JULIA ANNE LEONARD

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February 2025

EMPLOYMENT

Yale University July 2021 - present
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Affiliated faculty, Education Studies Program
Affiliated faculty, Wu Tsai Institute

University of Pennsylvania Sept 2018 - June 2021
MindCORE postdoctoral fellow

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sept 2013 - May 2018
PhD in Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Wesleyan University Sept 2007 - May 2011
B.A. Neuroscience and Behavior

FUNDING

Jacobs Foundation Seed-Funding 2023 - 2025
Understanding motivational variability in online learning platforms
Role: Co-PI
Amount: $133,000

NSF ECR-EDU Core Research Grant 2023 - 2028
Over-engaged parenting and science achievement in early childhood
Role: PI
Amount: $1,756,720

Yale Education Studies Faculty Research Grant 2022 - 2023
What do children learn from over-engaged adult behavior?
Role: PI
Amount: $10,000

CIFAR-Jacobs Foundation Seed-Funding 2022 - 2023
Growing up in Times of Inequality: A Global Interdisciplinary Approach
Role: Co-PI
Amount: $50,000

Character Lab Research Network Grant 2022
Role: PI
Amount Awarded: $7,500

Yale Planetary Solutions Project seed grant proposal 2022 - 2024
Activists vs. Apathists: Understanding the psychological drivers of teenagers' pro-climate behavior
Role: Co-PI
Amount: $80,000

Jacobs Foundation Early Career Research Fellowship 2022 - 2025
Role: PI
Amount: $174,000

Character Lab Research Network Grant 2021
Role: PI
Amount: $40,000

MindCORE Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania 2018 - 2021
Amount: $191,000

NSF Graduate Student Research Fellowship 2014 - 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

APS Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions	2025
Cognitive Development Society, Early Career Symposium	2024
Jacobs Foundation Conference, Young Scholar	2023
Jacobs Foundation Early Career Research Fellow	2022 - 2024
Walle Nauta Award for Continued Dedication to Teaching, MIT	2017, 2018
Neurohackweek Fellow, University of Washington eScience Institute	2016, 2017
UCLA-Semel Institute Neuroimaging Training Program Fellow	2016
Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellow	2015
Graduate Student Summer Travel Award, MIT	2015
Latin America School for Education, Cognition, and Neural Sciences Fellow	2015, 2018
Ida M. Green Graduate School Fellowship, MIT	2013
High Honors in Neuroscience and Behavior, Wesleyan University	2011
Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Award Nominee	2011
Dean's List, Wesleyan University	2008 - 2011
Phi Beta Kappa, Chapter of Wesleyan University	2010

UNDER REVIEW/ IN PRESS

*[+]Indicates trainee, * indicates equal contribution*

1. Serko, D., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Ruggeri, A. (under review). Children strategically decide what to practice.
2. [+]Asaba, M., Davis, I., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Jara-Ettinger, J.E. (under review). Detecting social biases using mental state inference.
3. Decker, A.D., **Leonard, J.A.***, Romeo, R.*, Itiat, J., Hubbard, N.A., Bauer, C.C.C., Grotzinger, H., Giebler, M.A., Torres, Y.C., Imhof, A., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (under review). Exploration is Associated with Socioeconomic Disparities in Learning and Academic Achievement in Adolescents.

PUBLICATIONS

*[+]Indicates trainee, [‡] indicates undergraduate trainee, * indicates equal contribution.* ***Key papers bolded***

1. [+]Zhang, F., McDougle, S., & **Leonard, J.A.** (In Press). People accurately predict the shape but not the parameters of skill learning curves. *Cognition.*
2. [+]Zhang, F., [+]Carrillo, B., Christakis, A.C., & **Leonard, J.A.** (In press). Children predict improvement on novel motor tasks. *Child Development.*
3. [+]Asaba, M., [+]Santos, M., Jara-Ettinger, J., & **Leonard, J.A.** (in press). Adolescents are most motivated by encouragement from someone who knows their abilities and the domain. *Developmental Psychology*.
4. **Leonard, J.A.** & Sommerville, J.A. (2024). A unified account for why optimism declines in childhood. *Nature Reviews Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-024-00384-z
5. **[+]Shachnai, R., [+]Asaba, M., Hu, L., & Leonard, J.A. (2024). Pointing out learning opportunities reduces over-parenting.** ***Child Development.*** **DOI: 10.1111/cdev.14198**
6. Trevers, I.N., Marusak, H., Decker, A., Kucyi, A., Hubbard, N.A., Bauer, C.C., **Leonard, J.A.**, Grotzinger, H., Giebler, M.A., Torres, Y.C., Imhof, A., Romero, R., Calhoun, V.D., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2024). Dynamic functional connectivity correlates of trait mindfulness in early adolescence. *Biological Psychiatry: Global Open Science.*
7. McDermott, C., Taylor, K., Lydon-Staley, D., **Leonard, J.A.**, & Mackey, A.P. (2024). Sensitivity to psychosocial influences at age 3 predicts mental health in middle childhood. *Developmental Science.* doi: 10.1111/desc.13531
8. Decker, A., Meisler, S. L., Hubbard, N., Bauer, C., **Leonard, J.A.,** Imhoff, A., Giebler, M., Grotzinger, H., Camacho Torres, Y., Romeo, R., & Gabrieli, J.E. (2023). Striatal and behavioral responses to reward vary by socioeconomic status in adolescents. *Journal of Neuroscience*. https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1633-23.2023.
9. **Leonard, J.A.,** Cordrey, S., Liu, H.S., & Mackey, A.P. (2022). Young children calibrate effort based on the trajectory of their performance. *Developmental Psychology,* 59(3).
10. Tooley, U.A., Park, A.T., **Leonard, J.A.**, Boroshok, A.L., McDermott, C.L., Tisdall, D., Bassett, D., & Mackey, A.P. (2022). The age of reason: Functional brain network development during childhood. *The Journal of Neuroscience,* 42(44).
11. Park, A., Richardson, H., Tooley, U., McDermott, C., Boroshok, A.L., Ke, A., **Leonard, J.A.**, Tisdall, D.M., Deater-Deckard, K., Edgar, C.J., & Mackey, A.P. (2022). Early stressful experiences are associated with reduced neural responses to naturalistic emotional and social content in children. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience,* 57.
12. Hart, Y., Kosoy, E., Liquin, E., **Leonard, J.A.,** Mackey, A.P., & Gopnik, A. (2022) .The development of creative search strategies. *Cognition,* 225. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2022.105102
13. **Leonard, J.A.,** Lydon-Staley, D.M., Sharp, S., Liu, H.Z., Park, A.T., Bassett, D.S., Duckworth, A.L., & Mackey, A.P. (2021) Daily fluctuations in young children's persistence. *Child Development,* 93(2). https://doi/10.1111/cdev.13717

