

Vanessa Lazaro

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Psychology Department

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Education

The University of Chicago Psychology, PhD student	2021 – present
The University of Chicago Master of Arts in Psychology	2023
Cornell University Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, with a minor in Inequality Studies	2015 – 2019

Fellowships

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$102,000)	2021-present
Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Fellowship (\$170,000)	2021-present
Cornell Club of Arizona Scholarship Award (\$2,685)	2018 – 2019

Awards and Honors

Norman Henry Anderson Fund Award (\$1,200)	2024
PGSO Travel and Research Award (\$396)	2023
Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology	2017 – 2019
Extraordinary Senior, Cornell University's College of Arts & Sciences	2019
Commencement Speaker, Cornell University's Department of Sociology	2019
Dean's List for Excellence in Scholarship, Cornell University	2017 – 2018
Figure Design Award, Cornell Undergraduate Research Board's Fall Forum	2018

Publications

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (under review). Who suffers more? A developmental examination of the wealth-based perceptions of psychological pain. *Developmental Psychology*.

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2024). Children's social preference for peers engaged in brilliance-required activities: The impact of gender and race. *Developmental Psychology*, 60(12), 2233–2241. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001822>

Lee, N.*, **Lazaro, V.***, Wang, J. J., Şen, H. H., & Lucca, K. (2023). Exploring individual differences in infants' looking preferences for impossible events: The Early Multidimensional Curiosity Scale. *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Hiura, L., **Lazaro, V.**, & Ophir, A. (2024). Paternal absence and increased caregiving independently and interactively shape the development of male prairie voles at subadult and adult life stages. *Hormones and Behavior*.

Hiura, L., **Lazaro, V.**, & Ophir, A. (2023). Plasticity in parental behavior and vasopressin: Responses to co-parenting, pup age, and an acute stressor are experience-dependent. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*.

*Indicates shared first authorship

Research Experience

Early Social Thinkers (EAST) Laboratory

2021 – present

Doctoral Student

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lin Bian, University of Chicago

Research Questions: How do children develop stereotypes about brilliance depending on social identities (e.g. race and gender) and what are the consequences of these beliefs?

Emerging Minds Laboratory

2019 –2021

Lab Manager

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kelsey Lucca, Arizona State University

Research Question: How do social cognitive processes such as curiosity and persistence develop in infants and young children?

Automaticity Laboratory

2018 –2019

Research Assistant

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melissa Ferguson, Cornell University

Research Question: How does implicit cognition—namely, automaticity—play a role in developing first impressions?

Integrative Neuroethology Laboratory

2016 –2019

Research Assistant

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alexander Ophir, Cornell University

Research Question: How does variation in early life experience (i.e. maternal handling and paternal absence) influence adult prosocial behavior?

Conceptual Development Laboratory

Summer 2018

Summer Research Assistant

Through the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) and the Michigan Summer Program in Cognition and Early Development (MSPICED)

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Susan Gelman, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Research Question: How do children and adults conceptualize race and gender?

Child Development and Language Laboratory

Summer 2017

Summer Research Assistant

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Trina Spencer, Northern Arizona University

Research Question: How do different pedagogies influence children's ability to recall stories and their meanings (in both Spanish and English)?

Presentations

Invited Talks

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2024, January). "Social status shapes children's social prototypes: Evidence from real-world and novel social groups". Development & Learning Lab Meeting, University of Cambridge.

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2022, August). "Same stressors, different distress: perceived wealth status and psychological pain". University of Massachusetts Amherst, Cognition Across Development Lab Meeting.

Lazaro, V. (2021, March). "Social Essentialism in Young Children". Arizona State University, Cognitive Development Guest Lecture.

Lazaro, V. (2019, November). "Social Essentialism in Young Children". Arizona State University, Cognitive Development Guest Lecture.

Workshop Presentations

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2024, November). *"Brilliance = Men, but Only When They're White?: A Theoretical Model for Why Gender-Brilliance Stereotypes are Racialized."* University of Chicago, Topics in Developmental Psychology.

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2024, February). *"Social status shapes children's social prototypes: Evidence from real-world and novel social groups."* University of Chicago, Topics in Developmental Psychology.

Sabol, T., Stein, A., & **Lazaro, V.*** (2023, April). *"Leveraging a Partnership Approach to Policy- and Practice-Relevant Research: A Focus on Equitable Access"*. University of Chicago, Committee on Education Workshop.

