
Dr. Amrisha Vaish

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CAREER & EDUCATION

- Since 2020 **Pamela Feinour Edmonds and Franklin S. Edmonds Jr. Discovery Associate Professor**
Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
- 2014-2020 **Assistant Professor**
Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
- 2012-2014 **Dilthey postdoctoral fellow**
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig
- 2010-2012 **Postdoctoral researcher**
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig
Director: Michael Tomasello
- 2010 **Ph.D. in Psychology (summa cum laude)**
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, and Free University Berlin
Advisor: Michael Tomasello
- 2006 **M.A. in Psychology**
University of Chicago
Advisor: Amanda Woodward
- 2002 **B.A. in Psychology (High Distinction) and English**
University of Virginia
Advisor for Honors' thesis in Psychology: Angeline Lillard

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023-2026 Research Grant, Sir John Templeton Foundation
The development of gratitude across cultures
Role: PI [Co-PI: Dr. Aneesh Kumar, CHRIST University, Bengaluru, India]
\$816,241 [UVA portion: \$770,204]
- 2021-2024 Research Grant, Sir John Templeton Foundation
The boundaries of early forgiveness
Role: PI
\$230,197
- 2020-2022 National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, R03HD101652
The impact of inequality on young children's prosocial behavior
Role: PI
\$161,500
- 2020-2022 National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, National Research Service Award
F32HD102119
Empathy development in infancy and adolescence: The role of attachment
Role: Co-sponsor [PI: Dr. Jessie Stern]
\$134,508

- 2019 Sustainability Research Development Grant, U.VA
The role of contentment in promoting sustainable behaviors
Role: PI
\$8,000
- 2016-2019 Research Grant, Sir John Templeton Foundation
The development of forgiveness
Role: PI
\$195,183
- 2016-2017 U.VA CHARGE Enhancement Grant
Role: PI
\$4,950
- 2012-2014 Dilthey postdoctoral fellowship, Volkswagen and Fritz Thyssen Foundations [awarded for 2012-2017]
\$587,000

RESEARCH HONORS & AWARDS

- 2025 Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study Research Fellowship [declined]
- 2021 Max Planck Institute Sabbatical Award
- Since 2018 Association for Psychological Science: Fellow
- 2018 Association for Psychological Science: Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions
- 2018 Society for Research in Child Development: Scholar-in-residence: Sept. 2018-Dec. 2018
- 2015 Association for Psychological Science: "Rising Star" designation
- 2013 Visiting scholar, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2012 American Psychological Association: Division 7 Dissertation Award
- 2011 Society for Research in Child Development: Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award

TEACHING AND CONFERENCE GRANTS

- 2023 Learning Technology Incubator (LTi) Grant
Integrating active learning into large Psychology lecture courses
Role: Collaborator [Lead: Dr. Erin Clabough]
\$7,000
- 2017 Grant for Small Group Meeting, European Association of Social Psychology
Understanding and transforming challenging relationships
Role: Co-organizer
\$8,800

TEACHING HONORS & AWARDS

- 2023 UVA Department of Psychology Outstanding Professor Award
- 2019 All-University Teaching Award
- 2017 Mead Honored Faculty Award (awarded by University of Virginia's Mead Foundation)

RESEARCH SUPPORT AS FACULTY SPONSOR/SUPERVISOR

- 2025 Yufan Liang (undergraduate): Harrison Undergraduate Research Award [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]

- 2022 Johanna Chajes (PhD student) & Hailey Costello (undergraduate): Double Hoo Research Grant [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
- 2021 Meltem Yucel (PhD student) & Madeline Brence (undergraduate): Raven Society Fellowship
Madeline Brence: Harrison Undergraduate Research Award [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
Shirley Liu (undergraduate): Small Research and Travel Grant [U.VA College of Arts & Sciences]
- 2020 Meltem Yucel: APA Dissertation Research Award; U.VA Global Center Grant; U.VA Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Council Research Grant; U.VA Democracy Initiative CLEAR Graduate Fellowship; U.VA Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Stefen Beeler-Duden (PhD student) & Kayla Pelletz (undergraduate): Double Hoo Research Renewal Grant [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
Jessica Stern (postdoc) & Meltem Yucel: SPSP Climate Impact Small Research Grant
Madeline Brence: Semester Scholars Award [U.VA College Council]
- 2019 Stefen Beeler-Duden & Kayla Pelletz: Double Hoo Research Grant [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
Carolynn McElroy (undergraduate): Small Research and Travel Grant [U.VA College of Arts & Sciences]
Simran Mehta (undergraduate): Small Research and Travel Grant [U.VA College of Arts & Sciences]
Jenna Marzougui (undergraduate): Minerva Scholars Award [U.VA College Council]
- 2018 Udevvir Cheema (undergraduate): Fall Semester Scholars Award [U.VA College Council]
Meltem Yucel & Mitchell M. Fratus (undergraduate): Double Hoo Research Renewal Grant [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
Sarah Thomas (undergraduate): Harrison Undergraduate Research Award [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
Christina Marlow (undergraduate): Harrison Undergraduate Research Award [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]
- 2017 Meltem Yucel & Mitchell M. Fratus: Double Hoo Research Grant [U.VA Center for Undergraduate Excellence]