14. Chuey, A., Asaba, M., Bridgers, S., Carrillo, B., Dietz, G., Garcia, T., **Leonard, J.A.,** Liu, S., Merrick, M., Radwan, S., Stegall, J., Velez, N., Woo, B., Wu, Y., Zhou, X., Frank, M.C, & Gweon, H. (2021). Examining the Validity of Online Methods for Developmental Research. *Frontiers special issue on Empirical Research at a Distance: New Methods for Developmental Science,* 12. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.734398

15. Kominsky, J.F., Begus, K., Bass, I., Colantonio, J., **Leonard, J.A.,** Mackey, A., & Bonawitz, E. (2021). Organizing the methodological toolbox: Lessons learned from implementing developmental methods online. *Frontiers special issue on Empirical Research at a Distance: New Methods for Developmental Science,* 12. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.702710

16. **Leonard, J.A., Duckworth, A.L., Schulz, L.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2021). Leveraging cognitive science to foster children's persistence.** ***Trends in Cognitive Science,*** **25(8). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2021.05.005**

17. Romeo, R.R.***, Leonard, J.A.*,** Robinson, S.T., Mackey, A.P., West, M.R., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2021). Replication and extension of a family-based training program to improve cognitive abilities in young children. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness,* 14 (4). https://doi.org/10.1080/19345747.2021.1931999

18. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A**., Grotziner, H.M., Robinson, S.T., Takada, M.E., Mackey, A.P., Scherer, E., Rower, M.L., West, M.R., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2021). Neuroplasticity associated with conversational turn-taking following a family-based intervention. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience,* 49(100967). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2021.100967

19. Park, A.T., Tooley, U.A., **Leonard, J.A.**, Boroshok, A.L., McDermott, C.L., Tisdall, D., & Mackey, A.P. (2021). Early childhood stress is associated with blunted development of ventral tegmental area functional connectivity. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience,* 47(100909). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2020.100909

20. **Leonard, J.A., Martinez, D.N., Dashineau, S., Park, A.T. & Mackey, A.P. (2021). Children persist less when adults take over.** ***Child Development,*** **91(4). https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13305**

21. **Leonard, J.A.,** Garcia, A., & Schulz, L.E. (2020). How adults' actions, outcomes, and testimony affect preschoolers' persistence. *Child Development*, 91(4). https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13305

22. **Leonard, J.A.,** Romeo, R.R**.,** Park, A.T., Takada, M.E., Robinson, S.T., Grotzinger, H., Last, B.S., Finn, A.S., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2019). Associations between cortical thickness and reasoning vary by socioeconomic status in early childhood and adolescence. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience,* 36(100641). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2019.100641

23. Romeo, R.R., Segaran, J., **Leonard, J.A**., Robinson, S.T., West, M.R., Mackey, A.P., ... & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2018). Language exposure relates to structural neural connectivity in childhood. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 0484-18. https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsy017

24. Park, A.T., **Leonard, J.A**., Saxler, P.K., Cyr, A.B., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2018). Amygdala–medial prefrontal cortex connectivity relates to stress and mental health in early childhood. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, *13*(4), 430-439. https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsy017

25. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.,** Robinson, S.T., Rowe, M.L., Mackey, A.P., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2017). The neural correlates of the "30 million word gap": Childhood conversational exposure is associated with language-related brain function. *Psychological Science, 29*(5), 700-710. doi:10.1177/0956797617742725

26. **Leonard, J.A., Lee, Y., & Schulz, L.E. (2017). Infants make more attempts to achieve a goal when they see adults persist. *Science, 357*(6357), 1290-1294. doi:10.1126/science.aan2317**

27. Shusterman, A., Cheung, P., Taggart, J., Bass, T., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Schwartz, A. (2017). Conceptual correlates of counting: Children's spontaneous matching and tracking of large sets reflects their knowledge of the cardinal principle. *The Journal of Numerical Cognition,* 3(1), 1-30. doi:10.5964/jnc.v3i1.65

