

MIKAH NELSON

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EDUCATION

2020 – 2024 B.S. in Psychological and Brain Sciences
 University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Goleta, CA
 GPA: 3.55
 Member: Psi Chi, SB Creative Lab

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS & POSTERS

* indicates first authors.

Publications

- Utom C.*, Liedtky Lundstedt J., Belinfante J., **Nelson M.**, Woodman K.*, & Weber, R.* (2023). Unraveling the ties between problematic social media use, emotion regulation, and psychological well-being (under review). *International Communication Division*.

Posters

- Munns, M.*, **Nelson, M.***, He, C., Chrastil E., & Hegarty, M.* (2023). Everyday spatial experience, video games, and their influence on spatial abilities (in prep). *Psychonomics Society Conference*.
- Utom C.*, Liedtky Lundstedt J., Belinfante J., **Nelson M.**, Woodman K.*, & Weber, R.* (2023). Unraveling the ties between problematic social media use, emotion regulation, and psychological well-being (under review). *International Communication Division*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

March 2022 - Present **Research Assistant, Honors Thesis Student**
 Social Cognitive Development Lab
 PI: Dr Zoe Liberman; Graduate Mentor: Elizabeth Quinn-Jensen, University of California, Santa Barbara

- Honors Thesis: “Children’s Perceptions Regarding Biracial Identity.” [Working title]
- Responsible for helping recruit, schedule, run, code, design, and analyze studies with infants and children
- Collects data through UCSB’s scientific outreach with local science museum and zoo and analyzes quantitative and qualitative data using R
- Codes videotaped interactions, preferential looking times, and written responses for behaviors in developmental studies

April 2023 - Present **Research Assistant**
 Media and Neuroscience Lab
 PI: Dr. Rene Weber, University of California, Santa Barbara

- Assists on studies regarding media and the moral brain
- Cleans, codes and analyzes survey data from Qualtrics using Excel and Rstudio
- Schedules and screens participants for and in fMRI appointments
- Examines fMRI and eye tracking data from scans to minimize technical errors
- Modifies Python script for 3D printing program for fMRI scans to create 3D models of participant brain scans

October 2022 -
Present

Research Associate

Spatial Thinking Lab

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

- Researches spatial cognition, resulting in co-authorship on a poster investigating the effect daily spatial experience has on performance on spatial tasks
- Leverages R markdown to contribute to a reproducible data analysis report for coding mental rotation task for larger grant project
- Conducts statistical analyses using R and RStudio for part of the project examining spatial activities
- Acts as experimenter and researcher running participants in Virtual Reality and Omni-directional VR, PsychoPy and Unity applications on spatial cognition tasks

June 2022 -
January 2023

Research Assistant

Affective Psychophysiology Lab

PI: Dr. Sylvia Kreibitz, Dr. James Gross, Stanford University

- Scored data and organized files on heart rate variability data (ECGs) using Kubios HRV Premium for a sleep study regarding sleep bruxism and its effects on emotion on participants
- Conducted literature reviews on loose and tight coupling in systems, and psychophysiological measures and their standardization in the field

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Concepts and categorization**
- **Spatial experiences and cognition**

AWARDS AND HONORS

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

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

Winter 2021,
Spring 2022 & 2023 Dean's Honors List, University of California, Santa Barbara

SKILLS

Coding

R for statistical computing (descriptive statistics, correlations, t-tests, ANOVAs, regressions, agent-based modeling)

Python

Javascript (p5.js)

HTML/CSS