Jessica Simonson

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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)   June 2022
Bachelor of Science, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Highest Honors
Cumulative GPA: 3.99 / Major GPA: 4.00
Minor in Italian Studies
College of Letters and Science Honors Program
Relevant Coursework: Research Methods, Statistics, Behavioral Endocrinology, Psychopathology, Introduction to Biopsychology, Cognitive Psychology

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- UCSB University Award of Distinction – June 2022
- UCSB Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Chairperson's Award – June 2022
- UCSB Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Exceptional Academic Excellence Award – June 2022
- UCSB Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Distinction in the Major – June 2022
- UCSB University Award - Michael D. Young Engaged Scholar Award Nominee – May 2022
- UCSB Psychological & Brain Sciences - Morgan Award for Academic Excellence Nominee – May 2022
- UCSB Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URCA) Conference Mini Grant ($250) – May 2022
- UCSB Psychological and Brain Sciences Honors Program – 2019 - 2022
- UCSB Undergraduate Dean's Honors – 2018 - 2022
- UCSB Best Student of the Italian Language Program – 2019 - 2022
- June and Todd Brouhard Scholarship ($1870) – 2019 - 2022

SENIOR HONORS THESIS   *November 2020 – December 2021*
Advisors: Dr. Michael Miller, Dr. Emily Jacobs, and Courtney Durdle
Explored the effects of hormonal contraceptives on recall accuracy for negatively arousing auditory stimuli. Created and utilized a Qualtrics survey with auditory stimuli to gather data from students. Implemented a system to qualitatively code free recall. Analyzed the results using R.

PUBLICATIONS

Simonson, J.M., Durdle, C.A., Chen, Z., Pansare, N., & Miller, M.B. **The Effects of Hormonal Contraception on Auditory Emotional Memory**. In Preparation, June 2022.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Simonson, J.M., Durdle, C.A., Chen, Z., Pansare, N., & Miller, M.B. (2022, May). <u>The Effects of Hormonal Contraception on Auditory Emotional Memory</u>. Presented at the 2022 Organization for the Study of Sex Differences (OSSD) Conference in Marina Del Rey, CA.

Durdle, C.A., Areff, S.*, Bobrycki, A.*, Chen, Z.*, Pansare, N.*, **Simonson, J.M.***, Yoo, J.*, & Miller, M.B. (2022, May) <u>How do we Criterion Shift Free Recall?: The Difficulty of Systematically Manipulating Criterion for Freely Recalled Episodic Events.</u> Presented at the 2022 Association of Psychological Science (APS) Conference in Chicago, IL.
*These authors contributed equally

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Miller Memory Lab at UCSB   *Oct. 2020 – Present*
Principal Investigator: Dr. Michael B. Miller, PhD
Junior Specialist and Lab Manager   *40 hours per week - Mar. 2022 – Present*

- o Responsible for daily lab operations, including managing the lab GitHub account and website, interviewing and training research assistants, and coordinating meetings
- o Assist graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in research experiment design, recruitment, and analyses
- o Oversee administrative operations including Institutional Review Board (IRB) documentation and communication, subject payment, and coordination of laboratory resources
- ● **Criterion Shifting the Free Recall of a Stressful Autobiographical Event (Funded by the Department of Defense):** Investigation into how criterion manipulations will affect the recall of participants who experience a controlled live stressful event. The study aims to expand our knowledge of autobiographical memory in a way that takes ecological validity into account.
- o Fully consented participants and collected questionnaire data before and after the experiment
- o Conducted and coordinated precise experimental protocols with approximately 30 participants
- o Lead 5 undergraduate researchers in data collection while maintaining strict COVID-19 safety

Undergraduate Research Assistant   *12 to 15 hours per week - Oct. 2020 – Mar. 2021*

- o Assisted in experiment production, data collection, and data analysis for current projects within the lab
- o Created a presentation regarding a recent psychology research publication of interest
- o Participated in weekly lab meetings discussing various psychological research, including that being conducted within the lab.
- ● **Criterion Shifting the Free Recall of a Stressful Autobiographical Event (Funded by the Department of Defense):** Investigation into how criterion manipulations will affect the recall of participants who experience a controlled live stressful event. The study aims to expand our knowledge of autobiographical memory in a way that takes ecological validity into account.
- ● **Diagnostic Facial Features Study (Funded by the National Science Foundation):** A signal detection approach to eyewitness identification. The specific aim of the study is to systematically establish which features, if any, improve accuracy when identifying a suspect in a photo lineup. This will help determine whether certain features, or combinations of features, are in fact diagnostic and to what degree they contribute to a correct identification.
- o Created visual stimuli of human faces featuring gaussian blur utilizing photo-editing software
- o Recruited and completed testing with approximately 200 participants on the computer-based task
- ● **Criterion Shifting an Eyewitness Account (Funded by the Department of Defense):** Investigation into how criterion manipulations will affect the amount and accuracy of information provided by participants when freely recalling a video of a crime being committed.
- o Lead other undergraduate researchers in the process of qualitative coding free recall narrative

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Events Coordinator; Psi Chi at UCSB (International Honor Society in Psychology)
June 2021 – June 2022
- ○ Planned and executed various psychology and academic events for members of Psi Chi
- ○ Met with other Psi Chi officers to create productive and exciting meetings and opportunities for all members of Psi Chi
- ○ Planned fundraising events such as an Alzheimer's Association Walk

Software and Program Experience
- R
- PsychoPy/Python
- HTML
- Matlab
- Qualtrics