28. **Leonard, J.A**., Flournoy, J., Lewis-de los Angeles, C., & Whitaker, K. (2017). How much motion is too much motion? Determining motion thresholds by sample size for reproducibility in developmental resting-state MRI. *Research Ideas and Outcomes,* 3: e12569. doi:10.3897/rio.3.e12569

29. Finn, A.S., Minas, J., **Leonard, J.A.,** Mackey, A.P., Salvatore, J., Goetz, C., West, M., Gabrieli C.F.O., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2016). Functional brain organization of working memory in adolescents varies in relation to family income and academic achievement. *Developmental Science.* doi:110.1111/desc.12450

30. Cain, M.S., **Leonard, J.A.,** Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Finn, A.S. (2016). Multi-media tasking in adolescents. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review,* 1-10. doi:10.3758/s13423-016-1036-3

31. Finn, A.S., Kalra, P.B., Goetz, C., **Leonard, J.A.,** Sheridan, M.A., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2016). Developmental dissociation between the maturation of procedural memory and declarative memory. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 142,* 212-220. doi:10.1016/j.jecp.2015.09.027

32. **Leonard, J.A.,** Mackey, A.P., Finn, A.S., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2015). Differential effects of socioeconomic status on declarative and procedural memory. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 9:554. Doi:10.3389/fnhum.2015.00554

33. Mackey, A.P., Finn, A.S., **Leonard, J.A.,** Jacoby-Senghor, D.S., West, M.R., Gabrieli, C.F., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2015). Neuroanatomical correlates of the income-achievement gap. *Psychological Science, 26*(6), 925-933. doi:0956797615572233

34. Chai, X.J., Hirshfeld-Becker, D., Biederman, J., Uchida, M., Doehrmann, O., **Leonard, J.A.,** ... & Whitfield-Gabrieli, S. (2015). Altered intrinsic functional brain architecture in children at familial risk of major depression. *Biological Psychiatry*, *80(11), 849-858.* doi:10.1016/j.biopsych.2015.12.003

35. Chai, X.J., Hirshfeld-Becker, D., Biederman, J., Uchida, M., Doehrmann, O., **Leonard, J.A.,** ... & Gabrieli, J.D. (2015). Functional and structural brain correlates of risk for major depression in children with familial depression. *NeuroImage: Clinical, 8,* 398-407. doi:10.1016/j.nicl.2015.05.004

36. **Leonard, J.A.,** Berkowitz, T., & Shusterman, A. (2014). The effect of friendly touch on delay-of-gratification in preschool children. *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology,* 1-11, doi:10.1080/17470218.2014.907325

37. Plummer, D.B., Galla, B.M., Finn, A.S., Patrick, S.D., Meketon, D., **Leonard, J.A.** … Duckworth, A.L. (2014). A behind-the-scenes guide to school-based research. *Mind, Brain, and Education, 8*(1), 15-20. doi:10.111mbe.12040

38. Finn, A.S., Kraft, M., West, M., **Leonard, J.A.,** Bisk, C., Martin, R., Sheridan, M.A., Gabrieli, C.F.O., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2014). Cognitive skills, student achievement tests, and schools. *Psychological Science, 25*(3), 736-44. doi: 10.1177/0956797613516008

IN PREPARATION

[+]Indicates trainee

1. **Leonard, J.A.,** Garcia, T., Bennet-Pierre, G., & Gweon, H. (in prep). Children infer relative competence based on visual cues relate to effort and performance.
2. [+]Asaba, M., Zhang, M., & **Leonard, J.A.** (in prep). Children expect adults to hold gender stereotypes, even when they are not accurate.
3. [+]Carrillo, B., [+]Asaba, M., & **Leonard, J.A.** (in prep). Young children reason about adults' achievement goals for them

PEER-REVIEWED 6- PAGE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

*[+]Indicates trainee, [‡] indicates undergraduate trainee, * indicates equal contribution*

1. [+]Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). Practice what you preach: Consistent messages about the value of effort foster children's persistence. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
2. [+]Carrillo, B., [+]Asaba, M., [‡]Lozano, L., [‡]Okine, L., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). Young children reason about adults' achievement goals for them. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
3. [+]Popat, A., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). "I'm here for my gender, not my skill": Causal reasoning shapes beliefs about merit in response to DEI initiatives. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
4. [+]Asaba, M., Zhang, M., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). Children expect adults to hold gender stereotypes, even when they are not accurate. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
5. [+]Zhang, F., [+]Carrillo, B., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2023). Children's developing understanding of learning as improvement over time. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
6. [+]Asaba, M., Davis, I., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Jara-Ettinger, J.E. (2023). Detecting social biases using mental state inference. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

7. [+]Asaba, M., Santos, M., Jara-Ettinger, J.E., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2022). Adolescents are most motivated by encouragement from someone who knows their abilities and the domain. *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
8. [+]Zhang, F., McDougle, S., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2022). Thinking about doing: Representations of skill learning. *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
9. Serko, D., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Ruggeri, A. (2022). Developmental changes in children's training strategies. *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.*
10. **Leonard, J.A.**, Sandler, J., Nerenberg, A., Rubio, A., Schulz, L.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2020). Preschoolers are sensitive to their performance over time. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
11. **Leonard, J.A.,** Bennett-Pierre, G., & Gweon, H. (2019). Who is better? Preschoolers infer relative competence based on efficiency of process and quality of outcome. *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

