

# Emily Sumner | Curriculum Vitae

415 Social Sciences Lab – Irvine, CA

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## Research Interests

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

## Education

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### PhD., Cognitive Sciences (in progress)

University of California, Irvine,

2015 – Present

Advisor: Barbara Sarnecka

### M.A., Psychology

University of California, Irvine,

2015 – 2018

GPA: 3.95

### B.A., Brain & Cognitive Sciences

University of Rochester,

2012 – 2015

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

## Fellowships and Grants

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### Falmagne Research Award

University of California, Irvine,

2019

Awarded to one advanced student in the department of Cognitive Sciences. Funded project titled, "The Exploration Advantage: Elevated exploration during childhood leads children to learn things that adults don't."

Fellowship amount: \$3,000

### Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship

University of California, Irvine,

2019 - 2020

Fellowship awarded for academic merit.

Fellowship amount: \$11,795

### Public Impact Fellowship

University of California, Irvine,

2019

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

Fellowship amount: \$1,000

### Fellowship in Honor of Christian Werner

University of California, Irvine,

2018

Fellowship awarded for exceptional merit within the School of Social Sciences.

Fellowship amount: \$12,795

### Merit Fellowship

University of California, Irvine,

2015 – 2020

3 Fellowship quarters awarded upon admission.

Fellowship amount: \$36,000

### 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."

Fellowship amount: \$3,000

### Bilski-Mayer Fellowship

University of Rochester,

2014

Funded summer research project on decision making and statistical learning.

Fellowship amount: \$5,000

## Publications

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- **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 (In Press)
- **Sumner, E.**, DeAngelis, E., Hyatt, M., Goodman, N., & Kidd, C. (2019) PLoS ONE 14(6): e0217207. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0217207>
- **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.**, Lin, G., Sheen, A., Melcon, R., & Jaeggi, SM. Shima: A Virtual Reality Measure of Risk Taking (Submitted)
- **Sumner, E.**, Li, A., Hayes, B., Perfors, A., Sarnecka, BW, & Navarro, D. The Exploration Advantage: Elevated exploration during childhood leads children to learn things that adults don't (in prep)
- **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)
- Thomas, AJ., Mitchel, V., Terrizzi, B., Piff, B., **Sumner, E.**, & Sarnecka, BW. How do Children Feel about Hierarchical Groups? (In Prep)

## Conference Presentations

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### Talks.....

- **Sumner, E.** (2019) A hands-on tutorial on Bayesian Statistics for Developmental Psychologists. Cognitive Development Society. Louisville, KY. Talk.
- **Sumner, E.**, Lin, G., Sheen, A., Melcon, R., and Jaeggi, SM. (2019) Shima: A Virtual Reality Measure of Risk Taking. Connected Learning Summit. Irvine, CA. 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.

## Invited Talks

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- UC San Diego, Developmental Psychology Brown Bag, October 2019
- UC Berkeley, Gopnik Lab, March 2019
- UC Berkeley, Kidd and Piantadosi Lab, March 2019

## Awards and Honors

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### Society of Philosophy and Psychology Diversity Travel Award

*Society of Philosophy and Psychology,*

2019

Awarded to support travel to the 45th Annual Meeting of the Society of Philosophy and Psychology

### **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.

### **Dean's Prize for Undergraduate Research**

*University of Rochester,*

*2014*

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

### **Community Connections Award**

*University of Rochester,*

*2014*

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

### **Psi Chi Membership**

*University of Rochester,*

*2013 – Present*

Member of the international honor's society for psychology

### **Golden Key International Honor Society Membership**

*University of Rochester,*

*2014 – Present*

## **Work Experience**

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### **Graduate Student Liaison**

**Irvine, CA**

*University of California, Irvine*

*2018–Present*

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

### **Graduate Student Mentor**

**Irvine, CA**

*University of California, Irvine*

*2015–Present*

Mentoring 15+ students in independent research projects and helping them apply for funding. Have received a total of \$24,000 of research funding.

### **User Experience Research Consultant**

**Berlin, DE**

*HelloFresh*

*2018 – 2019*

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.

