PARSA TAHERI

FORMERLY PARSA NAJMAIE

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EDUCATION

P.h.D in Developmental, Cognitive, and Behavioral Neuroscience   August 2022–Present
University of Houston • Houston, TX **Cumulative GPA: 4.00**
     Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Borjon

B.A. in Psychology, Minor: Women, Gender, Sexualities Studies   August 2015–May 2019
Barnard College, Columbia University • New York, NY **Cumulative GPA: 3.80**

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Houston Department of Psychology Travel Grant   Spring 2023

Mont H. Jr. and Jane Goldston Graduate Leadership Fellowship   Spring 2023

Minnesota Inclusive Neuroscience Development Scholarship   June 2021–March 2022

Quality Undergraduate Education and Scholarly Training (QUEST) Scholarship   Summer 2019

Cum Laude Honors Society Graduate   May 2019

Dean's List, Barnard College   Spring 2016—Spring 2019

Charlotte Zmora Fahn '59 Internship Fund Recipient   Fall 2017

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Scholarship Fall 2015—Spring 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Najmaie, P. (2019). Low-income immigrant preschoolers' social competence:
    The role of self-regulation. *Quality Undergraduate Education and Scholarly Training
    Journal, 2*(1), 44–48.

CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Taheri, P., Lipschutz, R., Laplante, D., King, S., Olson, D., Bick, J. (2023, March).
    *Associations Between Prenatal Stress and Resting-State EEG Activity in
    Toddlerhood: Affective Risk Mechanisms.* [Conference presentation]. 2023 Society
    for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. Salt Lake City, UT,
    United States.

Ranatunga, J., **Taheri, P.,** Hoang-Giang, N., Santana-Gonzalez, C., Quevedo, K. (2022, April).
    *Developmental Timing and Cumulative Adversity: Impacts on Self-Processing
    Neurobiology in Adolescents with Depression and Abuse Histories*
    [Conference presentation]. 2022 Minnesota SuperComputing Institute Conference.
    Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Taheri, P., Ranatunga, J., Hoang-Giang, N., Quevedo, K. (2022, March).
    Social Cognition Neurobiology in Depressed Abused Adolescents.
    [Conference presentation]. 2022 Society for Affective Science Conference. Virtual,
    United States.

Erickson, N**., Taheri, P.,** & Kim, H. (2021, July).
Postpartum Bonding in Treatment-Seeking Women with Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorders: Sociodemographic Risk and Potential Protective Mechanisms. [Conference presentation]. Postpartum Support International's 34th Annual Conference. Virtual, United States

Taheri, P. (2019, July 25).
Low-Income Immigrant Preschoolers' Social Competence: The Role of Self-Regulation. [Conference presentation]. New York University, Steinhardt Department of Applied Psychology's QUEST Summer 2019 Research Symposium. New York, NY, United States.

R E S E A R C H   E X P E R I E N C E

Graduate Student Researcher   August 2022-Present
Laboratory for Early Experiences and Development (LEED), Psychology Department, University of Houston
Current/Completed Projects: Hurricane Harvey Mom Study- prenatal stress and toddler EEG and behavioral outcomes, Meta-Analysis on low SES's effects on structural brain development.
Primary Investigator: Previously Dr. Johanna Bick, now Dr. Jeremy Borjon

Minnesota Inclusive Neuroscience Development Program Scholar (MINDS)   June 2021-March 2022
Health and Adolescent Trajectories (HEAT) Laboratory, Psychiatry Department, University of Minnesota
Completed Projects: Neural circuitry differences in socio-emotional cognition in depressed adolescents with a history of abuse, developmental timing impacts on self-recognition neurobiology in depressed adolescents with a history of abuse, multiple REDCap survey instrument creation for the Teen Brain Training Study
Program Director: Dr. Patrick Rothwell

Post-Baccalaureate Research Assistant   June 2020-April 2021
Cognitive Training, Imaging and Precision Psychiatry (CoTIPP) Laboratory, Psychiatry Department, University of Minnesota via Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute
Responsibilities and completed project: Recruited, scheduled, collected survey and cognition-assessment data, and performed ongoing longitudinal data management for the precision-psychiatry Mother Baby Project. Poster presented on postpartum bonding outcomes in at-risk mothers with bipolar and depressive disorders.
Primary Investigators: Dr. Helen Kim, Dr. Sophia Vinogradov

Applied Psychology Quality Education and Scholarly Training (AP-QUEST) Scholar   Summer 2019
Latino Family Engagement and Language Development (L-FELD) Laboratory, New York University
Responsibilities & Completed Project: Qualitative data coding, cleaning early education assessments, video-coded parent-guided mathematical gestures and actions videos, presented an independent research proposal that explored the connection between low-income immigrant preschoolers' social competence and self-regulation.
Supervisor: Dr. Jordan Morris, Laboratory Mentor: Dr. Nydia Prishker

Undergraduate Research Assistant   August 2018–May 2019
New York State Psychiatric Institute – Columbia University in the City of New York
Responsibilities: Responsible for assistance on grant writing and literature reviews for two project proposals: one seeking to discover biomarkers for developing substance use disorder from extracellular vesicles in biospecimen from an at-risk adolescent population in the Bronx, the other sought to evaluate the efficacy of implementing a growth mindset training curriculum at a local New York City high school.
Primary Investigator: Dr. Amir Levine

