

Kayla Brown

Department of Psychology
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Research Interests:

Developmental Psychopathology, Resilience, Emotion Regulation, Mood Dysregulation, Racial Inequality, Structural Inequality, Marginalized and At-Risk Youth

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Psychology (Dept. Honors) Fall 2019 – Spring 2023
Minor, Neuroscience
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Honors Thesis: Assessing the Effects of Racial Microaggression and Structural Inequality on Overall Wellbeing and Risk for Psychopathology
Supervisors: Margaret Sheridan, Ph.D., Anna Fetter, Ph.D., Esme Navarro

HONORS & AWARDS

Carolina Research Scholar Program (CRSP)	2023
UNC Student Life & Leadership Leader Award	2023
J. Steven Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Award	2023
Lindquist Undergraduate Research Award	2022
Psi Chi: International Honors Psychology	2020
Hayden B. Renwick Award	2020
Ora Lee Sanders Scholar: PUSH Coalition	2019 - 2023

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

J. Steven Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant (\$2,263)	2023
UNC Psychology Department Undergraduate Thesis Grant (\$272.85)	2022
Ora Lee Sanders Scholar (\$10,000)	2019 - 2023
State Employee Credit Union Foundation Scholar (\$10,000)	2019 - 2023
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. May Week Scholar (\$1,000)	2019

PRESENTATIONS

*Denotes undergraduate mentee

Peer Reviewed Presentations

Brown, K., Marcus, T., Markant, J. (2025, November). *Measures of endogenous attention control are differentially related at 4-, 6-, and 8-months of age*. Poster accepted to the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, San Diego, CA.

Brown, K., Marcus, T., Markant, J. (2024, October). *Focused attention and eye movement control as measures of developing endogenous attention control in infancy*. Poster accepted to the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Chicago, IL.

Brown, K., Berman, I.S., Carolus, A.E., Sheridan, M.A. (2021, November). *Cultural Differences in Parental Warmth*. Poster Presented at Harvard University Women in Psychology Annual Trends in Psychology Summit (TiPS). Virtual Due to COVID-19.

Local/Non-Peer Reviewed Presentations

Brown, K., Marcus, T., Markant, J. (2025, April). *Eye movement control, focused attention and temperament as measures of developing endogenous attention control across infancy*. Poster presented at the Tulane Research, Innovation and Creativity Summit, New Orleans, LA.

Sanders*, Z., **Brown, K.**, Alperstein*, A., Meyer*, E., Markant, J. (2025, April). *Investigating endogenous attention control between 4- and 6- months of age during multiple object free play task*. Poster presented at the Tulane Research, Innovation and Creativity Summit, New Orleans, LA.

Meyer*, E., **Brown, K.**, Sanders*, Z., Gray, S., Markant, J. (2025, April). *Maternal early life experiences relate to 4-month-old infants' sustained attention during free play*. Poster presented at the Tulane University Research Program in Neuroscience Summer Program, New Orleans, LA

Sanders*, Z., **Brown, K.**, Alperstein*, A., Meyer*, E., Markant, J. (2024, October). *Investigating endogenous attention control between 4- and 6- months of age during multiple object free play task*. Poster presented at the NTC Research & Ideas Symposium, New Orleans, LA.

Meyer*, E., **Brown, K.**, Sanders*, Z., Alperstein*, A., & Markant, J. (2024, October). *Four-Month-Old Infants' Endogenous Attention During Free Play Relates to Maternal Anxiety and Depression Symptoms*. Poster presented at School of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Research Poster Session, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.

- Placed Third Place Overall: School of Science and Engineering

Brown, K., Carolus, A.E., Fetter, A.K., Navarro, E., Sheridan, M.A (2023, October) *Assessing the Effects of Racial Microaggression and Structural Inequality on Overall Wellbeing and Risk for Psychopathology*. Presented at the 2023 Celebration of Undergraduate Research. Chapel Hill, NC.

Brown, K., Carolus, A.E., Fetter, A.K., Navarro, E., Sheridan, M.A (2022, October) *Assessing Racial Trauma and Risk for Psychopathology*. Presented at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Psychology and Neuroscience Department Research Fest. Chapel Hill, NC.

Brown, K., Berman, I.S., Carolus, A.E., Sheridan, M.A. (2021, December). *Cultural Differences in Parental Warmth and Parent Child Interaction*. Independent Research Presentation at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Laboratory Manager (Lab Research Technician)

2023 – Present

Learning & Brain Development Lab

Department of Psychology, Tulane University

PI: Julie Markant, Ph.D.