### **Teaching Assistant**

**Irvine, CA**

*University of California, Irvine*

*2016 – Present*

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.

### **Teaching Assistant**

**Rochester, NY**

*University of Rochester*

*2015*

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

### **Undergraduate Researcher**

**Rochester, NY**

*Rochester Baby Lab*

*2015*

Assisted with running participants and lab administration.

## 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

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R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, HTML, UNITY, JAGS, JASP, SPSS and Photoshop.

## Professional Affiliations

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Society of Judgment and Decision Making

Cognitive Development Society

Psychonomics Society

Cognitive Science Society

## Ad hoc reviewer

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Judgment and Decision Making

Biological Psychiatry

Cognitive Science Society

## Supervised undergraduate research assistants

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

<sup>\*</sup>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

## Supervised independent undergraduate research projects

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**Madison Salcedo:** "The Benefits of Heightened Exploration During Childhood" (2019)

**Diana Mansuryan:** "Exploring the Benefits of Childhood Autonomy" (2019)

**Emily Garcia:** "Inattentional Blindness Throughout the Lifespan" (2019)

**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)

## Guest Lectures

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Language Development, University of Rochester (2015)

Abnormal Psychology, UCI (2017)

Cognition and Learning in Educational Settings, UCI (2016)

Developmental Psychology, UCI (2018)

## Select Press Coverage

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- July 25, 2019. "Toddlers May Not Give A Totally Honest Answer When You Ask This Kind Of Question, Study Finds" Romper
- July 24, 2019. "Toddlers can't truly answer this or that questions" Futurity
- July 20, 2019. "Scientists Might Have Found The Ideal Way to Get Your Toddler to Do What You Want" Science Alert
- July 17, 2019. "Drs. Oz & Roizen: Coming in second might get your kids to eat more vegetables" Union Leader
- July 17, 2019. "Here's a trick to help your toddler make healthy choices" Houston Chronicle
- July 15, 2019. "Why Your Toddler Gets Mad When You Give Them What They Wanted" Lifehacker
- July 10, 2019. "Toddlers tend to opt for the last thing in a set, so craft your questions carefully." Science News.
- July 7, 2019. "Der letzte Eindruck zählt" Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany)
- July 6, 2019. "Here is how you can make your kids like vegetables and healthy food" Ary News (Pakistan)
- July 1, 2019. "The 'Recency Effect' Is Especially Pronounced In Children – An Important Finding For Researchers And Parents." The British Psychological Society
- June 16, 2019. "If Asked the Right Way, Toddlers Will Choose Broccoli Over Cake, UCI-Led Study Finds" Sierra Sun Times
- June 15, 2019. "Se perguntado da maneira certa, as crianças vão escolher brócolis em vez de bolo, diz estudo" Crescer (Portugal)
- June 14, 2019. "Verdure come seconda opzione, trucco perché bimbi le mangino" Alto Adige (Italy).
- June 14, 2019. "Ciastko czy brokuły? Wybór dziecka zależy od tego, jak zadasz pytanie Więcej" Radio Zet (Poland)
- June 13, 2019. "UCI Study: Kids Pick Broccoli Over Cake – If Asked The Right Way" Microsoft News.
- June 13, 2019. "How to make your kid like broccoli" University of California
- June 13, 2019. "If asked the right way, toddlers will choose broccoli over cake, study finds" Medical Xpress.
- June 13, 2019. "If Asked The Right Way, Toddlers Will Choose Broccoli Over Cake" Science Blog
- June 13, 2019. "If asked properly, toddlers will pick broccoli over the cake, finds the study" Tocz (Ireland)
- June 12, 2019. "If asked the right way, toddlers will choose broccoli over cake" Newswise
- June 12, 2019. "If asked the right way, toddlers will choose broccoli over cake" UCI News
- November 28, 2018. "Making a Difference. Social Sciences Graduate Students named Public Impact Fellows" School of Social Sciences, UCI
- July 12, 2012. "Ring Tones: The bells of the carillon are pealing with renewed vigor as the University's Carillon Society brings a new generation of students to the keyboard." Rochester Review