Undergraduate Research Assistant   January 2018–August 2018
Barnard College Cognitive Development Laboratory, New York, NY
Responsibilities: Recruited and collected eye-tracking data for 5-60 month old young children for a study looking at how number-sense develops in children at the Children's Museum of Manhattan. Was responsible for setting up Tobii Pro Eyetracking software, informed consent, and training a new cohort of 5 new undergraduate research assistants.
Primary Investigators: Dr. Koleen McCrink

SELECTED OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant   Fall 2022– Summer 2022
University of Houston
Courses assisted: PSYC2308 Child Development 2x, PSYC 13171 Introduction to Psychology, PSYC 4343 Perception

Mental Health Practitioner   February 2020– June 2020
Fraser Minneapolis Non-Profit
Responsibilities: Served as lead practitioner in an autism day-treatment facility, provided direct skills training to preschool-aged children with Autism Spectrum and related disorders in a day treatment setting, delegated responsibilities and provided clinical feedback to clinical aid staff, documented clients' progress on their respective treatment plans via daily narratives for billing and excel spreadsheet for progress reports for providers and families.

INVITED TALKS & MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

2023 Psychin'Out Psychology for Peace and Justice Conference Dialogue Chair   July 2023
I chaired a dialogue entitled "Sometimes it is all about me: Putting yourself first in graduate school". Where alongside two other minoritized scholars, we led a discussion surroudning our experiences navigating academia, setting boundaries, and carving our own path.

Spectrum Interview on University Conference Reimbursement Systems   March 2023
Link: https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/spectrum-launch-the-hidden-costs-of-conference-travel/
I was interviewed by Spectrum about my experience working with my university's reimbursement system for conference travel.

MIND Scholars Workshop Leader on Life in Graduate School   March 2023
    I presented my experience & led a workshop in choosing the right-fit PhD program,
    curating your program experience, and budgeting in graduate school.

AP QUEST Scholarship Program Interview on Graduate School Application Process   March 2022
        See: https://www.instagram.com/quest_nyu/
    I was Interviewed on my graduate school application process and career trajectory.
    Snippets of this interview are posted on the AP Quest Instagram page.

Minneapolis Children's Hospital's 2021 Walk for Amazing Selected Story   March 2021
        Link: https://www.childrensmn.org/2021/03/11/life-long-healing-journey-parsas-story/
    I shared my cancer survivorship story and raised funds for the 2021 Children's Hospital's
    Virtual Walk for Amazing.

Get Psyched!: Podcast Invited Speaker   November 2020
        Link: https://open.spotify.com/episode/4mzGOCWK5vRVdg69Z2m4JT
    I provided an Alumni interview for a Barnard College podcast about my career trajectory.

Women's Strength Coalition: Published OpEd   October 2018
        Title: Instagram, Race, Gender, and Powerlifting: A Platform for Gains
        Link: https://womensstrengthcoalition.com/instagram-race-gender/
    I wrote and published an OpEd on how Instagram is a tool to bring representation for
    women of color in strength sports.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Graduate Students Lead Member   September 2022–Present
    University of Houston
    Roles: Chair of the Outreach Committee, Co-chair of the Policy Committee
    Responsibilities: Organizes monthly meetings, divides up and ensures timely completion
    of tasks among members, communicates efforts to undergraduate and graduate
    students, faculty, and community members

Graduate School Application Mentor   June 2022–Present
    Psychin'Out and Project Short
    Responsibilities: Volunteers time to one-on-one mentoring marginalized students
    pursuing PhDs in Developmental Science. Ensures timely completion of application
    materials, edits app materials, schedules meetings, disseminates resources to
    underrepresented trainees.

Co-founder: Safe Faculty Project Volunteer Organization   March 2022–Present
    Safe Faculty Project: https://sites.google.com/view/safefacultyproject @SafeFacultyProj
    Responsibilities: Disseminates online resources to help those who have undergone abuse
    in academia. Creates info-graphics, designs websites, and responds to emails and
    complaints from individuals to help put an end to abuse in The Academy.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Research on Child Development	February 2023–Present
American Psychological Association Division 53: Society of Child Clinical and Adolescent Psychology	February 2023–Present
TechFleet	December 2022–Present
Psychin'Out	September 2021–Present
Project Short	September 2021–Present

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Selected Certifications:
- 211 R for Data Science, University of Houston Data Science Institute
- 3T Operator Certified MRI Scanner, University of Minnesota
- CITI Certifications: Human and Animal Subjects Research
- Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster, And War: Global Perspectives; University of Minnesota, Coursera; Certification License: C5SW72LTEUBS

Languages:
- Farsi (native language, fluent proficiency)
- Spanish (oral, reading, and written proficiency)

Research Software:
- Data analysis: R via R Studio, SPSS, Microsoft Office Programs, qualitative methods, Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM)
- Other: REDCap, Adobe Photoshop, Fantamorph, PsychoPy, Tobii Pro Eyetracker, Keynote, EndNote, Zotero, Excel, EEGLab, MindWare, MRICron, Canva