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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: "Minority and Biracial Children's Perceptions Regarding Biracial Identity." [*Working 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 a 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

SKILLS

Coding

R Studio: The R project for statistical computing (descriptive statistics, correlations, t-tests, ANOVAs, regressions, multilevel modeling) and creating models (agent-based modeling)

HTML/CSS

Measures

Immersive and Omnidirectional Virtual Reality
Qualtrics
jHab
- Infant preferential looking time software
Kubios HRV Premium
- ECG data software
Data entry Google Spreadsheets

Graphics

Adobe Photoshop
ClipStudioPaint
Krita
Procreate