Project: Infant's First Year Study -- Longitudinal Investigation of Endogenous and Social-Motivational Predictors of Attention to Caregivers in Infancy

Role: Lab Manager, Study Site Coordinator, Eye-tracking and behavioral Researcher

- Partner and support local NOLA community services and initiatives to provide LBD Lab families and community members accessible resources. Partners: Louisiana Children's Museum, LCMC Lakeside Hospitals, WIC offices, Training Grounds etc.
- Manage Tulane IRB records and submissions of all projects in the lab, Red Cap surveys distribution to participants, phone screening participants interested in our infant attention study and obtain participation informed consent during those visits.
- Data collection: eye tracking, heart rate variability, still-face behavioral observation, multiple object free play observation, and behavioral coding using Datavyu.
- Manage data accuracy of all entries.
- Develop study protocols for multiple object video processing, coding and other aspects of the behavior measures of this study.
- Train all research assistants and staff in all aspects of the lab; recruitment, data collection, and processing.
- Present and prepare research topics during weekly lab meetings, i.e., spearheaded Cultural Humility workshop.
- Data management and project update meetings for the Infant First Year Study.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

2020 – 2023

Child Imaging Research on Cognition and Life Experiences (CIRCLE) lab

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PI(s): Margaret Sheridan, Ph.D., Adam Miller, Ph.D.

Supervisors; Esme Navarro, Ilana Berman, Ph.D.

Projects: Youth Emotions Study, COVID-19 Pilot Study, Study of Toddler to Teenage Anxiety and Resilience Study and Wellness Health and Life Experiences Study

Role(s): Undergraduate Research Assistant – Runner D, Senior Honors Thesis Student and Lead Parent Child Interaction Coder

- Assisted with experimental set up MRI, EEG and computer tasks, Qualtrics programming, and prepping protocols and procedures for senior research assistants of the lab.
- Used free surfer to analyze abnormalities in areas of the brain from MRI scans.
- Childcare during participant observations and community recruitment.
- Lead PCI/Maternal Entropy coding team; trained other undergraduates to behaviorally code child and parental interactions.
- Presented research topics and discussion during weekly undergraduate cohort meetings, and JEDI Anti-Racism committee meetings.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Wake County Internship Program (Intern): 2018
 Over 200 hours completed for the Wake County Internship Program at East Wake High School
 Internship Site: Cornerstone Family Services Group

- Substance Abuse and Trauma Related Recovery Clinic - Dosing with Buprenorphine, Play Therapy with children, individual and family therapy.
- Observed child psychiatrists and nurse practitioners during certain aspects of diagnostic interviews and treatment with clients.
- Managed patient appointment scheduling, filed patient records, contacted insurance companies, stored confidential patient data in portal for the psychiatrist and therapist of the clinic. Obtained and practiced HIPAA guidelines for medical records

MENTORSHIP & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNC Minority Peer Mentoring Program: Advisor	2020 – 2023
UNC Queen in You: Youth Mentor	2020 – 2022
ENG in: Mentor – Teaching English to Ukrainian students	2020 – 2022

Undergraduate Research Assistant Advised:

*Denotes Tulane's Psychology Departmental Senior Award Recipient

Zoe Sanders*: Tulane University, NTC SRP Grant Recipient (\$1,500), graduated 2025

Clare McIntyre: Tulane University, Fulbright Scholar, graduated 2025

Makenzie Soto: Tulane University, graduated 2025

Alyssa Alperstein*: Tulane University, NTC SRP Grant Recipient (\$1,500), CELT Grant Recipient (\$3100), graduated 2025

Emma Meyer*: TURN scholar, graduated 2025

Maira Ansari*: Tulane University, graduated 2025

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. (Member)

TABLE NC: Feeding Local Kids (Volunteer)

Whole Foods Planet Foundation (Volunteer)

Carolina Cupboard Student Food Pantry (President)

JEDI Anti-Racism Committee (BIPOC Affinity)

Queen in You (Service & Volunteer Chair)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Professional: Society for Research in Child Development; Black Caucus Member, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Women in Cognitive Science, ManyBabies

Other Affiliations: Black in Neuro, Scholars Committed to Opportunities in Psychological Education – Loyola University, Auburn University and Emory University (2024), MAGIC Mentorship Program (2025), Summer Undergraduate Research Program – University of Georgia (2024), Chicagoland Diversifying Clinical Psychology (2024)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Adult Mental Health First Aid Certified (2024, December)

Workshops:

“Prioritizing Possibilities to Promote Flourishing Amid Adversity by Scaling Positive Childhood Experiences | Resilience Talk: October Lunch and Learn,” presented by Christina Bethell, Ph.D., Black in Neuro, (2025, February). (1 CEU)

“Microaggressions 101,” presented by Jamila Hackworth, Ph.D., Black in Neuro, (2024, October). (1 CEU)

“Multisystem Resilience: The Role of Sociocultural Processes and Contexts in Ethnic-Racial Minority Youth Development | Resilience Talk: October Lunch and Learn,” presented by Fanita Tyrell, Ph.D., Mind Resilience, (2024, October). (1 CEU)

SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Data Collection and Processing Software: Microsoft Office, Dataviewer, Datavyu, Heart Rate Variability Analysis, Adobe Video Sync Pro, Mindware, Qualtrics, REDCap, SR Research, Observer XT, FreeSurfer, Acqknowledge

Experiment and Stimulus Design: Experiment Builder

Statistical Software: Python, R, SPSS, Java

REFERENCES

Julie Markant, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
Email: jmarkant@tulane.edu

Margaret Sheridan, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience, Clinical Psychology Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Email: sheridan.margaret@unc.edu

Taylor Marcus, Ph.D. Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Psychology, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
Email: tmarcus2@tulane.edu