*Indicates co-presenter

Poster Presentations

Liu, R., **Lazaro, V.** & Bian, L. (2025, May) How Social Relationships Guide Girls' Interests in Brilliance-Associated Activities. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Amemiya, J., Sitzes, E., **Lazaro, V.** & Bian, L. (2025, May) When inequality persists: Children's reasoning about and responses to inequalities that persist after the removal of historical structural barriers. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2024, March) Children's social preference for girls and boys engaged in brilliance-required activities: the impact of race. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Pasadena, CA.

Tallberg, M., **Lazaro, V.**, Bian, L. (2024, March) Stereotypes of brilliance: Unpacking their links with gender presentation and gender identity. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Pasadena, CA.

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2023, March) How Social Status Influences Prototypicality: Evidence from Novel and Real-World Social Groups. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

Shu, Y., **Lazaro, V.**, Li, H. J., & Bian, L. (2023, March) Children Gradually Perceive the Poor as Experiencing More Pain: Evidence from the U.S. and China. Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

Lazaro, V. & Bian, L. (2023, February) How Social Status Influences Prototypicality: Evidence from Novel and Real-World Social Groups. Poster presented at Origins of the Social Minds Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Lazaro, V., Li, H. J., Zhang, Y., & Bian, L. (2023, February) Children's Considerations of Wealth Status in Perceiving Others' Physical and Psychological Pain. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Lee, N., **Lazaro, V.**, Wang, J., & Lucca, K. (2022, July) Curious Environments, Curious Infants: Exploratory Factor Analysis to Examine the Role of Daily Parenting Activities on Curiosity. Poster presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies Conference, Ottawa, Canada.

Lazaro, V., Shu, Y., Li, H. J., & Bian, L. (2022, May) Children's Considerations of Wealth Status in Perceiving Others' Physical and Psychological Pain. Poster presented at the Psychology Department Grad-Cross Posters, Chicago, IL.

Lazaro, V., Shu, Y., Li, H. J., & Bian, L. (2022, April) Children's Considerations of Wealth Status in Perceiving Others' Physical and Psychological Pain. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Madison, WI.

Lazaro, V., Hiura, L., & Ophir, A. (2019, May) The Interplay Between Parental Involvement in Prairie Vole Parents. Poster presented at the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board: Spring Symposium, Ithaca, NY.

Lazaro, V., Hiura, L., & Ophir, A. (2019, May) The Interplay Between Parental Involvement in Prairie Vole Parents. Poster presented at the Cornell Undergraduate Psychology (CUP) Conference, Ithaca, NY.

Lazaro, V., Brauher, K., Fine, R., Beischel, W., Schudson, Z., & Gelman, S.A. (2018, July) Social Astigmatism: New Measures Assessing Racial and Gender Blindness. Poster presented at the Summer Research Opportunities Program Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.

Brauher, K., **Lazaro, V.**, Fine, R., Beischel, W., Schudson, Z., & Gelman, S.A. (2018, August) Turning a Blind Eye: New Measure to Assess Racial Blindness. Poster presented at the Michigan Summer Program in Cognition and Early Development Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.

Lazaro, V., Hiura, L., & Ophir, A. (2018, November) The Interplay of Parental Involvement in Prairie Vole Parents. Poster presented at the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board: Fall Forum, Ithaca, NY

Teaching Experience

Developmental Psychology	Winter & Spring 2023, Winter 2024
Teaching Assistant – University of Chicago	
Lead instructors: Drs. Kate O'Doherty & Tess Fulcher	
Social Psychology	Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant – University of Chicago	
Lead instructor: Dr. Shige Oishi	
Psychology of Judgment and Decision-Making	Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant – University of Chicago	
Lead instructor: Dr. Boaz Keysar	
Six Pretty Good Books: Explorations in Social Science	Fall 2018
Teaching Assistant – Cornell University	
Lead instructors: Drs. Stephen Ceci & Michael Macy	

Leadership Experience

PGSO Diversity and Inclusion Committee, <i>Committee Head</i>	2023-2025
Cornell Filipino Association, <i>Vice President</i>	2018 – 2019
Cornell Filipino Association, <i>Undergraduate Representative</i>	2017 – 2018

Service Experience

Early Childhood Research Alliance of Chicago (EC-REACH)	2022 – 2024
Apprentice	
Psychology Graduate Student Organization –	2021 – present
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member	
The University of Chicago's Diversity Advisory Board	2021 – 2022
Member	
College Mentors for Kids	2016
College Mentor	
Alpha Phi Omega, Gamma Chapter	2016 – 2017
Member	

Skills and Languages

Skills: R, Stata, SPSS, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite, Datavyu, REDCap, E-Prime, EthoVision, Observer XT

Languages: English (native); Spanish (conversational); Tagalog (proficient)