✦ Spatial cognition | ✦ Healthy and vulnerable aging |
| ✦ Cognition | ✦ Computational modeling |

EDUCATION

PhD in Psychology

In progress

Program: Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience

Mentor: Steven M. Weisberg, PhD

MS in Psychology

April 2023

Program: Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience

Thesis: "The role of risk tolerance in navigation strategy decisions" ([Read here](#))

Mentor: Steven M. Weisberg, PhD

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

April 2017

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

April 2017

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

National Institute on Aging Research Training in Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Cognition in Aging, MCI, and Alzheimer's Disease

Fall 2023 - Present

(\$27,000 stipend plus tuition waiver, travel, and research expenses)

O. Ruth McQuown Graduate Award (\$7,000)

Fall 2023

Jacquelin Goldman Research Award (\$6,000)

Spring 2023

Sallie P. Asche Conference Travel Award (\$500)

Spring 2023

Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference (DACC)

Department of Psychology Travel Award (\$750)

Spring 2023

Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference (DACC)

CLAS Graduate Student Travel Award (\$300)

Summer 2022

Interdisciplinary Navigation Symposium (iNAV)

Department of Psychology Travel Award (\$600)
Interdisciplinary Navigation Symposium (iNAV)

Summer 2022

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award Nominee

Spring 2022

Jacquelin Goldman Research award (\$6,000)

Spring 2021

Department of Psychology travel award (\$75)
Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS)

Spring 2021

Diversity Enhancement Award (\$5,000)

2020-Present

Conference travel award (\$2,500)

Spring 2020

Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging (SRNDNA)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Predoctoral Fellow

2023-Present

Mentor: Steven Weisberg, Ph.D

Co-mentor: Natalie C. Ebner, Ph.D

Director: Michael Marsiske, PhD

National Institute on Aging T32 Fellowship on non-Pharmacological

Interventions for Cognition in Aging, MCI, and Alzheimer's Disease (T32 AG020499)

Ph.D Student

2020-Present

Advisor: Steven M. Weisberg, Ph.D

Spatial Cognition and Navigational Neuroscience Lab

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Lab Manager & Study Coordinator

2017-2020

Social Cognitive and Affective Development Lab

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Lab Principal Investigator: Natalie Ebner, Ph.D

Postbaccalaureate

2019-2020

Brain Cognition and Development Lab

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Lab Principal Investigator: Lisa Scott, Ph.D

Postbaccalaureate

2019-2020

Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention (CSEA)

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Lab Principal Investigator: Andreas Keil, Ph.D

Case Management Intern

2016-2017

Child Advocacy Center

Gainesville, USA

Volunteer
Child Advocacy Center
Gainesville, USA

2015-2016

Volunteer (Pediatrics Department)
UF Health Shands Hospital
Gainesville, USA

2014-2017

PUBLICATIONS

*indicates undergraduate student advisee

Perez, E., & Weisberg, S. M. (2023). Individual differences in spatial navigation. In *Reference Module in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Psychology*. Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-820480-1.00012-7>

Perez, E., Kvam, P.D., McKemey, R.*, & Weisberg, S.M. (Stage 1 RR accepted). The role of risk tolerance in navigation strategy decisions. Registered Report accepted at *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.

Perez, E., Frazier, I., Lighthall, N., Lin, T., & Ebner, N.C. (under review). The Social Iowa Gambling Task (S-IGT): A Novel Paradigm for Investigating Trust Learning and Decision Making.

Horta, M., Shoenfelt, A., Lighthall, N., **Perez, E.**, Frazier, I., Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Wilson, R., & Ebner, N. C. (2023). Facing Trustworthiness: Age-group Differences in Trust-related Decision-making and Learning. *PsyArXiv*. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/4hsu7>

Pehlivanoglu, D., Lighthall, N. R., Lin, T., Chi, K., Polk, R., **Perez, E.**, Cahill, B. S., & Ebner, N. C. (2022). Aging in an “infodemic”: The role of analytical reasoning, affect, and news consumption frequency on news veracity detection. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*.

Valdés-Hernández, P.A., Polk, R., Horta, M., Frazier, I., **Perez, E.**, Ojeda, M., Porges, E., Cruz-Almeida, Y., Feifel, D., Ebner, N.C. (2021). Chronic oxytocin administration in older men modulates functional connectivity during animacy perception. *Aging Brain*.

Rung, J.M., Horta, M., Tammi, E.M., **Perez, E.**, Ojeda, M., Lin, T., Harris, G., Somerville, J., Salmeron, D., Sandesara, B., Feifel, D., Ebner, N.C. (2021). Safety and side effects of chronic intranasal oxytocin in older men. *Psychopharmacology*.

Frazier, I., Lighthall, N. R., Horta, M., **Perez, E.**, & Ebner, N.C. (2019). CISDA: Changes in integration for social decisions in aging. *WIREs Cognitive Science*.

Lin, T., Liu, G.A., **Perez, E.**, Rainer, R., Febo, M., Cruz-Almeida, Y., & Ebner, N. C. (2018). Systemic inflammation mediates age-related cognitive deficits [Research topic] *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*.

