

EDUCATION

University of Miami

Coral Gables, Florida

B.S. in Neuroscience with a Minor in Chemistry

May 2022

Dissertation: “Is the Problem the Solution: Evaluating Idiosyncratic Treatment Outcomes in a Transdiagnostic Youth Sample”

B.A. in Philosophy and Computer Science

Dissertation: “The Moral Machine: Evaluating Normative Ethical Theories with Autonomous Vehicle Moral Dilemmas”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Imagination and Modal Cognition Lab

Duke University, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience

Research Assistant

January 2025 - Present

Principal Investigator: Felipe De Brigard

- * Designed and implemented research protocols on episodic memory, moral cognition, and mental imagery, including an Aphantasia VR memory study, a study comparing the physiological and phenomenological characteristics of forgiven versus unforgiven memories, and a moral belief revision study using XR
- * Maintained IRB protocols for domestic and international collaborations, ensuring ethical compliance and procedural consistency across sites, including recruitment, screening, running participants, and building research databases supporting statistical analysis
- * Presented findings at national conferences contributing to manuscript preparation

Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Lab

University of Miami, Department of Psychology

Research Assistant

January 2020 – June 2022

Principal Investigator: Jill Ehrenreich-May

- * Analyzed treatment-outcome data from transdiagnostic youth intervention trials in R and SPSS, built and maintained longitudinal databases of youth psychopathology measures, and oversaw cleaning, coding, and quality control of main database
- * Administered structured clinical assessments with child and adolescent participants
- * Completed a Senior Honors Thesis in Neuroscience on individual differences in treatment response among transdiagnostic youth, using the Top Problems (TP) Assessment

The Moral Machine Research Project

University of Miami, Department of Computer Science

Research Assistant

February 2021 – May 2022

Principal Investigators: Geoff Sutcliffe and Debra Lieberman

- * Designed experimental vignettes and survey instruments probing moral judgment and decision-making, recruited and screened participants, and maintained the project database
- * Conducted statistical analyses of moral judgment data to test predictions of competing ethical frameworks
- * Completed a Senior Honors Thesis in Philosophy evaluating normative ethical theories against the study’s empirical findings

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. **Sharma, A.**, De Brigard, F., Boere, K., Krempel, R., & Blomkvist, A. (2026, April 10). Memory Without Mental Images: Dissociating Quantity, Accuracy, and Metacognition in Aphantasia and Hypophantasia Using Virtual Reality [Poster presentation]. Triangle Society for Neuroscience 2026 Meeting, North Carolina State Parks Alumni Center, Raleigh, NC, United States.
2. **Sharma, A.**, Blomkvist, A., Krempel, R., Walsh, E., Boere, K., & De Brigard, F. (2026, March 7-10). Memory Without Imagery: Episodic Recall and Meta-Cognitive Performance in Individuals with Aphantasia [Poster presentation]. Cognitive Neuroscience Society 33rd Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
3. Fernández-Miranda, G., Faul, L., Alvarez, S., Martínez, M. J., Robelo, D., **Sharma, A.**, Valdelamar, D., Villadiego, A., LaBar, K., Abitbol, P., Amaya, S., De Brigard, F. (2026, March 7-10). Phenomenological and physiological differences between forgiven and not forgiven remembered wrongdoings in samples from Colombia and the United States [Poster presentation]. Cognitive Neuroscience Society 33rd Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
4. Robelo, D., Rivadeneira, G., **Sharma, A.**, Fernández-Miranda, G., Santiago, A., & De Brigard, F. (2025, July 25). The Effect of Reappraisal Strategies on the Emotions Experienced when Remembering Autobiographical Memories of Wrongdoings and their Relation to Forgiveness [Poster presentation]. 2025 Summer Research Showcase, Duke University, Durham, NC, United States.
5. Krishna, A., Tai, M., **Sharma, A.**, & Cousins, C. (2025, April 24). Markov Decision Process of Charitable Donations [Poster presentation]. Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship Poster Showcase, Duke University, Durham, NC, United States.
6. **Sharma A.** Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2022, March 18). Using an Idiographic Outcome Measure to Assess the Effectiveness of Telemedicine Delivery of the Unified Protocols for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders in Youth [Poster presentation]. ADAA Anxiety and Depression Conference, Denver, CO, United States.
7. **Sharma A.** Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, November 19). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [Poster presentation]. ABCT 55th Annual Convention SIG Poster Expo, New York, NY, United States. (Remote)
8. **Sharma A.**, Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, July 19). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [3-minute thesis presentation]. PRIME Summer Research, Coral Gables, FL, United States.
9. **Sharma A.**, Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, April 23). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [3-minute thesis presentation]. Research Creativity Innovation Forum, Coral Gables, FL, United States.
10. **Sharma, A.**, Grassie, H., Ehrenreich-May, J. (2021, April 26-30). Is the problem the solution: Evaluating idiosyncratic treatment outcomes in a transdiagnostic youth sample [Poster presentation]. Research Celebration, Coral Gables, FL, United States. (Conference canceled)
11. Sutcliffe, G., **Sharma, A.** (2021, May 25). Automated Theorem Proving: Morality Machine [Presentation]. Automated Reasoning with Legal Entities, Luxembourg, Germany. (Remote)

