

# Emily Sumner | Curriculum Vitae

415 Social Sciences Lab – Irvine, CA

✉ summere@uci.edu • 🌐 www.emilysarahsumner.com

## 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: \$18,000

### **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.**, 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)

## **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

## Conference Presentations

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### Talks.....

- o **Sumner, E.**(2019) A hands-on tutorial on Bayesian Statistics for Developmental Psychologists. Cognitive Development Society. Louisville, KY. Talk.
- o **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.
- o **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.
- o 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.
- o **Sumner, E.** & Sarnecka, BW (2018) The Development of Decision Making and Exploration in Early Childhood. Symposium on Cognition and Language Development. Irvine, CA. Talk.
- o **Sumner, E.** (2018) Children Have to Make Their Own Mistakes: Exploration in childhood. Irvine, CA. Talk.
- o **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.
- o **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
- o **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.....

- o **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.
- o **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

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

## Work Experience

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<b>Graduate Student Liaison</b> <i>University of California, Irvine</i> Liaison between the faculty members and graduate students of the Department of Cognitive Sciences.	<b>Irvine, CA</b> <i>2018–Present</i>
<b>Graduate Student Mentor</b> <i>University of California, Irvine</i> Mentoring 15+ students in independent research projects and helping them apply for funding. Have received a total of \$24,000 of research funding.	<b>Irvine, CA</b> <i>2015–Present</i>
<b>User Experience Research Consultant</b> <i>HelloFresh</i> 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.	<b>Berlin, DE</b> <i>2018 – 2019</i>
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <i>University of California, Irvine</i> 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.	<b>Irvine, CA</b> <i>2016 – Present</i>
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <i>University of Rochester</i> Teaching Assistant for Language Development course. Assisted in answering student questions, test creation, and grading.	<b>Rochester, NY</b> <i>2015</i>
<b>Undergraduate Researcher</b> <i>Rochester Baby Lab</i> Assisted with running participants and lab administration.	<b>Rochester, NY</b> <i>2015</i>

## 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 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)

## Supervised undergraduate research assistants

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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, Stephanie Ingram Amanda Jamison, Jalen Jones, Daria Lasc, Gabby Lomeli\*, Fatima Pineda\*▲, Jonah Przybyszewski, Diana Mansuryan\*, Jaryn-Anthony "Tomo" Mendoza, Julissa Navas✧, Silvia Navarro Hernandez★, Hoang Quan Nguyen\*★▲, Ana Maria Ortiz, 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

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

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

## Press Coverage of Research

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

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