PUBLICATIONS

Student or postdoc authors are underlined.

Journal articles

- [71] Yucel, M., & **Vaish, A.** (in press). The role of harm salience on children's and adults' perceptions of fairness. *Social Cognition*.
- [70] Stern, J. A., Yucel, M., Grossmann, T., & **Vaish, A.** (in press). Environmental moral cognition in children and adults. *Journal of Cognition and Development*.
- [69] Gerdemann, S., **Vaish, A.**, & Hepach, R. (2025). Body posture as a measure of emotional valence in young children: a preregistered validation study. *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology*, 3:1536440. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fdpys.2025.1536440>
- [68] Chai, Q., Wu, X., Yu, J., **Vaish, A.**, Shen, M., & He, J. (2025). How prosocial modeling promotes children's sharing: A goal contagion account. *Developmental Science*, 28(3), e70020. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.70020>
- [67] Yucel, M., Stern, J. A., Eisen, S., Lillard, A. S., & **Vaish, A.** (2025). Heroes, villains, and everything in between: Children's assessment of morally ambiguous characters. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 256, 106251. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2025.106251>
- [66] **Vaish, A.**, & Grossmann, T. (2024). How sharp is the compassion-sympathy distinction? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 28(12), 1051-1052. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2024.08.006>
- [65] Cheung, K., & **Vaish, A.** (2024). Putting the honor back in academic honor systems. *Journal of Academic Ethics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10805-024-09575-y>
- [64] Thomas, S., Kelsey, C. M., & **Vaish, A.** (2024). No one is going to recess: How children evaluate collective and targeted punishment. *Social Development*, 33, e12730. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.12730>
- [63] Schmidt, M. F. H., **Vaish, A.**, & Rakoczy, H. (2024). Don't neglect the middle ground, Inspector Gadget! There is ample space between Big Special and Small Ordinary norm psychology. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 19(1), 69-71. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17456916231187408> [Commentary]
- [62] **Vaish, A.** (2023). Working toward a psychological definition of morality. *Psychological Inquiry*, 34(2), 114-118. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1047840X.2023.2248861> [Commentary]
- [61] *Marlow, C., *Kelsey, C. M., & **Vaish, A.** (2023). Cheat to win: Children's judgments of advantageous versus disadvantageous rule breaking. *Cognitive Development*, 66, 101328. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2023.101328> *Equal contribution
- [60] McElroy, C. E., Kelsey, C. M., Oostenbroek, J., & **Vaish, A.** (2023). Beyond accidents: Young children's forgiveness of third-party intentional transgressors. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 228, 105607. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2022.105607>
- [59] *Beeler-Duden, S., *Pelletz, K., & **Vaish, A.** (2022). Recipient identifiability increases prosocial behavior in young children. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 223, 105500. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2022.105500> *Equal contribution
- [58] **Vaish, A.**, & Savell, S. (2022). Young children value recipients who display gratitude. *Developmental Psychology*, 58(4), 680-692. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001308>
- [57] Yucel, M., Drell, M., Jaswal, V., & **Vaish, A.** (2022). Young children do not perceive distributional fairness as a moral norm. *Developmental Psychology*, 58(6), 1103-1113. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001349>

