

Myrsine Kostoulas

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EDUCATION

B.A. Psychology

May 2025

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN

Major: Psychology

Minor: Human Development and Family Science

Honors Thesis: *Sexual Objectification and Eye Gaze*

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Lamer

Honors & Awards

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Dean's List

Spring 2023 - Spring 2025

1794 Scholar, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

May 2023 - Spring 2025

Faculty Research Assistantship Fund (\$3,500)

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

Summa Cum Laude

2025

Undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship (\$750)

2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Summer Research Assistant, Brain Research And Internalizing Symptoms (BRAINS) Laboratory

Dr. Antonia N. Kaczurkin – Vanderbilt University– Nashville, TN (May 2023 – Aug. 2023)

- Recruited and screened participants for eligibility according to MRI and EEG regulations. Coordinated and scheduled study visits for participants over the phone using Outlook, iLab, and REDCap.
- Observed Structured Clinical Interviews for the DSM-5 (SCID-5).
- Set up ecological momentary assessment (EMA) daily mood questions in REDCap.
- Administered a battery of cognitive questionnaires from the NIH Toolbox (e.g., Picture Vocabulary Test, Flanker Inhibitory Control and Attention Test, etc.).
- Led electroencephalogram (EEG) recordings (model EC40-#-BA Ready-to-use 32Ch-EasyCap for BrainAmp (10%-system)) for participants aged 12-23. Degreased and abraded participants' scalps and placed the cap. Attached vertical electrooculogram (VEOG) electrode under eye and Galvanic Skin Response electrodes to hand. Checked and confirmed electrode impedance in Vision Recorder. Instructed participants through an emotion regulation task, a rest task, and a Flanker task while connected to the EEG. Washed and disinfected EEG cap and electrodes.
- Led functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans for participants aged 12-23, guiding participants through resting state tasks and an fMRI dot-probe task to test for attentional bias to threat.
- Led an independent research project entitled, "Resilience as a Potential Moderator of the Relationship between International Status and Anxiety," which involved conducting a literature review, generating hypotheses, analyzing data, and presenting a poster at a professional conference.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Social Perception and Cognition (SPAC) Laboratory

Dr. Sarah Lamer – University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Knoxville, TN (Aug. 2023 – Present)

- Trained in MediaLab, SONA, and Qualtrics. Managed participant sign-ups and SONA slot administration.

- Set up computer sessions for participants and provided instructions for survey completion. Ensured participants' understanding of consent forms and facilitated their progression throughout study participation.
- Conducted literature reviews to support project development.
- Designed and conducted an experiment using Qualtrics & RealEye.
- Participated in planning sessions to determine research goals and implement participant recruitment and experiment guidelines. Analyzed and examined data sets in R and RStudio using linear regression.
- Prepared and presented research findings in academic conferences and team meetings.
- Collaborated with graduate students and an advisor in writing an honors thesis examining how men objectify women using eye tracking and testing how this changes when men participate in the lab versus online.
- Trained and supervised other undergraduate research assistants in running the experiment for my honors thesis project.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Floater teacher, Bearden Early Enrichment Program (May 2024 – January 2025)

- Worked with children of various ages: infants (6 – 15 months), Toddler 1 (15 – 30 months), Toddler 2 (30 months – 2 years), preschool-age, Pre-K age, and school-age children.
- Collaborated with lead teachers on lesson plans, floated between classrooms as assigned/needed, and interacted with and raised concerns about children to parents.
- Learned to work under management and to bring concerns to management in a professional manner.
- Helped resolve student conflict and worked on managing emotions and staying calm.

Intern, University of Tennessee Psychological Clinic (May 2024 – May 2025)

- Assisted clinic director with inspecting and securely disposing of paper client files and their contents according to state laws.
- Collected and examined personality tests from prior clients.
- Shadowed Clinical and Counseling Psychology PhD students.
- Attended staffing meetings with graduate students and clinic administrators. Participated in discussions, absorbed questions from students and respective answers from administrators, and offered ideas, opinions, and knowledge from an undergraduate student perspective.
- Acted as mock therapist and mock client to assist graduate students in their education by practicing intake sessions and intelligence test sessions.
- Attended a graduate-level Psychodynamic Psychotherapy class, where I watched therapy tapes from graduate students and clinicians.
- Assisted with a project analyzing therapeutic outcomes (e.g., anxiety & depression symptoms, view of therapeutic relationship) for LGBTQ+ clients receiving services through a grant with a local organization and presented findings at multiple university conferences.

