

Emily Sumner | Curriculum Vitae

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Research Interests

Judgment & decision making	Cognitive development
Risk taking	Curiosity
Decision making under uncertainty	Exploration-exploitation

Education

PhD., Cognitive Sciences (in progress)

University of California, Irvine,
Advisor: Barbara Sarnecka

2015 – Present

M.A., Psychology

University of California, Irvine,
GPA: 3.95

2015 – 2018

B.A., Brain & Cognitive Sciences

University of Rochester,

2012 – 2015

GPA: 3.79, cum laude, high distinctions in Brain & Cognitive Sciences, honors in research, Dean's List 7/7 eligible semesters. Thesis Advisor: Celeste Kidd

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Public Impact Fellowship

University of California, Irvine,

2019

Fellowship awarded for academic excellence and research that influences the public.

Fellowship in Honor of Christian Werner

University of California, Irvine,

2018

Fellowship awarded for exceptional merit within the School of Social Sciences

Merit Fellowship

University of California, Irvine,

2015 – 2020

3 Fellowship quarters awarded upon admission

John I. Yellott Scholar Award

University of California, Irvine,

2016

Awarded to one student in the department of Cognitive Sciences during their first two years of graduate studies. Funded project titled, "Click at your own risk: Investigating individual differences in risk propensity among preschoolers."

Graduate Student Travel Award

University of California, Irvine,

2016, 2017

Awarded to travel and present at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society in 2016, and the Society for Judgment and Decision Making in 2017.

Virtual Reality Brain Jam Hackathon Winner

Games for Change,

2017

Won a competitive, internationally attended hackathon for creating a virtual reality measure of risk propensity in 48 hours. Collaborated with video game programmers and competed against 12 other teams.

Teaching Award

University of California, Irvine,
12 teaching quarters awarded upon admission

2015 – 2020

Bilski-Mayer Fellowship

University of Rochester,
Funded summer research project on decision making and statistical learning.

2014

Continuing Student Scholarship

University of Rochester,
Awarded for outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements.

2012, 2013, & 2014

Dean's Prize for Undergraduate Research

University of Rochester,
Awarded by the Office of Undergraduate Research for outstanding research during undergraduate.

2014

Community Connections Award

University of Rochester,
Awarded by the Department of Gender Studies for founding UR SEGway, a sexual violence prevention group on campus.

2014

Psi Chi Membership

University of Rochester,
Member of the international honor's society for psychology

2013 – Present

Golden Key International Honor Society Membership

University of Rochester,

2014 – Present

Publications

- **Sumner, E.**, Steyvers, M., & Sarnecka, BW. It's about the Treasure, not the Hunt. Children are more explorative on an explore-exploit tasks than adults are. Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Sciences Society (Accepted)
- **Sumner, E.**, DeAngelis, E., Hyatt, M., Goodman, N., & Kidd, C. (2015) Toddlers Always Get the Last Word: Recency biases in early verbal behavior. Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Forthcoming manuscripts.....

- **Sumner, E.**, DeAngelis, E., Hyatt, M., Goodman, N., & Kidd, C. Cake or Broccoli? Recency biases children's verbal responses (Under revision, email for preprint)
- **Sumner, E.**, Lin, G., Sheen, A., Melcon, R., & Jaeggi, SM. Shima: A Virtual Reality Measure of Risk Taking (Submitted)
- **Sumner, E.**, Steyvers, M., Kidd, C., & Sarnecka, BW. Children are more explorative on explore-exploit tasks than adults. (In Prep)
- Thomas, AJ., **Sumner, E.**, & Sarnecka, BW. Children Expect Leaders to Kick out Intruders, and Not to be Bullies (In prep)
- **Sumner, E.**, Stokes, R., Mistry, PK., Jaeggi, S., & Sarnecka, BW. Preschooler-friendly touchscreen games to measure risk propensity and executive function. (In prep, email for preprint)
- **Sumner, E.**, Li, A., Sarnecka, BW, Perfors, A., & Navvaro, D. Expecting the unexpected: Does children's over-exploration facilitate adaptation to a changing world? (in prep)
- Thomas, AJ., Mitchel, V., Terrizzi, B., Piff, B., **Sumner, E.**, & Sarnecka, BW. How do Children Feel

about Hierarchical Groups? (In Prep)

- **Sumner, E.**, Steyvers, M., & Sarnecka, BW. Do higher levels of exploration on an explore-exploit task lead to the detection of environmental features that would otherwise go unnoticed? (In prep)

Conference Presentations

Talks.....

