

# David Menendez

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Pronouns: He/ Him/ Él

## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D.</b> in Psychology, <b>Graduate minor</b> in Quantitative Methods in Education Sciences University of Wisconsin- Madison	2022 expected
<b>M.S.</b> in Psychology, University of Wisconsin- Madison	2017
<b>B.A.</b> in Psychology, Honors in Psychology, Graduated with distinction University of Wisconsin- Madison	2016
<b>A.A.</b> in Psychology, Highest honors Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida	2014

## FELLOWSHIPS

2021- 2022	<i>University Fellowship</i>
2016- 2017	A competitive fellowship award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Graduate School for incoming PhD. students and dissertators; fellows receive a 9-month stipend and tuition remission.
2021	<i>Marian Schwartz Fellowship</i> (\$5000) A research fellowship from the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to support graduate student research in cognitive and experimental psychology.
2017- 2021	<i>IES Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Entry Fellowship</i> A competitive fellowship as part of the interdisciplinary training program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This program aims to train social scientists to conduct experimental research on topics in education; fellows receive a yearly stipend, tuition remission, and research and travel support.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2021	UW-Madison Graduate School Graduate Student Service Scholarship (\$1000)
2020	Supplementary Research Award (\$950)
2019	Psychology Department Distinguished Service Award (\$1000)
2019	Student Research Travel Grant (\$1200)
2019	Hertz Travel Award (\$850)
2018	Peter Pufall Travel Award for Emerging Scholars (\$400)
2018	Hertz Travel Award (\$1000)
2017	APS Travel Assistance Award (\$200)

2017	Hertz Travel Award (\$750)
2017	Menzies and Royalty Research Award (\$500)
2016	Undergraduate Research Scholar Award (\$1,000)
2015	Undergraduate Thesis Award (\$1,000)
2014	Peter Masiko Jr. Scholarship (\$1,000)

## **RESEARCH FOCUS**

I study children's and adults' learning of STEM concepts in both formal and informal learning environments. I do so by adopting a mixed methodology, which allows me to examine how children are able to learn through different lenses; for example, by conversing with knowledgeable others, consuming cultural products, and participating in cultural rituals. Additionally, I am interested in how adults and children make appropriate generalizations after learning STEM concepts, and how these generalizations can be scaffolded by the language or visuals in a lesson.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

\* *Authors contributed equally to the work*  
underline *Undergraduate student co-author*

**Menendez, D.**, Klapper, R. E., \*Mandel, A. R., \*Nicholas, K. A., \*Schapfel, M. H., \*Silsby, O. O., \*Sowers, K. A., \*Sumanthiran, D., \*Welch, V. E., & Rosengren, K. S. (in press). "When will it be over?" U.S. children's questions and parents' responses about the COVID-19 pandemic. *PlosOne* [Pre-print](#)

**Menendez, D.**, Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2022). Detailed bugs or bugging details? Influence of perceptual richness on biological reasoning across elementary school. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 213, 105269. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2021.105269>

Bridgewater, E., **Menendez, D.**, & Rosengren, K. S. (2021). Capturing death in animated films: Can films stimulate parent-child conversations about death? *Cognitive Development*, 59, 101063. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2021.101063> [Pre-print](#)

**Menendez, D.**, Mathiapparanam, O. N., Liu, D., Seitz, V. C., Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Representing variability: The case of life cycle diagrams. *CBE-Life Science Education*, 19, ar49. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.19-11-0251>

Peters, D., **Menendez, D.** & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Reframing mental illness: The role of essentialism on stigmatization and perceived treatment efficacy. *Memory & Cognition*, 48(8), 1317-1333. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-020-01061-1>

**Menendez, D.**, Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2020). Do details bug you? Effects of perceptual richness in biological reasoning. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 34, 1101–1117. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3698>

\***Menendez, D.**, \*Jiang, M. J., Edwards, K. M., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2020). Evaluating and communicating about the healthiness of foods: Predictors of parents'