Youth Development Specialist, YMCA (March 2025 – Present)

- Led and evaluated enrichment activities for elementary-aged children in after-school settings, fostering academic, social, and emotional growth.
- Supported development through structured play and positive behavior reinforcement.
- Collaborated with other employees and families to meet the needs of individual students.
- Worked with students to help resolve conflicts, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment with effective conflict-resolution tools for children.
- Completed frequent training in child development and care of youth.

Literacy Tutor, Knox County Schools (August 2025 – Present)

- Delivered small group tutoring sessions using structured materials provided by Knox County Schools to support student academic growth.
- Collaborated with teachers and school staff to identify tutoring priorities and align interventions with classroom instruction.
- Monitored and assessed student progress through regular observation and accurate documentation of student performance.
- Participated in professional development to improve instructional strategies and student outcomes.
- Demonstrated flexibility, professionalism, and receptiveness to feedback in a dynamic school environment.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer, Knoxville Leadership Foundation, Amachi (Aug. 2023 – May 2025)

- Worked with at-risk youth, helping resolve conflicts and relating necessary information to parents as needed.
- Met with group of 5th grade students once a week for bike club. Took students off campus, and helped solve inter-peer conflicts.
- Met with 3rd through 5th grade students once a week for STEM club. Led various activities in different fields, including art, science, math, life skills, and physical activity.

Therapeutic Preschool Volunteer, Helen Ross McNabb Center (Nov. 2025 – Present)

- Observed and assisted with socioemotional lessons appropriate for preschool-aged children who have experienced traumatic events.
- Assisted teachers and masters-level clinicians with managing difficult behavior and teaching social skills and emotional regulation.
- Assisted with implementation of developmentally appropriate activities meant to motivate children to express emotions and internalize socioemotional lessons.
- Maintained confidentiality and sensitivity when working with children receiving mental health services.

PRESENTATIONS

Kostoulas, M., Jaramillo, C., Camara, A.S., & Kaczurkin, A.N. (2023, August). *Resilience as a Potential Moderator of the Relationship Between International Status and Anxiety* [Poster presentation]. MARC/START Beckman Symposium at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Jaramillo, C., Archer, C., **Kostoulas, M.,** Camara, A.S., & Kaczurkin A.N. (2023, August). *Relationship between Social Anxiety and Working Memory as Supported by Brain Structure*. Oral presentation at MARC START Beckman symposium at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Camara, A., Jaramillo, C., **Kostoulas, M.,** & Kaczurkin A.N. (2023, August). *Brain Structure of Children in Single-Parent Households: Beyond SES* [Poster presentation]. MARC START Beckman symposium at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Kostoulas, M., Jaramillo, C., Camara, A.S., & Kaczurkin, A.N. (2023, September). *Outcomes of Resilience in Regulating Anxiety in International Versus Domestic Students* [Poster presentation]. Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Discovery Day, Knoxville, TN.

Kostoulas, M., Bonagura, D., Lamer, S. A. (2024, September). *Objectification in Vision: Exploring Men's Responses to Viewing Women As Objects* [Poster presentation]. Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Discovery Day, Knoxville, TN.

Kostoulas, M., Flores, L., *Serving the Mental Health Needs of East TN's LGBTQ+ Community & Training Culturally Competent Mental Health Professionals* [Poster presentation]. Connecting Across Disciplines Conference, Knoxville, TN. [Best Poster Award]

Kostoulas, M., Bonagura, D., Lamer, S. A. (2025, April). *When Gaze is Under Our Control: Sexual Objectification Behavior Across Contexts*. Talk presented at the annual Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium, Knoxville, TN. [Talk Award Recipient]

Kostoulas, M., Dua, V., Flores, L. (2025, April). *Emphasizing the Need for Psychological Services for LGBTQ+ In Conservative States* [Poster presentation]. 1794 Scholars Showcase, Knoxville, TN.