- **Sumner, E.**(2019) A hands-on tutorial on Bayesian Statistics for Developmental Psychologists. Cognitive Development Society. Louisville, KY. Talk.
- **Sumner, E.**, Steyvers, M., & Sarnecka, BW.(2019)It's not about the Treasure, it's the Hunt: Children are more explorative on an explore-exploit task than adults. Society of Philosophy and Psychology. San Diego, CA. Talk.
- Thomas, AJ, **Sumner, E.** & Sarnecka, BW (2019) Children Expect Leaders to Kick out Intruders, and Not to be Bullies. Society of Research and Child Development. Baltimore, MD. Talk.
- **Sumner, E.** & Sarnecka, BW (2018) The Development of Decision Making and Exploration in Early Childhood. Symposium on Cognition and Language Development. Irvine, CA. Talk.
- **Sumner, E.** (2018) Children Have to Make Their Own Mistakes: Exploration in childhood. Irvine, CA. Talk.
- **Sumner, E.**, Stokes, R., Mistry, PK., Jaeggi, S., & Sarnecka, BW (2017) Measuring Risk Propensity in Young Children. Digital Media Preconference at the Cognitive Development Society. Portland, Oregon. Talk.
- **Sumner, E.**, Melcon, R., Lin, G., Cooper., M., & Kent., H. (2017) Shima: A Virtual Reality Measure of Risk Propensity. Games for Change Festival, New York, NY. Talk
- **Sumner, E.**, DeAngelis, E., Hyatt, M., Goodman, N., & Kidd, C. (2015) Toddlers Always Get the Last Word: Recency biases in early verbal behavior. 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Pasadena, CA. Talk.

Posters.....

- **Sumner, E.**, Steyvers, M., & Sarnecka, BW.(2019)It's not about the Treasure, it's the Hunt: Children are more explorative on an explore-exploit task than adults. 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Sciences Society. Montreal, Canada. Poster.
- **Sumner, E.**, Steyvers, M & Sarnecka, BW (2018) Children Know What is Best, but Explore More: A mismatch between actions and preferences. Explore-Exploit Preconference Workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Sciences Society. Madison, WI. Poster.
- **Sumner, E.**, Lee, M., & Sarnecka, BW (2017) Spin at your own risk: individual differences in preschooler's decision-making strategies. Annual Meeting of the Society of Judgement and Decision Making. Vancouver, Canada. Poster.
- **Sumner, E.**, Stokes, R., Mistry, PK., Jaeggi, S., & Sarnecka, BW (2017) Measuring Risk Propensity in Young Children. 58th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Vancouver, Canada. Poster.
- **Sumner, E.**, Lee, M., & Sarnecka, BW (2017) Spin at your own risk: individual differences in preschooler's decision-making strategies. Biannual Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Portland, OR. Poster.
- **Sumner, E.**, Stokes, R., Mistry, PK., Jaeggi, S., & Sarnecka, BW (2017) Developing Touchscreen Games to Measure Risk Propensity in Younger Children. Annual Meeting of the Engaged Learning

Network at the Games for Change Festival, New York, NY. Poster.

- **Sumner, E.**, Lee, M., & Sarnecka, BW. (2016) Investigating Individual Differences in Risk-Taking Preferences Among Preschoolers. 57th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Boston, MA. Poster.
- **Sumner, E.**, Lee, M., & Sarnecka, BW. (2016) Investigating Individual Differences in Risk-Taking Preferences Among Preschoolers. 57th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Boston, MA. Poster.