- [56] **Chajes, J., Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A.** (2022). Fairness takes time: Development of cooperative decision making in fairness context. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 216, 105344. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2021.105344>
- [55] **Vaish, A., & Oostenbroek, J.** (2022). Preferential forgiveness: The impact of group membership and remorse on preschoolers' forgiveness. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(5), 1132-1140. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001114>
- [54] **Yucel, M., & Vaish, A.** (2021). Eliciting forgiveness. *WIREs Cognitive Science*, 12(6), e1572. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcs.1572>
- [53] **Hepach, R., Vaish, A., Kano, F., Albiach-Serrano, A., Benziad, L., Call, J., & Tomasello, M.** (2021). Chimpanzees' (Pan troglodytes) internal arousal remains elevated if they cannot themselves help a conspecific. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, 135(2), 196-207. <https://doi.org/10.1037/com0000255>
- [52] **Hepach, R., & Vaish, A.** (2020). The study of prosocial emotions in early childhood: Unique opportunities and insights. *Emotion Review*, 12, 278-279. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1754073920939630> [Response to commentaries]
- [51] **Vaish, A., & Hepach, R.** (2020). The development of prosocial emotions. *Emotion Review*, 12, 259-273. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1754073919885014> [Invited target article]
- [50] ***Beeler-Duden, S., *Yucel, M., & Vaish, A.** (2020). The role of affect in feelings of obligation. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 43, e56: 1-58. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X19001742> [Commentary] *Equal contribution
- [49] **Yucel, M., Hepach, R., & Vaish, A.** (2020). Young children and adults show differential arousal to moral and conventional transgressions. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11: 548. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00548>
- ❖ Awarded 2020 APS/Psi Chi Albert Bandura Graduate Research Award
- [48] **Beeler-Duden, S., & Vaish, A.** (2020). Paying it forward: The development and underlying mechanisms of upstream reciprocity. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 192, 104785. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2019.104785>
- [47] **Grossmann, T., Missana, M., & Vaish, A.** (2020). Helping, fast and slow: Exploring intuitive cooperation in early ontogeny. *Cognition*, 196, 104144. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2019.104144>
- [46] **Vaish, A.** (2019). Something old, something new: Leveraging what we know to optimize new directions in emotion development research. *Developmental Psychology*, 55, 1998-2001. [Commentary]
- [45] **Oostenbroek, J., & Vaish, A.** (2019). The benefits of forgiving: Young children respond positively to those who forgive. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 148, 1914-1924. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0000576>
- [44] **Oostenbroek, J., & Vaish, A.** (2019). The emergence of forgiveness in young children. *Child Development*, 90, 1969-1986. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13069>
- [43] **Hepach, R., Vaish, A., Müller, K., & Tomasello, M.** (2019). Toddlers' intrinsic motivation to return help to their benefactor. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 188, 104658. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2019.06.011>
- [42] **Hepach, R., Vaish, A., Müller, K., & Tomasello, M.** (2019). The relation between young children's physiological arousal and their motivation to help others. *Neuropsychologia*, 126, 113-119. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2017.10.010>

- [41] **Vaish, A.**, Hepach, R., & Grossmann, T. (2018). Desire understanding in 2-year-old children: An eye-tracking study. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 52, 22-31. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infbeh.2018.05.002>
- [40] **Yucel, M.**, & **Vaish, A.** (2018). Young children tattle to enforce moral norms. *Social Development*, 27(4), 924-936. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sode.12290>
- ❖ Among top 20 most downloaded papers in *Social Development* in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
- [39] **Kelsey, C. M.**, **Vaish, A.**, & Grossmann, T. (2018). Eyes, more than other facial features, enhance real-world donation behavior. *Human Nature*, 29, 390-401. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12110-018-9327-1>
- [38] **Kelsey, C. M.**, Grossmann, T., & **Vaish, A.** (2018). Early reputation management: Three-year-old children are more generous following exposure to eyes. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 698. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00698>
- [37] **Vaish, A.**, Hepach, R., & Tomasello, M. (2018). The specificity of reciprocity: Young children reciprocate more generously to those who *intentionally* benefit them. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 167, 336-353. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2017.11.005>
- [36] **Vaish, A.** (2018). The prosocial functions of early social emotions: The case of guilt. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 20, 25-29. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsy.2017.08.008>
- [35] **Vaish, A.**, **Kelsey, C.**, **Tripathi, A.**, & Grossmann, T. (2017). Attentiveness to eyes predicts generosity in a reputation-relevant context. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 38, 729-733. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2017.07.004>
- [34] Hepach, R., **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2017-a). Children's intrinsic motivation to provide help themselves after accidentally harming others. *Child Development*, 88, 1251-1264. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12646>
- [33] Hepach, R., **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2017-b). The fulfillment of others' needs elevates children's body posture. *Developmental Psychology*, 53, 100-113. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000173>
- [32] **Vaish, A.**, Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2016). The early emergence of guilt-motivated prosocial behavior. *Child Development*, 87, 1772-1782. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12628>
- [31] **Vaish, A.** (2016). Flexible concern: The development of multi-determined and context-dependent empathic responding. *Child Development Perspectives*, 10, 149-154. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12178>
- [30] **Vaish, A.**, Herrmann, E., **Markmann, C.**, & Tomasello, M. (2016). Preschoolers value those who sanction non-cooperators. *Cognition*, 153, 43-51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2016.04.011>
- [29] Hepach, R., **Vaish, A.**, Grossmann, T., & Tomasello, M. (2016). Young children want to see others get the help they need. *Child Development*, 87, 1703-1714. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12633>
- [28] Davidov, M., **Vaish, A.**, Knafo-Noam, A., & Hastings, P. D. (2016). The motivational foundations of prosocial behavior from a developmental perspective – Evolutionary roots and key psychological mechanisms: Introduction to the special section. *Child Development*, 87, 1655-1667. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12639>
- [27] Over, H., **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2016). Do young children accept responsibility for the negative actions of ingroup members? *Cognitive Development*, 40, 24-32. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2016.08.004>

