

Mercedes A. Muñoz

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Education

Ph.D. Duke University

Expected May 2026

Social Psychology, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience

Advisors: Dr. Sarah Gaither & Dr. Cristina Salvador

B.A. Boston University

May 2021

Psychology with Honors, Magna Cum Laude

Thesis: Children's Generalizations of Group Characteristics: Effects of Generic Versus Statistical Language

Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Corriveau

Research Interests

Race, Culture & The Self, Latinx Identity Formation, Stereotyping & Generic Language

Grants

Active

Charles Lafitte Foundation Program for Research in Psychology & Neuroscience, <i>Duke University</i>	2023
Graduate Grant Recipient (\$2,860)	
Social Sciences Research Institute Grant, <i>Duke University</i>	2022
Research Grant (\$12,495)	
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP)	2022-2026
Award Recipient	

Past

Internal DEI Grant: Duke Graduate and Professional Student Government	2022
Underrepresented Scientists in Psychology and Neuroscience Panel (\$1,000)	
National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU):	2020
Language, Cognition, and Computation (\$6,200)	
Santander, <i>Boston University</i>	2019
Summer Grant Award (\$3,000)	
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, <i>Boston University</i>	2019
Semester Research Grant (\$1,250)	
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, <i>Boston University</i>	2018
Semester Research Grant (\$1,250)	
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, <i>Boston University</i>	2018
Summer Research Grant (\$4,800)	

Awards and Honors

Dean's Award for Inclusive Excellence – <i>Psychology & Neuroscience's Anti-Racism Community</i>	2023
Duke University Award Recipient	
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Diversity Graduate Travel Award	2022
Award Recipient (\$500)	
Charles Lafitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award	2022
Award Recipient (\$1,500)	
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship	2022
Honorable Mention	
Provost Scholar Award for Academic Exploration in the First Two Years, Boston University	2019

Manuscripts in Preparation

Muñoz, M.A., Orvell, A., Salvador, C.E. (in prep) One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Ethnic Groups in the United States.

Albuja, A., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Kinzler, K.D., Woodward, A.L., Gaither, S.E. (under review) Learning to see the ingroup: Children and adults' racial categorization of ambiguous faces.

Research Talks & Posters

* indicating undergraduate mentee

Muñoz, M.A., Gaither, S.E., (2023 February) What is your Race? Examining Racial Self-Identification in Latinx Children. *Talk presented for Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2023.*

* Tobon, D., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Gaither, S.E., (2023 February) What Characteristics Make You Hispanic/Latino?: Examining Latino Identity Development. *Poster presented for Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2023.*

Salvador, C.E., **Muñoz, M.A.** (2022 October) One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Ethnic Groups in the United States. *Talk presented for the Society of Experimental Social Psychology..*

Muñoz, M.A. (2022 April) One Country, One People? Cultural Variation in the Strength of Norms Among Ethnic Groups in the United States. *Talk presented for the Duke University Social Psychology Brownbag.*

Muñoz, M.A., Gaither, S.E., Corriveau, K H. (2022 February) The Effect of Language on Children's Assumed Within-Group Homogeneity. *Poster presented for Origins of the Social Mind Preconference at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention 2022.*

Albuja, A., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Kinzler, K.D., Woodward, A.L., Gaither, S.E. (2021 October) Seeing Black, Seeing White: Ambiguous Categorization Outcomes for White and Black Children and their Parents. *Talk presented for Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists Annual Virtual Conference.*

Muñoz, M.A., Suárez, S., Kumar, S., Corriveau, K H. (2021 April) Children's Generalizations of Group Characteristics: Effects of Generic Versus Statistical Language. *Poster presented for SRCD Virtual Biennial Meeting.*

Ma, S., Cui, Y., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Qui, F., Suárez, S., Chen, E. (2021 April) Examining the Relationship Between Authoritarianism and Children's Trusting Preferences in China and the U.S. *Poster presented for SRCD Virtual Biennial Meeting.*

Muñoz, M.A., Zhang, M., Sullivan, N., Markman, E. (2020 August) How does language affect children's developing representations of race? *Talk presented for Stanford University CSLI Summer Internship Final Presentation, Palo Alto, CA.*

Skubel, A., Koslouski JB., Burke, E., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Chan, F., Fortuna, L., Porche, MV. (2019 August) The AIM Project: Applied Student Learning for Advocacy and Social Justice. *Poster presented for American Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.*

Muñoz, M.A., (2019 August) Statistical v Generic: Exploring children's beliefs about gender stereotypes. *Talk presented for Yale University Summer Colloquium, New Haven, CT.*

Muñoz, M.A., Wilks, M., Bloom, P. (2019 July) The Emergence of Speciesism Across Development. *Poster presented for Yale University Summer Research Symposium, New Haven, CT.*

Muñoz, M.A., Corriveau, K H. (2018 October) Is adult help actually helpful?: Using guided intervention in child learning. *Poster presented for Boston University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Boston, MA.*

Muñoz, M.A., McMahon, J L., Campbell, I L., Corriveau, K H. (2018 March) "What do you think will happen if?" Improving parent child conversations about science. *Poster presented for Eastern Psychological Association, Philadelphia, PA.*

Mentorship

** indicating my involvement as an undergraduate honors thesis committee member*

Graduate Student Mentor, Duke University

Alyssa Jurewicz, Undergraduate Independent Study Student

* Nicole Izquierdo, Undergraduate Honors Student

Diana Tobon, NSF REU Summer Intern

Spring 2023

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Summer 2022

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Duke University

Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104)

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Salvador

100 Students

Fall 2022

The Self & Social Identities (PSY 223)

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Gaither

25 Students

Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant Training, Duke University

Fall 2022

Guest Lectures

Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104), *Duke University*

The Power of Groups

Fall 2022

The Self and Social Identities (PSY 223), *Duke University*

Talk American: Language as an Identity Marker

Spring 2022

Research Positions

Duke University

Ph.D. Student

August 2021-Present

Duke Identity and Diversity Lab & Duke Culture Lab

Advisors: Dr. Sarah Gaither & Dr. Cristina Salvador

Stanford University

NSF-REU Research Intern

June 2020-May 2021

The Markman Lab

Advisor: Dr. Ellen Markman

Yale University

Research Intern

June-August 2019

Mind and Development Lab

Advisor: Dr. Paul Bloom

Boston University

Senior Research Assistant

September 2017-May 2021

Social Learning Lab

Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Corriveau

Research Assistant

October 2018-May 2019

Amicus Briefs for Immigrant Mental Health

Advisors: Dr. Lisa Fortuna & Dr. Michelle Porche

Translation Research Assistant

October 2018-May 2019

Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Advisors: Dr. Lisa Fortuna & Dr. Michelle Porche

Ad-Hoc Reviews

Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology
Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology
Social Psychological and Personality Science

Professional Affiliations

Society for Personality and Social Psychology, *Student Member*
Society for Research in Child Development, *Graduate Student Membership / Latino Caucus Member*
Cognitive Development Society, *Student Member*
Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, *Student Member*
American Education Research Association, *Student Affiliate*
Eastern Psychological Association, *Associate Member*
Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology, *Member*