Kostoulas, M., Bonagura, D., Lamer, S. A. (2025, April). *Effects of Media Exposure and Location on Objectification of Women by Men* [Poster presentation]. Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement, Knoxville, TN. [Achievement Award]

Kostoulas, M., Dua, V., Flores, L. (2025, April). *Emphasizing the Need for Psychological Services for LGBTQ+ In Conservative States* [Poster presentation]. Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement, Knoxville, TN.

Kostoulas, M., Bonagura, D., Bareket, O., Fiske, S., Lamer, S. A. (2025, April). *Effects of Media Exposure and Location on Objectification of Women by Men* [Poster presentation]. Psychology Department Celebration, Knoxville, TN. [Undergraduate Poster Award Winner]

Kostoulas, M., Dua, V., Flores, L. (Accepted). *Grant-Funded Therapy Services for LGBTQ+ In Tennessee: Addressing Barriers in Conservative States*. [Poster presentation]. APA 2025 Convention, Denver, CO.

Kostoulas, M., Bonagura, D., Lamer, S. A. (2025, November). *Effects of Media Exposure and Location on Objectification of Women by Men* [Poster presentation]. Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists (SSSP) Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, FL.

Kostoulas, M., Bonagura, D., Bareket, O., Lamer, S. A. (2026, February). *Effects of Media Exposure and Location on Objectification of Women by Men* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

PUBLICATIONS

Bonagura, D., Bareket, O., **Kostoulas, M.,** Fiske, S., & Lamer, S. A. (in preparation). *Sexual objectification in context*.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Psychological Measurement and Statistics
- Abnormal Psychology
- Human Development
- Introduction to Psychological Research Methods
- Research Methods in Psychology Laboratory
- Foundational Proficiency in Psychology

- Marriage and Family
- Multicultural Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Cognitive Basis of Behavior
- Introduction to Statistics
- Family Interaction
- Family Stress
- Motivation
- Statistics in Psychology
- Skills for Counseling
- Diversity Among Children and Families
- Child Development
- Childhood Psychopathologies

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Computer knowledge: Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap), R and RStudio, iLab, MediaLab, Qualtrics, RealEye

Trainings:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Safety Certification Training (June 2023), Group 2
- Social Behavioral Investigators and Key Personnel (June 2023)
- GCP – Good Clinical Practice (June 2023)
- RCR for Psychological Sciences – VUPSY (June 2023)
- Social & Behavioral Research – UTK (July 2023)
- Food Allergies: Recognizing Allergic Reactions and Meal Planning in the Child Care Setting (May 2024)
- Essentials of Outdoor Safety (May 2024)
- Essentials of Indoor Safety (TN) (May 2024)
- Infectious Disease Control: Kick Those Germs to the Curb! (May 2024)
- Emergency Preparedness: Better Safe Than Sorry! (May 2024)
- ACEs and the Role of Life Experiences in Shaping Brain Development: Building Strong Brains (May 2024)
- Introduction to Early Literacy (May 2024)
- Administering Medication in Child Care Settings (May 2024)
- Recognizing and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse (May 2024)
- Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Abusive Head Trauma and Child Maltreatment (May 2024)
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Safety Risks for Infants (May 2024)
- Revised TN-ELDS for Infants: Birth-12 Months (August 2024)

Certificates: TECTA Infant/Toddler Orientation (Fall 2024), SafeZone (2025), Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement (2025)

Cognitive Test Administration:

- Picture Vocabulary Test
- Flanker Inhibitory Control and Attention Test
- List Sorting Working Memory Test
- Dimensional Change Card Sort Test (DCCS)
- Pattern Comparison Processing Speed Test
- Picture Sequence Memory Test

- Oral Reading Recognition Test
- Oral Symbol Digit Test
- Auditory Verbal Learning Test (Rey)