- judgments and parent-child conversations. *Cognitive Development*, 55, 100913. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2020.100913>
- Menendez, D.**, Hernandez, I. G., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Children's emerging understanding of death. *Child Development Perspectives*, 14, 55-60. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12357>
- Gutiérrez, I. T., **Menendez, D.**, Jiang, M. J., Hernandez, I. G., Miller, P., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Embracing death: Mexican parent and child perspectives on death. *Child Development*, 91, e491-e511. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13263>
- Martinčėková, L., Jiang, M. J., Adams, J., **Menendez, D.**, Hernandez, I. G., Barber, G., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Do you remember being told what happened to grandma? The role of early socialization on coping and bereavement. *Death Studies*, 44, 78-88. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2018.1522386>
- Brown, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, & Alibali, M. W. (2019). Strategy adoption depends on characteristics of the instruction, learner, and strategy. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 4, 1-18. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-019-0158-3>
- Alibali, M. W., Brown, S. A., & **Menendez, D.** (2019). Understanding strategy change: Contextual, individual, and metacognitive factors. *Advances in Child Development and Behavior*, 56, 227-256. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.acdb.2018.11.004>
- French, J. A., **Menendez, D.**, Herrmann, P. A., Evans, E. M., & Rosengren, K. S. (2018). Cognitive constraints on understanding lifespan changes. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 173, 205-221. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2018.03.018>
- Rosengren, K. S., Jiang, M. J., Kalish, C. W., **Menendez, D.**, & Hernandez, I. G. (2018). Commentary: What heals and why? Children's understanding of medical treatments. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 83, 175-183. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/mono.12370>
- Benjet, C., **Menendez, D.**, Albor, Y., Borges, G., Orozco, R., & Medina-Mora, M. E. (2018). Adolescent predictors of incidence and persistence of suicide related outcomes in young adulthood: A longitudinal study of Mexican youth. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 48, 755-766. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12397>
- Borges, G., Benjet, C., Orozco, R., Medina-Mora, M. E., & **Menendez, D.** (2017). Alcohol, cannabis and other drugs and subsequent suicide ideation and attempt among young Mexicans. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 91, 74-82. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2017.02.025>

## **CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

- Menendez, D.**, Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (2018). Effects of priming variability on adults learning about metamorphosis. In C. Kalish, M. Rau, T. Rogers, and J. Zhu (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp.2102-2107). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Brown, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, & Alibali, M. W. (2018). How do people evaluate problem-solving strategies? Efficiency and intuitiveness matter. In C. Kalish, M. Rau, T. Rogers, and J. Zhu (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1414-1419). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

**Menendez, D.**, Mathiaparanam, O. N., Seitz, V., Liu, D., Donovan, A. M., Kalish, C. W., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (revise and resubmit). Like mother, like daughter: Adults' judgments about genetic inheritance. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*.

Brown, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, Rajan, N. D., & Alibali, M. W. (under review). Says who? Learners are more likely to adopt a new strategy when it is demonstrated by an expert.

Hernandez, I. G., **Menendez, D.**, Seitz, V., Pinto-Pro, I., Zeitler, M. H., & Rosengren, K. S. (under review). Parent-child conversations of germ and cold weather theories of the common cold in two cultures. [Pre-print](#)

Li, Z., **Menendez, D.**, Klapper, R. E., Sturge-Apple, M. L., & Rosengren, K. S. (under review). COVID-19 and child adjustment: The role of coparenting conflict and child temperament.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

Drafts of these manuscripts will be made available upon request.

**Menendez, D.**, Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (in preparation). Effects of priming variability on children's biological reasoning.

**Menendez, D.**, Brown, S. A., & Alibali, M. W. (in preparation). Some correct strategies are better than others: Individual differences in strategy evaluations influence strategy adoption.

**Menendez, D.**, Mathiaparanam, O. N., Seitz, V., Sabbagh, N., Donovan, A. M., Klapper, R. E., Kalish, C. W., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (in preparation). Deterministic or probabilistic: Children's beliefs about genetic inheritance.

**Menendez, D.**, Halama, S. R., Hernandez, I. G., Hassett, R., Johnson, T. M., Koshevatskiy, N. J., Haugstad, N., & Rosengren, K. S. (in preparation). Cognition in action: The relation between physical and mental paper folding in young children.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS**

### **Invited talks**

- 2021 *Showing the forest or the trees: The role of visualizations in learning and generalization*  
Developmental Psychology Brownbag, Stanford University
- 2021 *Children's and adults' beliefs about genetic inheritance*  
Developmental Psychology Brownbag, University of Chicago
- 2021 *Children's beliefs about genetic inheritance*  
Child Cognition Laboratory, Boston University

- 2020 *Let's talk about death: Socio-cultural influences on children's understanding of death*  
Department of Psychology, Northeastern Illinois University
- 2020 *Translating educational research into assessments*  
Interdisciplinary Training Program, Wisconsin Center for Education Research
- 2019 *Developmental changes in learning with visual representations*  
Department of Psychology, University of Rochester

### Organized symposia

**Menendez, D.** (March, 2021). The role of experience and beliefs in children's biological reasoning. Symposium presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Research in Child Development, Virtual Meeting.

