

# Mercedes A. Muñoz

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## Education

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### 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

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

## Grants and Fellowships

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### Active

- TESS Young Investigators Competition, Grant Recipient 2023  
*"Emotional Interdependence in the United States: A Comparison of Latinx, East Asian, African, and European Americans"*
- Charles Lafitte Foundation Program for Research in Psychology & Neuroscience, *Duke University* 2023  
Graduate Grant Recipient (\$2,860)
- National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP), Fellowship Recipient 2022-2026  
*"What is your race? Examining developmental predictors for Latino racial self-identification"*

### Past

- Charles Lafitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award 2023  
Award Recipient (\$1,250)
- Social Sciences Research Institute Grant, *Duke University* 2022  
Research Grant (\$12,495)
- Internal DEI Grant: Duke Graduate and Professional Student Government 2022  
Underrepresented Scientists in Psychology and Neuroscience Panel (\$1,000)
- Charles Lafitte Foundation Graduate Travel Award 2022  
Award Recipient (\$1,500)
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Diversity Graduate Travel Award 2022  
Award Recipient (\$500)
- National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU) 2020  
Language, Cognition, and Computation (\$6,200)
- Santander, *Boston University* 2019  
Summer Grant Award (\$3,000)
- Provost Scholar Award for Academic Exploration in the First Two Years, *Boston University* 2019  
Award Recipient (\$1,000)
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, *Boston University* 2019  
Semester Research Grant (\$1,250)
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, *Boston University* 2018  
Semester Research Grant (\$1,250)
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, *Boston University* 2018  
Summer Research Grant (\$4,800)

## Awards and Honors

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Dean's Award for Inclusive Excellence – <i>Psychology &amp; Neuroscience's Anti-Racism Community</i> Duke University Award Recipient	2023
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention	2022
Outstanding Student Researcher Award, <i>Boston University</i>	2018

## Publications

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Albuja, A. F., **Muñoz, M.**, Kinzler, K., Woodward, A., & Gaither, S. E. (2023). Hypodescent or ingroup overexclusion?: Children's and adults' racial categorization of ambiguous black/white biracial faces. *Developmental Science*, e13450.

## Manuscripts in Preparation

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\*indicates co-first authorship

**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.

\***Muñoz, M.A.**, \*E. Enright., Gaither, S.E., ML., Pauker, K. Olson, K., Dunham, Y. (in prep) Children's Use of Race and Ethnicity in their Social Judgements: A large, multi-site, multi-racial group comparison

## Research Talks & Posters

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\* indicating undergraduate mentee

\* Kochuba, A.J., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Kumar, S., Corriveau, K.H., Kushnir, T., Gaither, S.E., (2023 November). Linguistic Quantifiers Influence Children's Generalizations of Group Traits. *Poster presented at the Society for Southeast Social Psychologists Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC.*

\* Izquierdo, N., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Gaither, S.E., (2023 November). Exploring Racial & Ethnic Identity in Hispanic/Latino Families. *Poster presented at the Society for Southeast Social Psychologists Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC.*

\* Piedra, N., **Muñoz, M.A.**, Gaither, S.E., (2023 July). Factors Influencing Latinx College Students' Demographic Form Choices. *Poster presented at Duke University Summer Research Symposium, Durham, NC.*

\* Raj, S., Wiswall, M.S, **Muñoz, M.A.**, Gaither, S.E., (2023 July). Perceptions of Emergent Minorities: An Exploration of Ingroup vs Outgroup Stereotype Incongruences. *Poster presented at Duke University VIP poster session, Durham, NC.*

Wiswall, M.S, **Muñoz, M.A.**, \*Jaffe, T., Gaither, S.E., (2023 June). Distinctly Ambiguous: An Exploration of South Asian and Latino Perceptions. *Poster presented for Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Denver, CO.*

**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

<b>Graduate Student Research Mentor, Duke University</b>	
* Rose Naderi, Undergraduate Honors Student	Fall 2022-Spring 2023
Noelia Piedra,	
Undergraduate Independent Study Student	Fall 2024
Summer Research Assistant	Summer 2023
Alyssa Jurewicz, Undergraduate Independent Study Student	Spring 2023
* Nicole Izquierdo, Undergraduate Honors Student	Fall 2022-Spring 2023
Diana Tobon, NSF REU Summer Intern	Summer 2022

## Teaching Experience

<b>Teaching Assistant, Duke University</b>	
Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104)	Fall 2022
Instructor: Dr. Cristina Salvador	
100 Students	
The Self & Social Identities (PSY 223)	Spring 2022
Instructor: Dr. Sarah Gaither	
25 Students	
<b>Teaching Assistant Training, Duke University</b>	Fall 2022

## Guest Lectures

Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 104), <i>Duke University</i>	Fall 2022
The Power of Groups	

## Departmental Service

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### Duke University, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience

Nominated Graduate Student Representative at Faculty Meetings	Fall 2023 – Current
Anti-Racism Community: Active Member	Fall 2022 – Current
Pillar I: Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Students	
Panelist: Teaching Assistant Training	Summer 2023
Panelist: Undergraduate Summer Research Program	Summer 2023

## Research Positions

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### 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

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*Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology*  
*Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*  
*Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*  
*Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*  
*Social Psychological and Personality Science*

## Professional Affiliations

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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*