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MIKAH NELSON

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EDUCATION

Expected 2024 University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), CA
B.S. in Psychological and Brain Sciences
 GPA: 3.53

2023 - 2024 Honors Thesis: "Minority and Biracial Children's Perceptions Regarding
 Biracial Identity." [*Working title*]
 Advisors: Zoe Liberman
 Member: Psi Chi

Relevant Coursework:

Simulating Social Systems (Computational Mate Choice Lab Workshop),
 Cognitive Psychology, Research Methods, Lab in Memory and Cognition,
 Perception - Vision, Media Psychology, Human Relationships, Developmental
 Psychology, Honors Research

AWARDS AND HONORS

Summer 2023 Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates NSF (\$3,200)
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 Faculty Advisor: Mary Hegarty

Spring 2023 Small Undergraduate Research Grants (\$700)
 University of California, Santa Barbara

2024 Expected Distinction In the Major

2022 - 2023 Dean's Honors List, University of California, Santa Barbara

PRESENTATIONS

November 2023 Everyday spatial experience, video games, and their influence on spatial
 abilities. Poster presented at Psychonomics Society conference
 (November, 2023).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 – Present Undergraduate Honors Thesis Student
 PI: Dr Zoe Liberman; Graduate Student Mentors: Elizabeth Quinn-Jensen
 Social Cognitive Development Lab
 Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, UCSB, CA

- Reviewed literature regarding racial categorization and flexibility
- Designed agent based model to visualize hypotheses before analyzing

data

- Collected data through UCSB's scientific outreach with local science museum and zoo and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data using R
- Honors thesis title: ""
- Coded videotaped interactions and written responses for behaviors in developmental studies
- Planning to present the results at the 2023 URCA Presentations in the form of a poster presentation

2023 – Present

Undergraduate Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Rene Weber, University of California, Santa Barbara

Media and Neuroscience Lab

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, and Department of

Communications, UCSB, CA

- Trained for and worked with fMRI on studies regarding media and the moral brain
- Helped clean and analyze data from Qualtrics using Excel
- Schedules and screens participants for and in fMRI appointments

2022 – Present

Research Associate

PI: Dr. Mary Hegarty, University of California, Santa Barbara

Spatial Thinking Lab

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, UCSB, CA

- Co-author on poster investigating the effect daily spatial experience has on performance on spatial tasks.
- Leveraged R markdown to contribute to a reproducible data analysis report for coding mental rotation task for larger grant project
- Conducted statistical analyses using R and RStudio for part of the project examining spatial activities
- Acted as experimenter and researcher running participants in Virtual Reality and Omni-directional VR on spatial cognition tasks
- Participated in weekly team meetings to discuss project progress and next steps
- Ran subjects through cognitive tasks using PsychoPy and Unity applications

2022 - 2023

Undergraduate Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Sylvia Kreibig, Dr. James Gross

Home Sleep Study, Affective Psychophysiology Lab

Stanford Psychology Department, Stanford University, CA

- Responsible for data scoring and organization of heart rate variability data (ECGs) using Kubios HRV Premium
- Attended weekly lab meetings on present findings conducted by graduate students
- Conducted literature review on loose and tight coupling
- Gathered materials for a review on psychophysiological measures and their standardization in the field