### Conference talks

- Menendez, D.**, Mathiaparanam, O. N., Donovan, A. M., Seitz, V., Liu, D., Rosengren, K. S., Alibali, M. W., & Kalish, C. W. (March, 2021). *Not Exactly like your Mother: Children's Understanding of Genetic Inheritance for Familiar and Unfamiliar Animals*. In D. Menendez (Chair) "The role of experience and beliefs in children's biological reasoning." Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Research in Child Development, Virtual Meeting.
- Menendez, D.**, Bridgewater, E., & Rosengren, K. S. (June, 2020). *Death in Films: Parents' attitudes and children's questions*. In G. Panagiotaki (Chair) "Children's understanding of death: Parental, media and cultural influences." Talk presented at the 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- Menendez, D.**, & Rosengren, K. S. (April, 2019). *Visual Representations in Children and Adults' Understanding of Metamorphosis*. In A. N. Bartel (Chair) "Probing Students' Understanding with Differing External Representations." Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Menendez, D.**, Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (April, 2019). *Effects of Priming Variability on Children's Endorsement of Metamorphosis and Evolution*. In S. Ronfard (Chair) "The Essence of Biological Categories: Factors Influencing Children's Sensitivity to Variability and Change." Talk presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
- Rosengren, K. S., **Menendez, D.**, & Alibali, M. W. (May, 2018). *Effects of variability primes on learning about biological change*. In C. W. Kalish (Chair) "Learning with Variability." Talk presented at the Annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Rosengren, K. S., & **Menendez, D.** (January, 2017). *Looking for Essences: The Influence of Essentialist Beliefs on Real World Reasoning*. Invited symposium discussion at the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial conference of Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Sydney, Australia.

### Poster presentations

**Menendez, D.**, Johnson, T. M., Hassett, R., Haut, A., Mathiaparanam, O. N., Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2020). *Characteristics of visualizations and texts in elementary*

- school biology books*. Poster presented to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Virtual Meeting.
- Menendez, D.**, Meredith, L., & Alibali, M. W. (June, 2020). *Needing some space: Perceptual support influences encoding of the equal sign*. Presentation presented to the annual meeting of the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society in Dublin, Ireland. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- Menendez, D.**, Ou, L., Yudelson, M. V., & Simmering, V. R. (October, 2019). *Inter-relatedness of pre-algebraic knowledge among middle school children*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Louisville, KY.
- Menendez, D.**, Ou, L., Yudelson, M. V., & Simmering, V. R. (October, 2019). *Inter-relatedness of pre-algebraic knowledge among middle school children*. Poster presented at ETCPS in Iowa City, IA.
- Bartel, A.N., Donovan A.M., **Menendez, D.**, Brown, S.B., Hogseth, T., & Alibali, M.W. (June, 2019). *Investigating the Influence of Textual and Graphical Framing on Problem Solving Accuracy and Strategy Use*. Poster presented at the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society, Ottawa, Canada.
- Menendez, D.**, Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2018). Effects of priming variability on adults learning about metamorphosis. Poster presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
- Menendez, D.**, Brown, S. A., & Alibali, M. W. (May, 2018). *Effects of exposure, feedback and need for cognition on strategy change*. Poster presented at the Annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Menendez, D.**, Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (October, 2017). *Effects of priming variability on biological reasoning*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Portland, OR.
- Menendez, D.**, Brown, S. A., & Alibali, M. W. (July, 2017). *I'll do what she is doing: Promoting the adoption of new problem-solving strategies in undergraduates*. Poster presented at the 5th Annual Midwest Meeting on Mathematical Thinking, Minneapolis, MN.
- Menendez, D.**, Benjet, C., Borges, G., Albor, Y., Orozco, R., Medina-Mora, M. E. (May, 2017). *Adolescent Predictors of the Incidence of Suicide Related Outcomes in Young Adulthood*. Poster presented at the 28th APS Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Menendez, D.**, Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (April, 2017). *Do details bug you? Effects of Perceptual Richness in Biological Reasoning*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.
- Menendez, D.**, Gutierrez, I. T., Jiang, M. J., & Rosengren, K. S. (May, 2016). *Embracing Death: Mexican Parent and Child Perspectives on Death*. Poster presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> APS Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE**

### **Professional experience:**

2018- The role of visual representations in children's learning about biological variability  
Present National Science Foundation grant, Role: Graduate student researcher