- [26] **Rajhans, P.**, Altvater-Mackensen, N., **Vaish, A.**, & Grossmann, T. (2016). Children's altruistic behavior in context: The role of emotional responsiveness and culture. *Scientific Reports*, 6: 24089. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep24089>
- [25] **Vaish, A.**, Grossmann, T., & Woodward, A. (2015). Person-centered positive emotions, object-centered negative emotions: Two-year-olds generalize negative but not positive emotions across individuals. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 33, 391-397. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjdp.12093>
- [24] **Hepach, R.**, **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2015). Novel paradigms to measure variability of behavior in early childhood: Posture, gaze, and pupil dilation. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6: 858. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00858>
- [23] Jensen, K., **Vaish, A.**, & Schmidt, M. F. H. (2014). The emergence of human prosociality: Aligning with others through feelings, concerns, and norms. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5: 822. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2014.00822>
- [22] Kinzler, K., & **Vaish, A.** (2014). Political infants? Developmental origins of the negativity bias. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 37, 318. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X13002628>
[Commentary]
- [21] Liebal, K., **Vaish, A.**, Haun, D., & Tomasello, M. (2014). Does sympathy motivate prosocial behavior in great apes? *PLoS One*, 9(1): e84299. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0084299>
- [20] Tomasello, M., & **Vaish, A.** (2013). Origins of human cooperation and morality. *Annual Reviews of Psychology*, 64, 231-255. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-113011-143812>
❖ Translated into German: Tomasello, M., & Vaish, A. (2016). Die Entstehung menschlicher Kooperation und Moral. J. Nida-Rümelin und J. Heilinger (Eds.), *Moral, Wissenschaft, Wahrheit* (pp. 181-221). Berlin, Germany: Walter de Gruyter.
- [19] **Hepach, R.**, **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2013-a). Young children sympathize less in response to unjustified emotional distress. *Developmental Psychology*, 49, 1132-1138. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0029501>
- [18] **Hepach, R.**, **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2013-b). A new look at children's prosocial motivation. *Infancy*, 18, 67-90. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-7078.2012.00130.x>
- [17] Grossmann, T., **Vaish, A.**, Franz, J., Schroeder, R., Stoneking, M., & Friederici, A. D. (2013). Emotional voice processing: Investigating the role of genetic variation in the serotonin transporter across development. *PLoS One*, 8(7): e68377. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0068377>
- [16] Herrmann, E., **Keupp, S.**, Hare, B., **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2013). Direct and indirect reputation formation in non-human great apes (*Pan paniscus*, *Pan troglodytes*, *Gorilla gorilla*, *Pongo pygmaeus*) and human children (*Homo sapiens*). *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, 127, 63-75. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0028929>
- [15] **Hepach, R.**, **Vaish, A.**, & Tomasello, M. (2012). Young children are intrinsically motivated to see others helped. *Psychological Science*, 23, 967-972. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797612440571>
- [14] **Vaish, A.**, Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2011). Young children's responses to guilt displays. *Developmental Psychology*, 47, 1248-1262. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0024462>
- [13] **Vaish, A.**, Demir, O. E., & Baldwin, D. (2011). Thirteen- and 18-month-old infants recognize when they need referential information. *Social Development*, 20, 431-449. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9507.2010.00601.x>
❖ Featured in 'Experimenting with babies: 50 amazing science projects you can perform on your kid' by S. Gallagher (2013). Perigee.

