

David Menendez

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University of Wisconsin- Madison

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Psychology, 2022 expected
Graduate minor in Quantitative Methods in Education Sciences

M.S. in Psychology, 2017
University of Wisconsin- Madison

Thesis: *Variability and Biology*

Advisors: *Dr. Martha W. Alibali and Dr. Karl S. Rosengren*

B.A. in Psychology, Honors in Psychology, Graduated with distinctions 2016
University of Wisconsin- Madison

Honors Thesis: *Representational Richness and Learning about Biological Change*

Supervisors: *Dr. Martha W. Alibali and Dr. Karl S. Rosengren*

A.A. in Psychology, Highest honors 2014
Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida

HONORS AND AWARDS

2021- 2022	University Fellowship
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 + complementary registration for the 2018 Jean Piaget Society Conference)
2018	Hertz travel award (\$1000)
2017- 2021	IES Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Entry Fellowship
2017	APS Travel Assistance Award (\$200 + complementary registration the 28th APS Annual Convention)
2017	Hertz travel award (\$750)
2017	Menzies and royalty research award (\$500)
2016- 2017	University Fellowship
2016	Undergraduate Research Scholar Award (\$1,000)
2015	Undergraduate Thesis Award (\$1,000)
2014	Peter Masiko Jr. Scholarship (\$1,000)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Consulting Reviewer:

Monographs for the Society of Research in Child Development
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance
Journal of Genetic Psychology
Death Studies
Journal of Cognition and Development
CBE-Life Science Education
Human Behavior and Emergent Technologies
Cognitive Science
PlosOne

Departmental service:

Psychology Colloquium Series Committee:

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

Departmental Climate and Diversity Committee:

Member	2017-2019
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Graduate Student Representative for Faculty Meetings:

Representative	2020-2021
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

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

Guest Lectures

Spring 2020: Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (Psych 710)
Spring 2020: Conceptual Development (Psych 502)

RESEARCH FOCUS

My research focuses on how children and adults learn STEM concepts in both formal and informal learning environments. I have examined how children and adults understand biological concepts such as death, metamorphosis, genetic inheritance and evolution. I am also interested in how visual representations influence students' learning and generalization in informal (e.g., parental conversations) and formal (biology lessons) learning events, and how people change the strategies they use when solving problems.

PUBLICATIONS

* Authors contributed equally to the work

° Represent undergraduate student author

Menendez, D., Mathiaparanam, 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*. 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, 1- 17. 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>

Gutierrez, 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>

Martinčeková, 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 40th 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 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1414-1419). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

°Bridgewater, E., **Menendez, D.**, & Rosengren, K. S. (revise and resubmit). Capturing death in animated films: Can films stimulate parent-child conversations about death?

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](#)

Menendez, D., Mathiaparanam, O. N., °Seitz, V., Liu, D., Donovan, A. M., Kalish, C. W., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (under review). Like Mother, Like Daughter: Adults' Judgments about Genetic Inheritance.

Menendez, D., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (revise and resubmit). Detailed bugs or bugging details: Influence of perceptual richness on biological reasoning across elementary school.

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. (under review). "When will it be over?" U.S. Children's Questions and Parents' Responses about the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Pre-print](#)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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.

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

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 Developmental Psychology Brownbag, Stanford University
- 2021 Developmental Psychology Brownbag, University of Chicago
- 2021 Child Cognition Laboratory, Boston University
- 2020 Department of Psychology, Northeastern Illinois University
- 2020 Interdisciplinary Training Program, Wisconsin Center for Education Research
- 2019 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 26th 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 12th Biennial conference of Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Sydney, Australia.

Posters

- Menendez, D.**, Johnson, T. M., Hassett, R., Haut, A., Mathiapparanam, O. N., Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2020). Characteristics of visualizations and texts in elementary school biology books. Poster accepted to the 42nd 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 accepted to the annual meeting of the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society in Dublin, Ireland. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- Menendez, D.**, Ou, L., Yudelso, 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., Yudelso, 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 40th 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 28th APS Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

MENTORSHIP

Katryn Hartfield	2016
Taylor Johnson	2016- 2018
Ashley Haut	2017- 2018
Erin Condon	2017- 2019
Ryan Hassett	2017- 2019
Enrica Bridgewater	Summer 2017, as part of the Psychology Research Experience Program
Danielle Peters	2017- 2018, senior honors thesis student
Nicholas Haugstad	2018
Madeline Glawe	2018- 2019
Nicole Koshevatskiy	2018- 2019
Kaitlin Edwards	2018- 2019
Michael Sullivan	2018- 2019
Sonja Vaintrub	2018- 2019
Gill Schomaker	2019- 2020
Vienne Seitz	2019- 2020
Kylie Robinson	2019- current
Jaclyn Psenka	2019- 2020
Xinyi Liu	2020- current
Jessa Snower	2020- current
Nour Sabbagh	2021- current

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/>