



Dena Gohari

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EDUCATION

- University of California, Los Angeles
 - Ph.D. track for the Human Development and Psychology Division, **Sept. 2022 - current**
- University of California, Santa Cruz
 - Bachelor of Arts: *Intensive Psychology*, **September 2018 - June 2021**
 - Overall GPA: 3.98; Major GPA: 4.0 *Summa Cum Laude*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher: UCLA Lord Lab, August 2022 - current

- Longitudinally investigating developmental trajectories of individuals with autism spectrum disorder
- Administering diagnostic assessments, questionnaires, and interviews to young children and families
- Coordinating various clinical and research projects across labs and teams
- Qualitatively coding participants' behavior
- Working with data collaboratively, entering data
- Writing and presenting various research projects and reports
- Running statistical analyses pertaining to longitudinal data
- Collaborating with lab members on projects

Research Assistant: UCSC Developmental Psychology Department, April 2019 - October 2021

- Investigated gender development relating to science interest in children
- Traveled to families' homes for naturalistic observation and data collection
- Transcribed videotaped parent-child conversations about scientific topics
- Categorically-coded participants' conversations about science
- Wrote research papers and delivered oral presentations on preliminary data
- Completed a year-long senior thesis on gender differences in mothers' and fathers' talk when reading about science to their children

Research Assistant: UCSC Cognitive Psychology Department, August 2019 - June 2021

- Researched memory through experimenting with Retrieval Induced Forgetting (RIF)
- Explained study and obtained informed consent from participants
- Conducted and facilitated computer-based memory lab experiments
- Set up cognitive tasks on computer
- Analyzed qualitative data from experiment
- Participated in and led weekly lab meetings

Research Extern, Children's National Medical Center Neuropsychology Department, February 2017 - June 2018

- Worked with neuropsychologist Dr. John Strang and colleagues in the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder to complete a seven-year correlational research study about gender dysphoria and autism spectrum disorder in a sample of youth

- Attended weekly lab meetings in the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Assisted in the development of the second iteration of the Gender Development Scale (GDS)
- Coded qualitative data in a framework analysis
- Analyzed participant interviews
- Observed neuroimaging methods of data collection such as fMRI
- Observed clinical intake of assessment measures for autism spectrum disorder such as the ADOS and the BRIEF

CLINICAL, VOLUNTEER, AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Applied Behavioral Instructor, The Bay School, April 2021 – April 2022

- Teaching and serving as a caretaker for nonverbal children on the autism spectrum (full time Applied Behavioral Analysis-trained instructor)
- Creating new learning sets for students' Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Safety trained in Quality Behavioral Skills (QBS) physical management
- Collaborating on the implementation of new versions of students' Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)
- Communicating with students' families about their daily academic and behavioral progress
- Collaborating with speech pathologists and occupational therapists to implement holistic curricula
- Observing Board Certified Behavioral Analysts' conducting Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs)

Certified Yoga Instructor, (RYT-200 certified through Yoga Farm Ithaca), April 2021 - current

- Leading three to five Hatha yoga and meditation classes weekly in private and studio settings

Mentor, February 2021- August 2021

- Mentored a queer-identifying teenager on the autism spectrum weekly via Zoom video calling
- Served as emotional support and discussed areas of interest including academics and fashion

Undergraduate Exam Proctor, December 2019

- Selected by faculty and graduate staff at University of California, Santa Cruz to assist graduate students in proctoring an introduction to psychology final exam

Clinical Peer Mentor Children's National Medical Center Neuropsychology Department, February 2017 - June 2018

- Served as a peer mentor for youth on the autism spectrum experiencing gender dysphoria during various group therapy sessions

Caretaker, January 2017 - June 2018

- Served as a one-on-one, part-time academic tutor and caretaker of teenager with autism spectrum disorder

National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC): Psychology and Neuroscience Conference, Summer 2016

- Attended Harvard University Medical School's National Student Leadership Conference at Emmanuel College
- Participated in daily research seminars focusing on brain anatomy and behavior
- Dissected goat brains and cow eyes
- Conducted experiments in a laboratory setting manipulating auditory stimuli presented to grasshoppers
- Outlined literature reviews on latest neuroscience meta-analyses

Intern, Center for Brain and Spine, Summer 2016

- Shadowed two neurosurgeons
- Learned about various brain disorders
- Organized and faxed patient records

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications and Manuscripts

- Strang, J. F., Knauss, M., van der Miesen, A., McGuire, J. K., Kenworthy, L., Caplan, R., Freeman, A., Sadikova, E., Zaks, Z., Pervez, N., Balleur, A., Rowlands, D. W., Sibarium, E., Willing, L., McCool, M. A., Ehrbar, R. D., Wyss, S. E., Wimms, H., Tobing, J., Thomas, J., Austen, J., Pine, E., **Gohari, D.**, ... Anthony, L. G. (2020). A clinical program for transgender and gender-diverse neurodiverse/autistic adolescents developed through community-based participatory design. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 50(6), 730–745. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2020.1731817>
- Seese, S., Skapek, M., Powers, M.D, **Gohari, D.**, Limon, D., Anthony, L.G., Kenworthy, L., & Strang, J.F. (2018, February). A Multimodal Research Battery for Assessing Executive Function Skills in Autistic Teens (awaiting review).
- Strang, J. F., Powers, M. D., Knauss, M., Sibarium, E., Leibowitz, S. F., Kenworthy, L., Sadikova, E., Wyss, S., Willing, L., Caplan, R., Pervez, N., Nowak, J., **Gohari, D.**, Gomez-Lobo, V., Call, D., & Anthony, L. G. (2018). "They thought it was an obsession": Trajectories and perspectives of autistic transgender and gender-diverse adolescents. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48(12), 4039–4055. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-018-3723-6>

Oral Conference Presentations

- Shirley, T., Leaper, C., Blood, T*, Cornell-Rath, K*, **Gohari, D***, & Upton, R*. (2021, July). Investigating differences in parent-child conversations about life and physical science topics. Research talk at the biennial meeting of the Network Gender and STEM International conference, Virtual conference. *denotes equal contribution
- **Gohari, D.**, Shirefley, T., & Leaper, C. (2021, April). Encouraging Children's Science engagement with personal connections: An investigation of parental gender differences. Research talk at San Jose State University's annual Spartan Psychological Association Conference (SPARC), Virtual conference.
- **Gohari, D.**, Shirefley, T., & Leaper, C. (2019, November). Parent-child science book-reading: Investigating the relationship between gender, gender-science stereotypes, and reading aloud behavior. Research talk at University of California, Santa Cruz's Symposium for Undergraduate Research (SURU).

Poster Presentations

- **Gohari, D.**, Shirefley, T., & Leaper, C. (2021, May). Encouraging Children's Science engagement with personal connections: An investigation of parental gender differences. Research poster at University of California, Los Angeles' annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC), Virtual conference.

SKILLS

- Trained in advanced data analysis using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
- Trained in DataVyu transcription software
- Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) Database certified, a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program Research Safety and Ethics trained
- Fluent in Farsi
- Competent in Spanish