Oliveira, D., Lin, T., Rahman, M., Akefirad, R., Ellis, D., **Perez, E.**, Bobhate, R., DeLong, L., Cappos, J., Brun, Y., Ebner, N. C. (2018). API Blindspots: Why experienced developers write vulnerable code. *SOUPS’18: Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*indicates undergraduate student advisee

Perez, E., Kvam, P., Weisberg, S. M. (April 2023). *The role of risk tolerance in navigation strategy decisions*. Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging, Santa Barbara, CA, USA.

Horta, M., Shoenfelt, A., Lighthall, N., **Perez, E.**, Frazier, I., Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Wilson, R., & Ebner, N. C. (April 2023). *Facing Trustworthiness: Age-group Differences in Trust-related Decision-making and Learning*. Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging, Santa Barbara, CA, USA.

El-Shafie, D., Polk, R. J., Horta, M., **Perez, E.**, Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Feifel, D., Ebner, N.C. (April 2023). *Chronic intranasal oxytocin administration increases positive mood and ability to repair mood in older adults*. Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging, Santa Barbara, CA, USA.

Polk, R. J., Horta, M., **Perez, E.**, Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Feifel, D., Ebner, N.C. (March 2023). *Chronic intranasal oxytocin administration increases positive mood and ability to repair mood in older adults*. Poster presented at the Thirteenth Annual Institute for Learning in Retirement Student Research on Aging Poster Competition and the Robert Levitt Awards at Oak Hammock, Gainesville, FL.

*Kunath, J., **Perez, E.**, Barnas, A. J., Boogaart, Z., Ebner, N. C., & Weisberg, S. M. (March 2023). *Neural correlates of strategy shifts in navigation behavior*. Poster presentation. The Thirteenth Annual Institute for Learning in Retirement Student Research on Aging Poster Competition and the Robert Levitt Awards at Oak Hammock, Gainesville, FL.

Perez, E., Kunath, J., Barnas, A. J., Boogaart, Z., Ebner, N. C., & Weisberg, S. M. (February 2023). *Neural correlates of strategy shifts in navigation behavior*. Poster presentation. Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference, Dallas, TX, USA.

Perez, E., Kunath, J., Barnas, A. J., Boogaart, Z., Ebner, N. C., & Weisberg, S. M. (June 2022). *Neural correlates of strategy shifts in navigation behavior*. Poster presentation. Interdisciplinary Navigation Symposium (virtual).

Perez, E., Kunath, J., Barnas, A. J., Boogaart, Z., Ebner, N. C., & Weisberg, S. M. (May 2022). *Neural correlates of strategy shifts in navigation behavior*. Data Blitz. Florida Consortium on the Neurobiology of Cognition, Tallahassee, FL, USA.

Pehlivanoglu, D., Lin, T., Chi, K., **Perez, E.**, Polk, R., Cahill, B. S., Lighthall, N. R., & Ebner, N. C. (August 2021). *Aging in an "Infodemic": Susceptibility to Fake News During COVID-19*. Poster presentation. The American Psychological Association Annual Convention (virtual).

Perez, E. & Weisberg, S.M. (March 2021). *The road less traveled: Neural and behavioral correlations between risk-taking and spatial navigation strategy choice*. Poster presentation. Cognitive Neuroscience (virtual).

Frazier, I., Lighthall, N., **Perez, E.**, Ebner, N.C. (April 2020). *Face forward: Age differences in decisions to trust during a social version of the Iowa Gambling Task*. Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Perez, E., Lighthall, N., Frazier, I., Ebner, N.C. (March 2020). *Face forward: Age differences in decisions to trust during a social version of the Iowa Gambling Task*. Oral presentation. Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

Valdes-Hernandez, P.A., Horta, M., Frazier, I., Porges, E.C., Polk, R., **Perez, E.**, Ojeda, M., CruzAlmeida, Y., Morris, J.P., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N. C. (October 2019). Chronic oxytocin administration in older men modulates functional connectivity of the posterior superior temporal sulcus during social perception. Nanosymposium Oral Presentation. Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, Illinois.

Perez, E., Månsson, K. N. T., Lin, T., Lussier, D., Horta, M., Frazier, Liu, P., Weir, D., Feifel, D., Fischer, H., Ebner, N. C. (June, 2019). *Neuroplasticity and Cognitive Benefits Associated with Chronic Intranasal Oxytocin in Aging*. Poster presentation. Institute on Aging Day, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Lussier, D., Hayes, R., Horta, M., Lin, T., Frazier, I., Weir, D., **Perez, E.**, Feifel, D., Månsson, K. N. T., Fischer, H., & Ebner, N. C. (June, 2018). *Four-week intranasal oxytocin vs placebo administration modulation of amygdala and accumbens volume*. Poster presentation. Annual Meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Singapore.