[+]Indicates trainee, [‡] indicates undergraduate trainee

1. [+]Carrillo, B., [+]Asaba, M., [‡]Lozano, L., [‡]Okine, L., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Young children reason about adults' achievement goals for them.* Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, NL.
2. [+]Shachnai, R., [+]Asaba, M., Hu, L., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Pointing out learning opportunities reduces over-parenting.* International Mind, Brain and Education Society Conference, Leuven, Belgium.
3. **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). How caregiver's influence children's persistence. Early Career Symposium, Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
4. [+]Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024) *Practice what you preach: Consistent messages about the value of effort foster children's persistence.* Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
5. McDermott, C., Beavers, C., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Mackey, A. P. (2023). *Child Sensitivity to Parent Praise Varies by Parent Mental Health.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
6. [+]Asaba, M., Santos, M., Jara-Ettinger, J., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2022). *Adolescents are most motivated by encouragement from someone who knows their abilities and the domain.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, CAN.
7. [+]Zhang, F., McDougle, S., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2022). *Thinking about doing: Representations of skill learning.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, CAN.
8. **Leonard, J.A.** (2022) *Discussant: Children's motivation in STEM.* Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI.
9. **Leonard, J.A.,** Liu, H., Cordrey, S., & Mackey, A.P. (2021). *Children stick with a challenge when their performance improves over time.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Virtual Conference.

10. **Leonard, J.A.,** Bennett-Pierre, G., Garcia, T. & Gweon, H. (2021). *Young children infer relative competence based on efficiency of process and quality of outcome.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Virtual Conference.
11. **Leonard, J.A.,** Thomas, O., Pelz, M., Braham, E. (2020). *Children and challenge: Using research to inform museum experiences.* InterActivity: Association of Children's Museums Conference, St. Louis, MO. *Cancelled due to Covid-19*
12. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.**, Grotzinger, H., Robinson, S.T., Takada, M., Segaran, J., Mackey, A.P., Rowe, M.L., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2019). *Cortical plasticity associated with a parent-implemented language intervention.* FLUX Congress, New York, NY.
13. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.,** Grotzinger, H., Robinson, S.T., Takada, M., Segaran, J., Mackey, A.P., Rowe, M.L., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2019). *Cortical plasticity associated with a parent-implemented language intervention.* Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Helsinki, Finland.
14. **Leonard, J.A.,** Bennet-Pierre, G., & Gweon, H. (2019). *Who is better? Preschoolers infer relative competence based on efficiency of process and quality of outcome.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, CAN.
15. **Leonard, J.A.,** Romeo, R.R**.,** Park, A.T., Takada, M.E., Robinson, S.T., Grotzinger, H., Last, B.S., Finn, A.S., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2018). *The neural correlates of reasoning differ by socioeconomic status in development.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Baltimore, MD.
16. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.**, Robinson, S.T., Rowe, M.L., Mackey, A.P., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2018). *Neural plasticity associated with a parent-implemented language intervention.* Boston University Conference on Child Language Development, Boston, MA.
17. **Leonard, J.A.** Garcia, A., Chew, K., & Schulz, L.E. (2018). *Practice what you preach: Children integrate adults' outcomes, actions, and testimony to decide how hard to try.* The International Congress of Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
18. **Leonard, J.A.** & Schulz, L.E. (2018). *Social influences on children's motivation.* Association for Psychological Sciences, San Francisco, CA.
19. D'Mello A., Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.**, Mackey, A.P., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2018). Cerebellar contributions to children's language processing. In nanosymposium: Human cognition and behavior: Neurocognitive development. *Society for Neuroscience*, San Diego, CA.
20. **Leonard, J.A.,** Romeo, R.R., Mackey, A.P., Takada, M., Robinson, S., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Schulz, L.E. (2017). *Predicting and intervening on cognitive outcomes in young children.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Austin, TX.
21. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.,** Robinson, S.T., Rowe, M.L., Mackey, A.P., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2017). *Children's language exposure predicts neural structure and function during language processing, independent of SES.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Austin, TX.
22. **Leonard, J.A.,** Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Schulz, L.E. (2016). *Socioeconomic status and exploratory play in early childhood.* Active Learning Workshop at the Cognitive Science Society, Philadelphia, PA.

23. **Leonard, J.A.,** & Schulz, L.E. (2015). *If at first you don't succeed: The role of evidence in children's persistence*. More On Development, Columbus, OH.
24. **Leonard, J.A.,** Floyd, S., Schulz, L.E. (2015). *The development of implicit theories of effort*. The Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Philadelphia, PA.
25. Mackey, A.P., **Leonard, J.A.,** Finn, A.S., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2014). *Hippocampal structure and connectivity is linked to standardized test score improvement*. Society for Neuroscience, Washington, DC.
26. Finn, A.S., **Leonard J.A.**, Mackey, A.P., Goetz, C.A., Salvatore, J., De los Angeles, C., Sheridan, M.A., Gabrieli, C.F.O., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2013). *The neural substrates associated with improvement on standardized exams during middle school.* The Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

