

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: 3.58
 Member: Psi Chi, Santa Barbara Creative Lab

PUBLICATIONS & POSTERS

* indicates first authors.

Conference Publications

Utom, C.*, Liedtke 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. *International Communication Division*.

Posters

Nelson, M.*, Youk, S., Malik, M., Liedtke Lundstedt, J., Belinfante, J., Utom, C., Woodman K., & Weber, R.* (2023). Expressing collective spatial communication in goal-orientated virtual worlds. [Research Proposal Poster]. *Association for Psychological Science*.

Belinfante, J.*, Lundstedt, J. L., Utom, C., **Nelson, M.**, Woodman, K., & Weber, R.* (2024). Education and political sophistication positively moderate the relationship between openness to experience and conservatism. [Research Proposal Poster]. *Association for Psychological Science*.

Liedtke Lundstedt, J.*, Utom, C., Belinfante, J., **Nelson, M.**, Woodman, K., & Weber, R.* (2024). Exploring the resting-state functional connectivity of problematic social media use. [Research Proposal Poster]. *Association for Psychological Science*.

Munns, M.*, **Nelson, M.***, He, C., Chrastil E., & Hegarty, M.* (2023). Everyday spatial experience, video games, and their influence on spatial abilities. *Psychonomics Society Conference*.

Utom, C.*, Liedtke 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. *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

- Enacts study procedures to investigate 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 and prints subsequent models
- Investigates communicative cues in virtual environments as indicated by spatial language and interfaces unique to the platform (e.g., pings) within a research proposal

October 2022 -
Present

Co-Lab Manager and Research Associate

Spatial Thinking Lab

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

- Schedules participants for a collaborative UC study, pays subjects and follows IRB requirements, tracks funding for research projects, organizes lab meetings
- 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 Kreibig, 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

- **Spatial experiences and cognition**
- **Concepts and categorization**
- **Learning and cognitive processes**

AWARDS AND HONORS

February 2024	Small Undergraduate Research Grants FRAP (\$350) University of California, Santa Barbara Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rene Weber
December 2023	Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Grant (URCA) (\$750) University of California, Santa Barbara
August 2023- September 2023	Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates NSF (\$3,200) University of California, Santa Barbara Faculty Advisor: Dr. 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 Latex
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