MENTORSHIP

Fall 2026: **Sola Corrado**, Duke University

Autobiographical Memories; Forgiveness; Cognitive Reappraisal; Counterfactual Thinking

Fall 2026: **Julia Simon**, Duke University

Autobiographical Memories; Forgiveness; Cognitive Reappraisal

Fall 2025: **Gabriella Rivadeneira**, Duke University

Autobiographical Memories; Forgiveness; Cognitive Reappraisal

Summer 2025: **Daniel Robelo**, Duke University

Autobiographical Memories; Forgiveness; Cognitive Reappraisal

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Human Resources Department

Substitute Teacher

Supervisors: Karen Coffee and Tatia Davis

Durham & Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Public Schools

June 2025 - Current

- * Delivered instruction and managed classrooms across subjects and grade levels in the absence of regular teachers, executing established lesson plans while adapting to each classroom's needs
- * Maintained safe, respectful, and productive learning environments through consistent behavior management and active supervision
- * Partnered with school staff to address individual student needs and uphold school policies and procedures
- * Documented classroom activities, student progress, and behavioral incidents for returning teachers and administrators to preserve continuity of instruction
- * Differentiated instruction for students with special needs, English language learners, and gifted students, keeping all learners engaged and on task

Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship

Undergraduate Intern Representative & Alumni Outreach Coordinator

Supervisor: Tyler Reeks

Center for Cognitive Neuroscience

January 2025 - Current

- * Facilitated communication between undergraduate interns, mentors, and program leadership to ensure a supportive and productive learning environment
- * Advanced academic and professional development by organizing workshops, research presentations, and mentoring sessions that enhanced students' understanding of cognitive neuroscience methodologies and career pathways
- * Promoted a positive, safe, and inclusive research community by managing cohort communications, resolving issues, and strengthening alumni connections through targeted outreach initiatives
- * Served as a key intermediary between current students and the broader cognitive neuroscience community, strengthening program cohesion and creating pathways for sustained professional engagement beyond program completion
- * Collected and analyzed feedback from interns and alumni to assess program effectiveness and identify opportunities for continuous improvement in mentorship, training, and professional development initiatives

IMC Lab

Lab Manager and SSNAP Coordinator

Principal Investigator: Felipe De Brigard

Duke University

January 2025 - Current

- * Managed daily operations of a multidisciplinary research lab, ensuring efficient workflow, resource allocation, and adherence to university policies
- * Coordinated communication between researchers, students, and university administration, fostering collaboration and timely issue resolution
- * Reviewed and maintained experimental protocols, data records, and documentation, ensuring accuracy and alignment with institutional and ethical standards
- * Assisted with the onboarding and training of lab members, including students and volunteers, in experimental procedures, data analysis, and lab safety protocols
- * Identified and addressed potential challenges in research operations, escalating issues to the Principal Investigator when necessary, maintaining organized records of lab activities, research outputs, and correspondence for audits and reviews

Parks & Recreation Department

Program Instructor

Supervisor: Amanda Johnson

City of Durham

January 2025 - September 2026

- * Lead yoga classes for diverse participants of all ages and ability levels across various community centers, parks, and public spaces throughout the city, designing sequences that promote physical wellness, flexibility, stress reduction, and mindfulness
- * Provided individualized modifications based on participant needs, physical limitations, and safety considerations to ensure all individuals can participate comfortably and effectively