- [12] Vaish, A., Missana, M., & Tomasello, M. (2011). Three-year-old children intervene in third-party moral transgressions. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 29, 124-130. <https://doi.org/10.1348/026151010X532888>
- [11] Grossmann, T., Johnson, M. H., Vaish, A., Hughes, D., Quinque, D., Stoneking, M., & Friederici, A. (2011). Genetic and neural dissociation of individual responses to emotional expressions in human infants. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 1, 57-66. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2010.07.001>
- [10] Vaish, A., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2010). Young children selectively avoid helping people with harmful intentions. *Child Development*, 81(6), 1661-1669. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8624.2010.01500.x>
- [09] Vaish, A., & Woodward, A. (2010). Infants use attention but not emotions to predict others' actions. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 33, 79-87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infbeh.2009.11.003>
- [08] Vaish, A., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2009). Sympathy through affective perspective-taking and its relation to prosocial behavior in toddlers. *Developmental Psychology*, 45(2), 534-543. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0014322>
- ❖ Reprinted in: M. Killen and R. Coplan (Eds.) (2011), *Social development in childhood and adolescence: A contemporary reader* (pp. 48-61). Wiley-Blackwell.
- [07] Vaish, A., Grossmann, T., & Woodward, A. (2008). Not all emotions are created equal: The negativity bias in social-emotional development. *Psychological Bulletin*, 134, 383-403. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.134.3.383>
- [06] Lillard, A., Nishida, T., Massaro, D., Vaish, A., Ma, L., & McRoberts, G. (2007). Signs of pretense across age and scenario. *Infancy*, 11, 1-30. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327078in1101_1
- [05] Striano, T., & Vaish, A. (2006). Seven- to 9-month-old infants use facial expressions to interpret others' actions. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 24, 753-760. <https://doi.org/10.1348/026151005X70319>
- [04] Striano, T., Vaish, A., & Benigno, J. (2006). The meaning of infants' looks: Information-seeking and comfort-seeking? *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 24, 615-630. <https://doi.org/10.1348/026151005X67566>
- [03] Striano, T., Henning, A., & Vaish, A. (2006). Selective looking by 12-month-olds to a temporally contingent partner. *Interaction Studies*, 7, 233-250. <https://doi.org/10.1075/is.7.2.07str>
- [02] Vaish, A., & Woodward, A. (2005). Baby steps on the path to understanding intentions. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 28, 717-718. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X05000129> [Commentary]
- [01] Vaish, A., & Striano, T. (2004). Is visual reference necessary? Contributions of facial versus vocal cues in 12-month-olds' social referencing behavior. *Developmental Science*, 7, 261-269. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7687.2004.00344.x>

Book chapters

- [09] Beeler-Duden, S., & Vaish, A. (2024). Feeling good and feeling thankful: The role of positive emotions in sustaining early prosocial behavior. In M. D. Matthews and R. M. Lerner (Eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Character Development, Vol. 1* (pp. 587-610). Routledge.
- [08] Vaish, A., & Grossmann, T. (2022). Caring for others: The early emergence of sympathy and guilt. In S. L. Hart and D. F. Bjorklund (Eds.), *Evolutionary Perspectives on Infancy* (pp. 349-369). Springer.

- [07] Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2022). The early ontogeny of human cooperation and morality. In M. Killen and J. G. Smetana (Eds.), *Handbook of Moral Development* (pp. 200-216). Taylor & Francis. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003047247-16>
- [06] Vaish, A. (2022). The prosocial functions of guilt in early childhood. In D. Dukes, A. Samson, and E. Walle (Eds.), *Handbook of Emotion Development* (pp. 513-525). Oxford University Press.
- [05] Vaish, A. (2020). Empathy and prosocial behavior. In J. B. Benson (Ed.), C. Brownell (Section ed.), *Encyclopedia of Infant and Early Childhood Development, 2nd ed.: Social and Emotional*. Elsevier.
- [04] Vaish, A. (2018). Sophisticated concern in early childhood. In N. Roughley and T. Schramme (Eds.), *Forms of Fellow Feeling* (pp. 216-242). Cambridge University Press.
- [03] Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2014). The early ontogeny of human cooperation and morality. In M. Killen and J. G. Smetana (Eds.), *Handbook of Moral Development* (pp. 279-298). Taylor & Francis.
- [02] Vaish, A., & Warneken, F. (2012). Social-cognitive contributors to young children's empathic and prosocial behavior. In J. Decety (Ed.), *Empathy: From Bench to Bedside* (pp. 131-146). Cambridge: MIT Press.
- [01] Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2008). Reading faces: Developing a multi-level analysis of a social stimulus. In T. Striano & V. Reid (Eds.), *Social cognition: Development, Neuroscience and Autism* (pp. 167-180). Blackwell.

