

PSYCHOLOGY

UC Riverside Psychology Newsletter | Issue 6 | Editor: Rachel Wu, Ph.D.

Graduate student awards & grants

Pamela Sheffler: National Academy of Education/ Spencer Dissertation Fellowship semi-finalist; UCR Healthy Campus Initiative grant on imposter syndrome

Kyla Rankin: UCR GSMP Mentor of the Year Award; UCR Psychology Robert Rosenthal Graduate Student Research Award; Stella R. Arambel Award for Academic Excellence

Dulce Wilkinson: Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award; European Association for Personality Psychology Travel Grant

Dana Glenn: UCR Psychology Graduate Student Research Rising Star Award; Graduate Research Mentorship Program Award

Lilian Azer: UCR Center of Advanced Neuroimaging Pilot Grant

Achievements, funding, & community engagement

UCR's Department of Psychology has had a number of major achievements in the past year, including obtaining over \$20 million in new grants, as well as other academic achievements and community engagement. This issue provides an overview of these accomplishments achieved in the past year.



New grants



[Dr. Rebekah Richert](#) received \$10 million from the John Templeton Foundation to investigate the development of religious cognition and behavior and variation in the acquisition and transmission of religious beliefs and practices.



[Dr. Chandra Reynolds](#) received a large grant from NIH to investigate early life and current factors that influence cognitive functioning as individuals transition across into midlife. This project will evaluate stability and change across the midlife transition in up to 1,400 individuals including twins and siblings in the US, as well as from 5,000 twins from the UK.

Graduate student awards & grants

Danielle Delany: UCR Science Policy Fellow with Congressman Takano; UCR Ernest Propes Travel Award; National Science Policy Network Travel Scholarship

Agnes Varghese: UCR Center for Science to Policy Fellowship with Assemblymember Reyes; National Science Policy Network Residency; Junior Fellowship at the Center for Scholars and Storytellers

Brianne Coulombe: UCR Dissertation Year Fellowship; UCR Distinguished Teaching Award

Calen Horton: UCR Psychology Mentor Award

Jordan Mullins: Center for Health Disparities Research grant on anxious hypervigilance in Latinx youth

Sarah Knapp: UCR Earle C. Anthony Travel Award

Esteban Lelo de Larrea Mancera: IEEE Epigenetics and Robotics 2019 conference travel grant; UC Mexus Fellowship

Kimia Yaghoubi: FIELD5 NASA Fellowship



[Dr. Aaron Seitz](#) received several large grants from NIH, NSF, and foundations to investigate how cognitive training can be improved to benefit diverse individuals, including better validity for hearing tests and assessments of executive function to reduce education inequities.



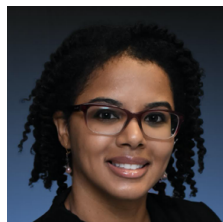
[Dr. Khaleel Razak](#) received two major grants from NIH, one of which is a U54 (Center grant). These projects pursue studies on brain neurophysiology in Fragile X Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder.



[Dr. John Franchak](#) received a large grant from NSF to investigate how acquiring new motor skills, such as learning to sit and walk, changes infants' opportunities for learning in daily life to facilitate cognitive and language development.



[Dr. Kate Sweeny](#) received a large NSF grant to investigate a new theoretical framework to understand links between emotions, coping, and well-being, with a particular focus on links between worry and waiting.



[Dr. Aerika Loyd](#) received a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to investigate risk and resilience among Black youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system in the Inland Empire.



[Dr. Brent Hughes](#) received a large NSF grant to investigate the neural basis of outgroup deidentification, which means considering people within your own racial group as individuals, but people outside of your racial group as indistinct.

Outreach

- **Dr. Aerika Loyd:** [COVID-19: Heightened racial disparities with UCR School of Public Policy](#)
- **Dr. Diamond Bravo:** [SRCD anti-racist series webinar](#)
- **Dr. Kate Sweeny:** [Ten Percent Happier](#) podcast
- **Dr. Aaron Seitz:** [UCR endowed chair interview](#)

Alumni jobs

- **Dr. Anne Cybenko:** Deputy Executive Director of U.S. Air Force Research
- **Dr. Allison Abbe:** U.S. Army War College

Real-world change

Danielle Delany and Agnes Varghese headed up a group of 7 PhD students, who over an intense two days, looked into data on school shootings to determine policy recommendations for the Inland Empire. This work led to a publication in the *Journal of Science Policy and Governance*.

Agnes Varghese has been selected to participate in an AAAS workshop to learn about the structure and organization of Congress, the federal budget and appropriations process, and tools for effective science communication and civic engagement.



Dr. Lani Bennett received a Hellman Fellowship to investigate how memory for past decisions contributes to future decisions and whether this process underlies decision failures in older adults.



Dr. Kalina Michalska received a UCR Center for Health Disparities NIH grant to examine the potential protective effects of cultural value transmission on the development of disruptive behavior.



Dr. Rachel Wu received an NSF grant to investigate how younger, middle-aged, and older adults are learning to cope with COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions, and whether a learning intervention has helped build resilience among older adults.

New faculty awards

Dr. Mary Gauvain: Elected as President of Division 7 (Developmental Psychology) of the American Psychological Association

Dr. Kate Sweeny: UCR Commitment to Graduate Diversity Award and a UCR Psychology Faculty of the Year Award

Donate to UCR Psychology!

Donate to one of the existing funds to promote and sustain excellence in Psychological Science and well-being.

[UCR Psychology Research](#), [Rosenthal Graduate Student Award](#), Austin & Helen Riesen Senior Psychobiology Award, UCR Psychology Department (workshops, infrastructure, etc.), Ross D. Parke Annual Lecture on Children's Social-Emotional Development Fund, Stella R. Arambel Memorial Award (excellence in Psychological Science), University STEM Academy-USA Program, [Guardian Scholars \(helping emancipated foster youth in higher education\)](#). [Click here for more information.](#)



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in paid research studies!**

Who? Children from birth to 17 years old
Siblings are welcome

What? Psychology research with babies,
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When? A time that works for you!

How? Visit our website: childstudies.ucr.edu



****Participants will
be compensated****

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The logo for the University of California, Riverside. It features the text "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA" in a small, blue, sans-serif font at the top. Below this, the word "RIVERSIDE" is written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the left of "RIVERSIDE", the letters "UC" are written in a large, bold, yellow, sans-serif font. A stylized sunburst or starburst graphic is positioned between the "UC" and the "R" of "RIVERSIDE".

**Want to join a database for possible participation
in research studies on the aging mind and brain?
Are you 55+ years young?**

For more information, please contact:
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