⁺*Indicates trainee*

1. ⁺Wang, E., Radovanovic, M., Sommerville, J. & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Practice what you preach: Consistent messages about the value of effort foster children's persistence.* Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, NL.
2. ⁺Popat, A., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *"I'm here for my gender, not my skill": Causal reasoning shapes beliefs about merit in response to DEI initiatives.* Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, NL.
3. ⁺Asaba, M., Zhang, M., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Children expect adults to hold gender stereotypes, even when they are not accurate.* Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, NL.
4. ⁺Shachnai, R., ⁺Asaba, M., Hu, L., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Pointing out learning opportunities reduces over-parenting.* Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
5. ⁺Masetti, N., ⁺Shachnai, R., Mackey, A.P. & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Relationships between parental taking over and demographics.* Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
6. ⁺Zhang, F., ⁺Carrillo, B., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2024). *Developmental changes in children's predicted learning curves.* Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.
7. McDermott, C., Taylor, K., Lydon-Staley, D., **Leonard, J.A.**, & Mackey, A.P. (2024). *Sensitivity to psychosocial influences at age 3 predicts mental health in middle childhood.* American Psychological Association, Seattle, WA.
8. Foster, J., Cohodes, E., **Leonard, J.A.,** Goldfarb, E., & Gee., D. (2024). *Affective Schema-Based Memory Processes as Mechanisms Linking Early-Life Stress and Stress-Related Psychopathology.* Society for Affective Sciences, New Orleans, LA.
9. ⁺Shachnai, R., ⁺Asaba, M., Hu, L., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2023). *Parents take over less when they think their young child is learning.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sydney, Australia.
10. ⁺Zhang, F., ⁺Carrillo, B., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2023). *Children's developing understanding of learning as improvement over time.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Sydney, Australia.

11. ⁺Asaba, M., Davis, I., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Jara-Ettinger, J., (2023). *Detecting social biases using mental state inference. The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Sydney, Australia.
12. ⁺Zhang, F., ⁺Carrillo, B., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2023). *Developmental differences in children's predicted learning curves.* Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Pittsburgh, PA.
13. Foster, J., Cohodes, E., **Leonard, J.A.,** Goldfarb, E., & Gee., D. (2023). *Associations between Early-Life Stress and Affective Schema-Based Memory Processes.* Association for Psychological Sciences, Washington, DC.
14. ⁺Asaba, M., Zhang, M., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2023). *Children's representations of others' gender bias.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
15. McDorman, A. S., Gilmer, M., Taylor, E., Alexander, V., **Leonard, J.A**., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Romeo, R. (2023). *With Infinite Affection: Caregiving as Protective of Children's Social-Emotional Skills Against Household Chaos or Low SES.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
16. Serko, D., **Leonard, J.A.,** Ruggeri, A. (2022). *Developmental changes in children's training strategies.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, CAN.
17. ⁺Asaba, M., Santos, M., Jara-Ettinger, J., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2022). *Who is motivating? Students evaluate encouragement based on speaker's knowledge.* Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI.
18. ⁺Shachnai, R., ⁺Asaba, M., Santos, M., & **Leonard, J.A.** (2022). *Why parents intervene in their young children's struggles.* Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI.
19. Serko, D., **Leonard, J.A.,** Ruggeri, A. (2022). *Older but not younger: Children adapt their decisions about which game to practice more to maximize test performance.* Cognitive Development Society, Madison, WI
20. ⁺Asaba, M., Nerenberg, A., **& Leonard, J.A.** (2021). *Who is motivating? Students evaluate encouragement based on speaker's knowledge.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Virtual conference.
21. Park, A.T., **Leonard, J.A.,** Tooley, U.A., Richardson, H., Ke, A., Tisdall, D., Edgar, C., & Mackey, A.P. (2020). *Neural activation to naturalistic emotional events in young children.* FLUX Congress, Santa Rosa, CA (Virtual conference).
22. **Leonard, J.A.**, Sandler, J., Nerenberg, A., Rubio, A., Schulz, L.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2020). *Preschoolers are sensitive to their performance over time.* The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, CAN (Virtual conference).
23. Tooley, U.A., Park, A.T., **Leonard, J.A.**, Boroshok, A.L., Bassett, D.S., & Mackey, A.P. (2020). *Functional network development during early childhood.* (2020). Organization for Human Brain Mapping Equinox, (Virtual conference).
24. Park, A.T., Tooley, U.A., Boroshok, A.L., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Mackey, A.P. (2020). *Early childhood stress is associated with blunted development of ventral tegmental area connectivity.* Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