- Write up pilot data for grant proposal

- Design and conduct experiments with children and adults in museum, laboratory, and online settings
- Collect diagrams and images from biology educational materials
- Supervise and mentor undergraduate and post-baccalaureate researchers
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data to assess learning
- Prepare manuscripts for publication

2019- Cultivating knowledge of mathematical equivalence

2020 National Science Foundation grant, Role: Graduate student researcher

- Recruit Latinx and Spanish-speaking families to participate in a longitudinal study on mathematics learning
- Create and translate recruitment and study materials in Spanish
- Translate between the parent and experimenter details about the study

2019 ACTNext

ACT Inc., Role: Summer intern

- Review and synthesize literature on motivation and science learning
- Prepare proposals for new assessments of scientific knowledge
- Compare international standards of science education

#### **Ad hoc journal reviewer:**

*CBE-Life Science Education*  
*Child Development Perspectives*  
*Cognitive Science*  
*Death Studies*  
*Early Years*  
*Eurasia Journal of Mathematics,*  
*Science and Technology Education*  
*Frontiers in Psychology*  
*Human Behavior and Emergent*  
*Technologies*  
*Journal of Cognition and*

*Development*  
*Journal of Experimental Child*  
*Psychology*  
*Journal of Experimental Psychology:*  
*Human Perception and Performance*  
*Journal of Genetic Psychology*  
*Monographs for the Society of*  
*Research in Child Development*  
*PlosOne*

#### **Departmental service:**

Psychology Colloquium Series Committee:

Member 2016- 2021  
 Treasurer 2017-2018  
 Chair 2018-2019

Departmental Climate and Diversity Committee:

Member 2017-2019

Graduate Student Representative for Faculty Meetings:

Representative 2020-2021

#### **Service-related events:**

2021 *Let's talk grad school* (group of students historically excluded from the academy),  
 hosted by Margaret Echelbarger

2021 *Diverse graduate student panel,*

- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2020 *Career pathways in educational research for policy, practice and advocacy*,  
University of Texas- San Antonio
- 2020 *Psi Chi student hour*,  
Northeastern Illinois University
- 2020 *Let's talk grad school* (group of students historically excluded from the academy),  
hosted by Margaret Echelbarger
- 2017 *"Why should I do undergraduate" panel*,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Teaching assistant**

- Fall 2019: Graduate Course in Statistical Analysis of Psychological Experiments
- Spring 2020: Graduate Course in Design and Analysis of Psychological Experiments
- Spring 2021: Introduction to Psychology
- Fall 2021: Introduction to Psychology

### **Guest lectures**

- Spring 2020: Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (Psych 710, graduate-level course)
- Spring 2020: Conceptual Development (Psych 502)
- Spring 2021: Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (Psych 710, graduate-level course)

## **MENTORSHIP**

### **Students mentored in a research lab**

Katryn Hartfield	Michael Sullivan	Ava Mandel
Taylor Johnson	Sonja Vaintrub	Katrina Nicholas
Ashley Haut	Olympia Mathiaperanam	Maria Schapfel
Erin Condon	Gill Schomaker	Olivia Silsby
Ryan Hassett	Vienne Seitz	Kailee Sowers
Nicholas Haugstad	Jaclyn Psenka	Dillanie Sumanthiran
Madeline Glawe	Kylie Robinson	Victoria Welch
Nicole Koshevatskiy	Xinyi Liu	Nour Sabbagh
Kaitlin Edwards	Jessa Snower	

### **Students mentored who complete senior projects or honors theses**

Danielle Peters  
Samuel Halama

### **Students mentored as part of Psychology Research Experience Program**

- Summer research program for underrepresented students in academia
- Gregory Barber Summer 2016 (co-mentored with Matthew Jiang)
- Enrica Bridgewater Summer 2017
- Pamela Santiago Summer 2018 (co-mentored with Iseli Hernandez)
- Danté Jackson Summer 2020 (as alumni mentor)



**Students mentored as part of the McNair Scholars program**

Jamal Adams

**Students mentored as part of the PASOS program**

Mentoring program for Latinx students at UW-Madison

Jonathan Godinez

Jacqueline Conception Cruz

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

Child and family blog (March, 2020). <https://www.childandfamilyblog.com/child-development/how-do-young-children-make-sense-of-death/>

Learning & the brain (October, 2020). <https://www.learningandthebrain.com/blog/rich-or-bland-which-diagrams-helps-students-learn-deeply/>

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Research in Child Development

American Education Research Association

Cognitive Science Society

Cognitive Development Society

Spark Society