Liu, G. A., Lin, T., Rainer, R., **Perez, E.**, Burns, P., Anton, S. D., Febo, M., Cruz-Almeida, Y. & Ebner, N. C. (May, 2018). *Systemic inflammation mediates age-related cognitive decline*. Poster presentation. Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Liu, G. A., Lin, T., Rainer, R., **Perez, E.**, Burns, P., Anton, S. D., Febo, M., Cruz-Almeida, Y., & Ebner, N. C. (March, 2018). *Systemic inflammation mediates age-related cognitive decline*. Poster presentation. The 8th Annual North Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Conference, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Rahman, M. S., Lin, T., Akefirad, R., Ellis, D., **Perez, E.**, Delong, L. A., Cappos, J., Brun, Y., & Ebner, N. C., & Oliveira, D. (March, 2018). *API blindspots: Why experienced developers write vulnerable code*. Poster presentation. 2018 FICS Conference on Cybersecurity, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Liu, G. A., Lin, T., Rainer, R., **Perez, E.**, Burns, P., Anton, S. D., Febo, M., Cruz-Almeida, Y., & Ebner, N. C. (February 2018). *Systemic inflammation mediates age-related cognitive decline*. Poster presentation. ILR Student Research on Aging Exposition, Gainesville, FL, USA.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

<i>Latinos and Alzheimer's Symposium</i>	<i>April 25-26, 2022</i>
<i>Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS)</i>	<i>Mar 13-16, 2021</i>
<i>iNAV Interdisciplinary Navigation Symposium</i>	<i>Oct 5-7, 2020</i>
<i>Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging (SRNDNA)</i>	<i>Mar 8-9, 2020</i>

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

Dynamic Models of Decision-Making University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Instructed by Dr. Peter Kvam	<i>Fall, 2022</i>
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Neuromatch Academy 2021: Summer School in Computational Neuroscience	<i>Summer, 2021</i>
Bayesian Statistics Workshop University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Instructed by Dr. Peter Kvam	<i>Summer, 2020</i>
Neurohackademy 2020: Summer School in Neuroimaging and Data Science	<i>Summer, 2020</i>
Mini ERP Boot Camp <i>McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida</i> Instructed by Dr. Emily Kappenman	<i>Fall, 2018</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer University of Florida, Department of Psychology Lecture: "Executive Function with a focus on Decision Making" Instructor: Steven M. Weisberg, PhD Course: Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience (PSB4342)	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Florida, Department of Psychology Advisor: Steven M. Weisberg, PhD Course: Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience (PSB4342)	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Florida, Department of Psychology Advisor: Lori Knackstedt, PhD Course: Behavioral Neuroscience	<i>Fall 2022</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Florida, Department of Psychology Advisor: Neil Rowland, PhD Course: Psychology of Learning and Memory	<i>Spring 2021</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Florida, Department of Psychology Advisor: Brian Cahill, PhD Course: Cognitive Psychology	<i>Fall 2021</i>

Mentorship

Mentee: Merrill Garlington
University of Florida
Program: University Scholars
Project: Structural neural correlates of spatial navigation behavior in older adults: A hippocampal subfield analysis
PI: Steven M. Weisberg, PhD

Undergraduate students and post bacs directly supervised:

Madison Dobreff, Brandi Reynolds, Gerrica Lamothe, Jeffrey Kunath, Merrill Garlington, Lachyn Almazova, Cecelia Albright, Yukshi Jain

Professional Affiliations

Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience & Aging

Society for Neuroscience

Association for Psychological Science

Service

Mentored Journal Reviews

Journal of Neuroscience

2021

Neuropsychologia

2023

Professional Service

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Graduate School Panel

February 24th, 2022

Invited Panelist

Provided insight and advice about graduate school to first generation undergraduate students.

North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Chapter

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022

Brain Awareness Week Chair

North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Conference

January 28, 2022

Volunteer

North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Chapter

Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

Brain Awareness Week Vice Chair

Diversity Week: Health and Medicine Symposium

April 8, 2021

Judge

North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Conference

February 19, 2021

Moderator

Skills

Methodological and analysis training

- ✦ fMRI
- ✦ EEG/ERP
- ✦ Eye tracking

Statistical packages

- ✦ R/R Studio
- ✦ Jasp
- ✦ Jamovi

Computational experienceCoding languages:

- ✦ R/Rstudio
- ✦ Bash shell scripting
- ✦ MATLAB
- ✦ Python

Analysis software:

- ✦ PsychoPy

- ✦ EEGLAB
- ✦ EMEGS
- ✦ ERPLAB
- ✦ FSL
- ✦ fMRIPrep
- ✦ Conn
- ✦ MRIQC

- ✦ Freesurfer

Data management:

- ✦ R/Rstudio
- ✦ HPC
- ✦ Jupyter Lab/Jupyter notebook
- ✦ MobaXterm

Experimental environments and cognitive testing experience

Physical and cognitive measure administration:

- ✦ Audio Editing and analysis (Audacity)
- ✦ California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT)
- ✦ FrACT, NIH toolbox
- ✦ TICS
- ✦ Test for Auditory Processing Disorders (SCAN-3)

Questionnaire creation and administration:

- ✦ Qualtrics
- ✦ RedCap

Languages

- ✦ English (fluent)
- ✦ Spanish (fluent)
- ✦ French (basic)