

LAIBA RIZWAN

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EDUCATION

M.Sc. in Neuroscience

University of Western Ontario (UWO)

The Impact of Early Life Adversity on Dopaminergic Function: An NM-MRI Study

Advisor: J Bruce Morton, Ph.D.

Sept 2021-
Aug 2023

Honours B.Sc. in Psychology (High Distinction)

University of Toronto, Scarborough (UTSC)

Sept 2017
Jun 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Honours Thesis with Prof. Kosha Bramesfeld

UTSC Department of Psychology, Toronto, Canada

Project: “Using educational games as a pedagogical tool for disability awareness”

Designing and conducting participatory research to capture an authentic picture of the disability experience; examining the differential impact of disability type on community attitudes and perception of a disability.

Jun 2020 -
Apr 2021

Research Assistant (Supervised Study) with Prof. Michael Best

UTSC Department of Psychology, Toronto, Canada

Project: “Ostracism Towards individuals with Schizophrenia as a Function of Diagnostic Awareness and Atypical Behavior”

Heavily involved in multiple aspects of research including experimental design, data collection, statistical analyses, and EEG administration

Sept 2019 -
Apr 2020

Clinical Research Assistant with Dr. Russell Schachar

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada

Conducting clinical assessments and administering neuropsychological tests to children with ADHD, OCD and Tourette Syndrome

May 2019 -
Aug 2021

Clinical Research Trainee with Dr. Brendan Andrade (Better Behaviors Team)

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Toronto, Canada

Administered neuropsychological tests to children (7-12 yrs.) with a diagnosis of conduct disorders; managed health records assisted with data collection and analysis

Oct 2019 -
Feb 2020

Undergraduate Research Assistant with Prof. Laura Cirelli (TEMPO Lab)

UTSC Department of Psychology, Toronto, Canada

Involved in recruitment, data collection and analysis; assisted in organizing Baby Opera field experiment conducted offsite at McMaster University

May 2019 -
Aug 2019

Project Assistant with Prof. Konstatine Zakzanis

UTSC Department of Psychology, Toronto, Canada

Conducted a systematic literature review for the project “Apathy in Traumatic

Mar 2019

Brain Injury” using a variety of databases (e.g., PsycINFO, PubMed)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Teaching Assistant Training Program, Centre for Teaching & Learning *Sept 2021*
University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

A 20-hour interdisciplinary Course for Graduate Teaching Assistants on the strategies and practice of University Teaching e.g., fair grading practices, lesson design, and giving feedback

The Teaching Mentor Program, Centre for Teaching & Learning *Oct 2021*
University of Western Ontario, London, Canada *Dec 2021*

A cohort-based hands-on learning experience involving groups of interdisciplinary graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to observe and offer feedback on one another's teaching.

SPSS workshop with Prof. Olivia Podolak Lewandowska (UTSC) *Oct 2019*

A four-week workshop with opportunities for hands-on experience in conducting statistical techniques commonly used for psychological research e.g., t-tests, ANOVAs, and correlation analysis

TALKS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Bramesfeld, K., Rizwan, L., Abeid, S., Mehta, A., Bhatia, D., & Thayaparan, D. (2021, May 12-14). Voices of Lived Experience: Working with students-as-partners to develop inclusive and authentic learning content Awareness [Conference session]. 14th Annual University of Toronto Teaching and Learning Symposium, Toronto, ON, Canada

Rizwan, L. & Bramesfeld, K. (2021, April 1). *Stories of Thriving & Surviving: Using a Participatory Research Design to inform Pedagogical Tools for Disability Awareness* [Conference session]. UTSC Psychology and Neuroscience Departmental Association Academic Research Panel, Toronto, ON, Canada

Rizwan, L. & Bramesfeld, K. (2021, April 6). *Stories of Thriving & Surviving: Using a Participatory Research Design to inform Pedagogical Tools for Disability Awareness* [Poster session]. UTSC Undergraduate Research Poster Forum 2021, Toronto, ON, Canada

Rizwan, L. & Bramesfeld, K. (2021, May 13- 14). *Stories of Thriving & Surviving: Using a Participatory Research Design to inform Pedagogical Tools for Disability Awareness* [Poster session]. Interdisciplinary Conference in Psychology 2021, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Rizwan, L. & Bramesfeld, K. (2021, June 4). *Stories of Thriving & Surviving: Using a Participatory Research Design to inform Pedagogical Tools for Disability Awareness* [Poster session]. 51st Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference, Hamilton, ON, Canada

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

President, Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology *Nov 2020 -*
Chairing the executive committee; organizing and overseeing chapter related *Apr 2021*

Psi Chi programs; liaising with other campus and departmental organizations; assisting the faculty adviser in the induction ceremony and annual membership drives

Undergraduate Peer Reviewer, Journal of Natural Sciences

Collaborating with the senior undergraduate reviewer to edit and provide constructive feedback on the articles submitted for publication in the journal

*May 2020 –
May 2021*

Cognitive Neuroscience Instructor, The Neuroscience Fellowship,

Creating lecture materials and teaching neuroscience-based content to prospective neuroscience students. Topics include cognitive neuroscience of attention, neuropsychological sequelae of traumatic brain injury

*Jun 2020 –
Sept 2020*

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Preschool Volunteer with Children with Disabilities

Centennial Child and Infant Centre, Toronto, Canada

Supported academic and life skills' learning, motor coordination and interpersonal development in pre-school children with disabilities; implemented indiv. ed. plans

*Apr 2017 -
May 2018*

Crisis Line Responder

Distress Centres of Greater Toronto, Mississauga, Canada

Providing community and mental health resources and crisis intervention to service users from a variety of different clinical populations including mood and neuro-degenerative disorders; applying a solution-focused model to build rapport, encourage problem solving

*Dec 2018 -
Dec 2019*

Public Relations Director

Connect 4 Life, Mississauga, Canada

Generated plans and made decisions to support organizational development and Representation; fundraised to remove barriers for individuals with disabilities

*May 2018 -
May 2019*

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Western Graduate Research Scholarship (\$12,460)

UTSC Dean's List (top 10% students)

UTSC Psychology Travel Award

Psi Chi International Honour Society in Psychology

York University World Scholars Program Scholarship (\$20,000)

York University Entrance Scholarship (\$2000) (Declined)

2021-2022

2018 - 2021

2021

2019

2017

2017

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Annual meeting of the American Psychological Association

UTSC Library Undergraduate Research Forum

14th Annual University of Toronto Teaching and Learning Symposium

51st Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference

Aug 2020

Apr 2021

May 2021

Jun 2021

----- EXTRA INFO YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL -----

Grad Courses I am taking:

-PSYCHOL 9040A: Scientific Computing (MATLAB)

<https://gribblelab.org/teaching/scicomp2021/>

-PSYCHOL 9041: Statistics with R

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K-5Xv9kav6fnd1uREWSHnOBOH_YtgxFwMkyv9MN5yyY/edit

*- Teaching Assistant (PSYCHOL 1002A- Introduction to Psychology as a Natural Science) – 4 sections
Leading discussions in a classroom setting, grading, holding office hours and other fun stuff ☺*