- * Delivered detailed guidance on proper technique, body alignment, and breathing exercises to prevent injuries and maximized health benefits
- * Coordinated with municipal recreation staff to schedule classes, promoted participation through community outreach, and tracked attendance to assess program engagement and success.
- * Assisted with the development and implementation of new programming initiatives aligned with the City's broader community health and wellness goals

No More Tears

Executive Assistant

Founder: Somy Ali

No More Tears Incorporated

August 2024 - January 2025

- * Managed communications with supporters, donors, and volunteers to maintain engagement and provide updates on organizational initiatives, fundraising campaigns, and impact metrics
- * Researched and identified potential grant opportunities, preparing and submitting comprehensive grant applications including compelling proposals and supporting documentation
- * Conducted interview research producing thoughtful, trauma-sensitive questions used in survivor testimonials and celebrity documentaries
- * Created engaging social media content and promotional materials to raise awareness about sex trafficking and domestic violence, and managed donations, and provided support for fundraising campaigns

FDOT

Contract Support Specialist

Supervisor: Michael Miller

Florida Department of Transportation

August 2024 - December 2024

- * Assisted project managers in monitoring progress and ensuring adherence to timelines, budgets, and contract requirements
- * Reviewed and maintained contract documentation to ensure accuracy and compliance with FDOT standards
- * Identified and mitigated potential project risks, escalated issues to project managers when necessary, and maintained organized records for project audits and reviews

Missouri CANHU

Social Worker Associate

Supervisor: Susan Holzschuh

Missouri Department of Social Services

March 2023 - August 2024

- * Collected detailed information from callers regarding child welfare concerns, assessed urgency and severity of reported cases to determine appropriate response levels and interventions, and created comprehensive case reports and summaries for review by supervisors and child protection agencies
- * Coordinated referrals and follow-up with multidisciplinary partners (child protection, mental health, law enforcement, and school personnel) to ensure timely services and continuity of care
- * Effectively managed crisis situations by providing immediate support and guidance to ensure child safety and well-being
- * Offered feedback and recommendations for improving hotline operations and response procedures based on field experience and case observations

City Year

Student Success Coach

Impact Manager: Amber Jenkins

AmeriCorps

August 2022 - March 2023

- * Assisted students in developing essential study skills, organizational strategies, and test-taking techniques while offering emotional and social support to help them navigate personal challenges and build resilience.
- * Monitored students' academic progress and behavior through regular evaluations and observations, maintained accurate records of student progress and interventions, and used data to inform instructional support strategies.
- * Participated in professional development sessions to stay current with educational best practices and collaborated with school staff to create project plans and development strategies for underrepresented students, ensuring both academic and emotional growth.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- **April 2026:** Br41n.io Hackathon at NC State University Winner (Award: \$1,000)
- **October 2024:** The Miami Foundation Micro-Grant (Award: \$1,000)
- **Summer 2021:** PRIME Summer Research Scholarship (Award: \$6,000)
- **Spring 2021:** National Up To Us Campus Competition Finalist (Award: \$2,500)
- **Fall 2020- Fall 2021:** Provost's Honor Roll & Dean's List
- **Fall 2018:** Dean's List

SKILLS, CERTIFICATIONS, RELATED COURSEWORK, AND AFFILIATIONS

- **Memberships:** Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS), Triangle Chapter Society for Neuroscience (SfN)
- **Certifications:** Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED & BBP Certification, 200-Hour Yoga Teacher Training Certification, Trauma-Informed Yoga Certification, Mastering Project Management with Asana Certification, Project Management in Technical Projects Certification, Project Management Foundations Certification, Reiki Level I/II/Master Teacher Certification
- **Courses:** CSC120/220 Computer Programming, CSC314 Computer Organization and Architecture, CSC315 Intro to Python, CSC322 Systems Programming, CSC317 Data Structures and Algorithms, CSC200 Data Science in R, CSC423 Database Systems, PSY290/390 Research Methods, PHI348 Philosophy of Brain and Behavioral Science, PSY474 Mindfulness Attention & Brain, CSC550 Computational Neuroscience
- **Programming:** Python, Java, R, C/C++, SQL
- **Spoken Languages:** English (proficient), Spanish (familiar)
- **Hobbies:** reading, meditating, yoga, tarot, sports (football, basketball, golf, soccer, hockey)