**David Menendez**

1202 West Johnson Street, Madison, WI, 53706

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Email: [dmenendez@wisc.edu](mailto:dmenendez@wisc.edu)

Website: dmenendez.com

**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

2021 UW-Madison Graduate School Graduate Student Service Scholarship ($1000)

2021 Marian Schwartz Fellowship ($5000)

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*

*Child Development Perspectives*

**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

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Teaching Assistant**

Fall 2019: Statistical Analysis of Psychological Experiments

Spring 2020: 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)

Spring 2020: Conceptual Development (Psych 502)

Spring 2021: Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (Psych 710)

**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? [Pre-print](https://psyarxiv.com/q8w4p/)

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](https://psyarxiv.com/7j8pb/)

**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. (revise and resubmit). “When will it be over?” U.S. Children’s Questions and Parents’ Responses about the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Pre-print](https://psyarxiv.com/8s53w/)

**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., Mathiaparanam, 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., 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 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- 2021

Jaclyn Psenka 2019- 2020

Xinyi Liu 2020- 2021

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/>