25. **Leonard, J.A.,** Martinez, D.N., Dashineau, S., & Mackey, A.P. (2019). *Let me do it myself: The relationship between intrusive behavior in adults and young children's persistence.* Child Development Society, Louisville, KT.
26. Martinez, D.N., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Mackey, A.P. (2019). *Children's persistence is related to how much they attend to their parent's effortful actions.* Child Development Society, Louisville, KT.
27. **Leonard, J.A.,** Sorcher, L., Forde, J., Fergeler, S., Tooley, U.A., Park, A.T., Hart, Y., & Mackey, A.P. (2019). *Associations between brain development and creativity in early childhood.* FLUX Congress, New York, NY.
28. Park, A.T., **Leonard, J.A.,** Tooley, U.A., Boroshok, A.L., & Mackey, A.P. (2019). *Stress exposure in early childhood relates to altered midbrain functional connectivity.* FLUX Congress, New York, NY.
29. Tooley, U.A., Park, A.T., **Leonard, J.A.,** Bassett, D.S., & Mackey, A.P. (2019). *Functional network development in early childhood.* FLUX Congress, New York, NY.
30. Valencia V., Romeo, R., **Leonard, J.A.,** Rowe, M., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2019). *Hablamos Ambos (We Speak Both): Relationship between primary language use and lexical diversity in bilingual families.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Baltimore, MD.
31. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.,** Segaran, J., Mackey, A.P., Rowe, M.L., Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2019). *Structural and functional neural correlates of language experience in children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.* Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
32. **Leonard, J.A.,** Romeo, R.R., Park, A.T., Takada, M.E., Robinson, S.T., Grotzinger, H., Finn, A.S., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Mackey, A.P. (2018). *Associations between cortical thickness and reasoning vary by socioeconomic status in early childhood.* Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA.
33. Romeo, R.R., Segaran, J., **Leonard, J.A.**, Robinson, S. T., Mackey, A.P., Yendiki, A., Rowe, M.L., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2018). Neural correlates of the "30-million word gap": Children's language exposure is related to white matter structure. *Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, Boston, MA.
34. **Leonard, J.A.**, Magid, R., Kleiman-Weiner, M., DePascale, M., Tenenbaum, J., & Schulz, L.E. (2017). *Preschoolers rationally deploy effort in social learning and collaborative contexts.* Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.
35. **Leonard, J.A.,** Kleiman-Weiner, M., Lee, Y., Tenenbaum, J., & Schulz, L.E. (2017). *Preschoolers and infants calibrate persistence from adult models.* Cognitive Science Society, London, UK.
36. Takada, M.E., **Leonard, J.A.**, Romeo, R.R., Robinson, S.T., Mackey, A.P., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2017). *Cognitive and neural correlates of mathematical reasoning across math proficiency levels.* Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Austin, TX.
37. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.**, Robinson, S.T., Rowe, M.L., Mackey, A.P., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2017). *Language exposure is associated with the cortical thickness of young, low-SES children.* Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, MD.
38. Romeo, R.R., **Leonard, J.A.,** Robinson, S.T., Segaran, J., Rowe, M.L., Mackey, A.P., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2016). *Children's language exposure predicts neural activation during language processing.* Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

39. **Leonard, J.A.,** Lee, Y., & Schulz, L.E. (2015). *If at first you don't succeed: The role of evidence in preschoolers' and infants' persistence*. Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.
40. **Leonard, J.A.,** Mackey, A.P., Finn, A.S., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2015). *Differential effects of socioeconomic status on declarative and procedural memory.* FLUX congress, Leiden, Netherlands.
41. **Leonard, J.A.,** Lee, Y., & Schulz, L.E. (2015). *If at first you don't succeed: The role of evidence in preschoolers' and infants' persistence.* Cognitive Science Society, Pasadena, CA.
42. Mackey, A.P., Finn, A.S., **Leonard, J.A.**, Salvatore, J., Goetz, C.A., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2014). *Cortical thickness differences associated with family income in adolescents.* Human Brain Mapping, Hamburg, Germany.
43. **Leonard, J.A.,** Finn, A.S., Mackey, A.P., Salvatore, J., De los Angeles, C., Goetz, C.A., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Whitfield-Gabrieli, S. (2014). *Relation of functional connectivity to cognitive abilities in adolescents from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds.* The Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA.
44. **Leonard, J.A.,** Finn, A.S., Mackey, A.P., Salvatore, J., De los Angeles, C., Goetz, C.A., Gabrieli, J.D.E., & Whitfield-Gabrieli, S. (2013). *Resting-state MRI in adolescents: Relation of functional connectivity to cognitive abilities and educational outcomes.* The Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.
45. Mackey, A.P., Finn, A.S., **Leonard, J.A.,** Salvatore, J., Goetz, C.A., & Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2013). *Cognitive, academic, and brain difference associated with low-income backgrounds in adolescents.* The Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.
46. Finn, A., Albert, N., **Leonard, J.A.,** & Hudson Kam, C.L. (2013). *Effort in skill learning: More persistent benefits for children.* The Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA.
47. **Leonard, J.A.**, Berkowitz, T., & Shusterman, A. (2013). *The effects of touch on compliance in pre-school age children.* The Society for Research in Cognitive Development, Seattle, WA.
48. Finn, A., Sheridan, M.A., Salvatore, J., **Leonard**, **J.A.,** & Gabrieli, J.D.E (2012*). Individual differences in adolescents' ability to filter items for working memory predict neural structure and function.* The Society for Neuroscience, Louisiana.
49. **Leonard, J.A.**, Berkowitz, T., & Shusterman, A. (2011). *The effects of touch on compliance in pre-school age children.* The Cognitive Development Society, Philadelphia, PA.