Invited Talks

- UC Berkeley, Gopnik Lab, March 2019
- UC Berkeley, Kidd and Piantadosi Lab, March 2019

Work Experience

Graduate Student Liaison

University of California, Irvine

Liaison between the faculty members and graduate students of the Department of Cognitive Sciences.

Irvine, CA

2018–Present

Graduate Student Mentor

University of California, Irvine

Mentoring 15+ students in independent research projects and helping them apply for funding. Have received a total of \$20,000 of research funding.

Irvine, CA

2015–Present

User Experience Research Consultant

HelloFresh

Remote consultant for HelloFresh, an international meal kit subscription service. Duties consist of performing statistical analysis, conducting usability tests, and working with an international team.

Berlin, DE

2018 – 2019

Teaching Assistant

University of California, Irvine

Teaching assistant for Introduction to Psychology, Psychology of Influence, Abnormal Psychology, and Industrial Organizational Psychology. Responsible for developing lessons and leading three weekly discussion sections.

Irvine, CA

2016 – Present

Teaching Assistant

University of Rochester

Teaching Assistant for Language Development course. Assisted in answering student questions, test creation, and grading.

Rochester, NY

2015

Undergraduate Researcher

Rochester Baby Lab

Assisted with running participants and lab administration.

Rochester, NY

2015

Naturalist

Drumlin Farm Day Camp

Curriculum development and teaching 3- to 10-year-old day camp students farming, biology and nature in the outdoors.

Lincoln, MA

Summers 2011 – 2013, 2015

Technical Skills

R, \LaTeX , HTML, UNITY, JAGS, JASP, SPSS and Photoshop.

Professional Affiliations

Society of Judgment and Decision Making

Cognitive Development Society
Psychonomics Society
Cognitive Science Society

Ad hoc reviewer

Judgment and Decision Making
Biological Psychiatry
Cognitive Science Society

Supervised independent undergraduate research projects

Julissa Navas: "Advantages of Cognitive Flexibility During Childhood" (2018)
Fatima Pineda: "The Value of Information to Children" (2018)
Hoang Quan Nguyen: "Assessing Executive Function in Preschoolers" (2018)
Kelsy Chou: "Creating Virtual Reality Measures of Risk Propensity" (2018)
Eden Harder: "The Development of Exploration-Exploitation Strategies" (2017)
Amy Giang & Shirley Wang: "Measuring risk propensity in preschoolers" (2017)
Eden Harder: "Delay discounting: A measure of risk propensity or working memory?" (2017)
Gabby Lomeli: "How affect influence risky propensity preferences in preschoolers" (2016 - 17)
Mayra Alaniz: "Investigating the conceptual development of probability" (2016)
Yvonne Vo: "Development of executive functions in foster children" (2016)
Kimia Akhavian: "Development of gender differences in STEM" (2015-2016)

Supervised undergraduate research assistants

Kimia Akhavian*♣◇, Mayra Alaniz*, Joanna Baires Amayra*, Khayla Carsola, Fatima Charara, Kelsy Chou*, Pontea Doroudian, Jarrett Ebersberger, Vanoosheh Ferdousian, Kelly Fogarty, Emily Garcia*, Judith Charlene Gallardo♣, Amy Giang*, Denise Giardina▲, Mikayla Hand*, Eden Harder*◇, Heaven Howse*▲, Jocelyn Hsieh, Amanda Jamison, Jalen Jones, Daria Lasc, Gabby Lomeli*, Fatima Pineda*▲, Jonah Przybyszewski, Diana Mansuryan, Julissa Navas◇, Silvia Navarro Hernandez, Hoang Quan Nguyen*★▲, Madison Salcedo, Angelica Sheen*, Justine Skaar, Tina Singh*, Maria Trucios*, Melissa Reynoso, Yvonne Vo*▲, and Shirley Wang*.

*assisted students in successfully applying for funding for their research

★ won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

◇ Pursuing a PhD

♣ Working as a lab or project manager

▲ Pursuing a master's degree

Guest Lectures

Language Development, University of Rochester (2015)
Cognition and Learning in Educational Settings, UCI (2016)

Abnormal Psychology, UCI (2017)
Developmental Psychology, UCI (2018)