INVITED TALKS

Cognition, Brain, and Behavior seminar, Harvard University	2025
Psychology Department colloquium, Arizona State University	2025
Developmental Speaker Series, New York University	2025
Grand Rounds, Hartford HealthCare – Institute of Living	2025
CT Psychological Association's Child and Family Committee	2024
Center for Emotional Intelligence Research Rounds, Yale University	2024
Cognitive Science Colloquium, Princeton University	2024
Psychology Colloquium, Wesleyan University	2024

Developmental Brown Bag, University of Waterloo	2024
Developmental Colloquium, UMass Amherst	2023
EdukCircle International Convention on Psychology	2023
Developmental Psychology Talk Series, UC San Diego	2023
Social Curiosity Workshop, University of Göttingen & Stanford University	2022
Cognitive Development Center Seminar Series, Central European University	2022
Developmental Brown Bag, Brown University	2022
Developmental Science Program Colloquium, University of Maryland	2022
Developmental Talk Series, University of Toronto	2021
Teachers College Seminar, Columbia University	2021
Developmental Brown Bag, Duke University	2021
Computational Cognitive Development Laboratory, Harvard University	2021
Psychology Developmental Colloquium, Temple University	2020
Department of Psychology Colloquium, University of Chicago	2020
Department of Psychology Colloquium, University of Southern California	2020
iSearch Research Retreat, Max Planck Institute for Human Development	2020
Concepts and Categories Seminar, New York University	2019
Department of Psychology Colloquium, Yale University	2019
Department of Psychology Colloquium, Stanford University	2019
Affective Neuroscience and Development Laboratory, Harvard University	2018
Developmental Group Talk Series, University of Pennsylvania	2017
Developmental Colloquium, Stanford University	2017

TEACHING

Primary Instructor

Translating Developmental Science into Educational Practice, Yale University	2023, 2024
Developmental Psychology, Yale University	2021, 2022, 2024
Tools for Academic Success and Beyond, Yale University	2022
Science Pedagogy for Elementary School Students, Wesleyan University, Co-instructor	2009 - 2011

Teaching Assistant

Infant & Childhood Cognition, MIT	2016
Psychological Science, MIT	2016, 2017
Cognitive Processes, MIT	2015
Research Methods in Cognitive Development and Education, Wesleyan	2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Associate Editor

Open Mind (2024-present)

Journal Ad-hoc Reviewer

Child Development, Cognition, Cognitive Development, Cognitive Science, Cognitive Psychology, Current Directions in Psychological Science, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Developmental

Psychology, Developmental Science, Developmental Psychobiology, Human Brain Mapping, Infant and Child Development, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, Journal of Neuroscience, Nature Communications, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Plos One, Psychological Science, Trends in Cognitive Science

Conference Reviews

Society for Research in Child Development, Cognitive Development Society, Cognitive Science Society (meta-reviewer, 2023)

Grant Reviews

NSF EHR Panel Study Section Member, 2022
NSF EHR ad-hoc reviewer, 2021; 2023
The Leaky Foundation ad-hoc reviewer, 2021

Conference mentor

SRCD Professoriate Lunch, 2024
Cognitive Science Society Mentor, 2024

Organized Workshops

Leveraging educational games to study motivation, 2024
Co-chairs: Abe Hofman(University of Amsterdam) and Michele Giannola (the University of Naples Federico II)

Advisory roles

Minnesota Children's Museum, 2024
Please Touch Museum, 2024

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AT YALE

Chair of Developmental Current Works	2024 - 2025
Developmental Search Committee, Department of Psychology	2024 - 2025
Quantitative Search Committee, Department of Psychology	2023 - 2024
The Psychology Department's Committee on Racial Equity and Diversity	2022 - 2024
The Education Studies Advisory Committee	2022 - 2024
Chair of Psychology Colloquia	2022 - 2023
Developmental Search Committee, Department of Psychology	2022 - 2023
The Graduate Program Advisory Committee	2021 - 2023
Open Search Committee, Department of Psychology	2021 - 2022
Fellow, Silliman College	2021 - present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Psychological Association	2017 - present
Cognitive Science Society	2015 - present
FLUX Congress	2015 - 2021
Cognitive Neuroscience Society	2014 - 2020
Society for Neuroscience	2013 - 2018
Cognitive Development Society	2011 - present
Society for Research on Cognitive Development	2011 - present

PUBLIC WRITING AND OUTREACH

BOLD: The cognitive scientist helping kids persist through challenges 2024
Psychology Today: How AI could ruin or revive our culture of learning 2023
Yale Community Breakfast 2023
Character Lab Tip of the Week: Step back: Let kids do it themselves 2021
The Conversation: Babies can learn the value of persistence by watching grownups stick with a challenge 2017

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Book: Good, Better, Best: The Rare Phenomenon of Multiple Successful Siblings and What It Shows Us About Parenting, Ambition, and Genetic Inheritance by NYTimes reporter Susan Dominus 2026
Yale News: Need a landing pad for helicopter parenting? Frame tasks as learning. 2024
Teachers' Voices (Jacob's BOLD podcast) Season 3 Episode 10. How can schools embrace variability in learning? 2024
Vox: It's Okay to Suck When You Try Something New 2023
The Happiness Lab Podcast (Happier Parents, Happier Kids pt. 2) 2022
Stanford Psychology Podcast: Young Children's Effort Allocation and Persistence in Learning 2022
New York Times: Want your kid to learn something new? Sign yourself up too 2021
CNN: Parents: Here's when to shower your child with praise 2021
Parent.com: Kids persevere more when parents take a step back 2021
Penn Today: Children persist less when adults take over 2021
Netflix: Babies 2020
MIT News: Babies can learn that hard work pays off 2017
Scientific American: If at first you don't succeed, show your baby 2017
The Atlantic: Infants can learn the value of perseverance by watching adults 2017

MENTORSHIP

Yale Postdoctoral Mentor

Mika Asaba, 2021 – present
NSF Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship

Yale Graduate Mentor

Aarthi Popat; Yale Psychology (Developmental) PhD Program (2023 – present)
Elaine Wang; Yale Psychology (Developmental) PhD Program (2023 – present)
Reut Shachnai, Yale Psychology (Developmental) PhD Program (2021 – present)
Brandon Carrillo, Yale Psychology (Developmental) PhD Program (2021 – present)
Flora Zhang, Yale Psychology (Cognitive) PhD Program (2021 – present)

Visiting Graduate Students

Daniil Serko, Max Plank Institute for Human Development, PhD Program (Spring 2022)

Graduate Committees

Dissertation Committees

Gauri Harindranath (Tufts University, Department of Psychology, 2025), Mandy McCarthy (Developmental, 2024), Tristan Yates (Cognitive, 2023), Emory Richardson (Developmental, 2023), Zachary Silver (Developmental, 2023), Kate Yang (Developmental, 2022), Megan Collins (Clinical, 2022)

Pre-Dissertation Committees

Lilian Behm (Neuroscience, 2023, 2024), Martin Meyer (Cognitive, 2024), Jordan Foster (Clinical, 2022, 2023)

Yale Undergraduate Mentor

Undergraduate Senior Theses

Psychology: Carigan McGuinn (Spring 2024), Zahra Yarali (Fall 2024), AC Christakis (Fall 2023), Marissa Healy (Spring 2023)

Cognitive Science: Paloma Cassanova (Spring, 2024), Bethel Asomaning (Spring 2024).Noah Norman (Spring 2023), Emily Li (Spring 2022)

Undergraduate Research Assistants in the Leonard Learning Lab

Paloma Cassanov (2024-2025), Christina Norberg (2024-2025), Bethel Asomaning (2024-2025), Carigan McGuinn (2024 -2025), Lizbeth Lozano (2023-2025), Adriana Abad Castro (2023), Justice Brown (2022-2023), AC Christakis (2022-2023), Yagmur Ozturkoglu (2022), Zahra Yarali (2022-2024), Stella Choi (2023), Noah Norman (2022-2023), Lauren Okine (2022 -2024), Jessie Cheung (2022), Montse Rodriguez (2022), Elaine Cheng (2022), Matthew Elmore Merritt (2021-2022), Suzanna Yang (2021-2022)

Yale Pathways Program: High school research assistants

Ayannah Obas (2023; Started Yale College in 2023)

Non-Yale research assistants

Arielle Belluck (2023-2024; Princeton University Lab Manager)
Jam Stebbins (2024, Temple University undergraduate)
Lingyan Hu (2021-2023; University of Pennsylvania Education PhD)
Allison Eisenberg (2023; Rutgers University undergraduate)

Penn Undergraduate Mentor

Undergraduate Psychology Senior Theses

Skyler Cordrey (Spring 2021), Amanda Nerenberg (Spring 2021), Julia Sandler (Spring 2020), Aidan Rubio (Spring 2020), Lily Stein (Fall 2020), Dominique Martinez (Spring 2019), Samantha Dashineau (Villanova Masters student 2019)

Undergraduate Research Assistants in the Changing Brain Lab

Skyler Cordrey (2019-2021), Amanda Nerenberg (2019-2021), Greer Bizzell-Hatcher (2019-2021), Hunter Liu (2019-2021), Ava Cruz (2018-2019)

MIT Undergraduate Mentor

Undergraduate Research Assistants in the Early Childhood Cognition Lab

Andrea Garcia (2018), Stephanie Flores (2018) Fatima Gunter-Rahman (2017-2018), Yuna Lee (2015-2017), Megumi Takada (2015-2017), Katherine Chew (2017), Yuriko Fukumura (2017),

Daniel Mirney (2016), Emily McDermitt (2016), Jakub Kaczmarzyk (2015), Dayna Wilmot (2014-2017)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity Faculty Success Program (2023); Yale Poorvu Pedagogical Partners (2021); Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning Course (Re)Design (2021)

AWARDS AND FUNDING TO TRAINEES

Yale Education Studies Graduate Research Grant ($5,000): Elaine Wang (Graduate student) 2023

Robert J. Glushko Prize for Distinguished Undergraduate Research in Cognitive Science, Yale University ($500): Noah Norman (Cog Sci senior thesis) 2023

Yale College Dean's fellowship ($4,500): Lizbeth Lozano (undergraduate RA) 2023

Yale College Dean's fellowship ($4,500): AC Christakis (undergraduate RA) 2023

Richter Summer Fellowship ($1,500): AC Christakis (undergraduate RA) 2023

Mellon Undergraduate Research Grant ($500): Noah Norman (CogSci senior thesis) 2022

Yale Education Studies Graduate Research Grant ($5,000): Reut Shachnai (Graduate student) 2022

NSF SBE Postdoctoral Fellowship ($138,000): Mika Asaba (Postdoctoral fellow) 2022 - 2024

Yale College Dean's fellowship ($4,500): Lauren Okine (undergraduate RA) 2022

Richter Summer Fellowship ($1,500): Lauren Okine (undergraduate RA) 2022

Yale College Dean's fellowship ($5,500): Jessie Cheung (undergraduate RA) 2022

Richter Summer Fellowship ($1,500): Jessie Cheung (undergraduate RA) 2022