Other Publications and Science Communication

- Vaish, A. (June 2025). The development and socialization of gratitude. Article for [The Love Consortium newsletter](#).
- Vaish, A. (2018). Social emotions and their prosocial functions in early childhood. *Emotion Researcher*, ISRE's Sourcebook for Research on Emotion and Affect, C. Price and E. Walle (Eds.), <https://emotionresearcher.com/social-emotions-and-their-prosocial-functions-in-early-childhood/>

INVITED TALKS (as primary presenter only)

- 2026 Morality Preconference at Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Chicago, IL [scheduled]
- 2025 Princeton Summit on Affective Science
Department Colloquium, Emory University
- 2024 Department Colloquium, Boston College
Department Colloquium, CHRIST University, Bengaluru, India
Keynote at The Love Consortium, Chapel Hill
Developmental Area Meeting, University of Miami
- 2023 Developmental Psychology Proseminar, UC Riverside
Interdisciplinary workshop on 'Conscience, Cognition, and Evolution,' University of Oxford
University of Virginia Retired Faculty Association
- 2022 Department Colloquium, Princeton University
Department Colloquium, California State University, Northridge
Salon on 'Studying Emotions in Children' at the Society for Affective Science conference
Social Psychology Speaker Series, UNC Chapel Hill
The Ethics of Choice conference, Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond

- 2021 Workshop on 'Developing Children: The Achievements and Limitations of Moral Psychology,' Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
 Building Virtue workshop, Boston College
 John Templeton Foundation Virtual Speaker Series
 Cognitive Psychology Brownbag, Northwestern University
 Interdisciplinary seminar series 'From Moral Learning to Self-Understanding,' Department of Philosophy, Warwick University, UK
 Developmental Psychology Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz
 Origins of the Social Mind Preconference at Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Virtual
- 2020 George Mason University Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Colloquium
 UC Santa Barbara Social Psychology Area
 Faculty of Education, Leipzig University
 Department Colloquium, Human Development and Family Studies, Pennsylvania State University
- 2019 Interdisciplinary Advances in the Development of Emotion Understanding Preconference at Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY
- 2018 Society for Research in Child Development Headquarters, Washington, DC
 Keynote at the International Summer School of Affective Sciences, Geneva, Switzerland
 The Einstein Ethics Group, Berlin
- 2016 Emotion Preconference at Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.
- 2015 Council of Scientific Society Presidents [Special session on human universals and human actions], Washington D.C.
 Department of Human Development, University of Maryland
- 2014 Department of Psychology, Virginia Tech
 Department of Psychology, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich
- 2013 Conference on 'The Influential Child: The Role of Children's Psychobiology and Socialization in Development,' The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
 Seminar of the research group 'The Influential Child,' The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
 Conference on 'Forms of Fellow Feeling,' Duisburg-Essen University
- 2012 VolkswagenStiftung Workshop on 'Personal and Shared Intentions,' Berlin, Germany
 Department of Psychology, University of Göttingen, Germany
 Department of Psychology, Wuppertal University, Germany
 Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
- 2011 Klinik für Psychiatrie, Psychotherapie und Psychosomatik, Universitätsklinikum Leipzig, Germany
 ESF Exploratory Workshop on 'The Cognitive Basis of Understanding Social Relations: Developmental, Comparative and Evolutionary Approaches,' Inárcs, Hungary
 Department of Social Neuroscience, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany
 Workshop on 'Shared Emotion, Joint Attention, and Joint Action,' Aarhus University Center for Functionally Integrative Neuroscience, Aarhus, Denmark

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Student or postdoc authors are underlined.

CHAired CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA

Vaish, A. (2025, May). The Early Development and Socialization of Gratitude in India and the United States. TLC Global Gratitude Summit (Virtual).

Vaish, A., & Blake, P. (co-chairs) (2021, April). Expanding the study of early forgiveness: Intentions, individual differences, and culture. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.

Yucel, M., & Vaish, A. (co-chairs) (2021, April). The development of fairness: Perceptions, emotions, and actions. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.

Yucel, M., & Vaish, A. (co-chairs) (2019, March). *The emergence of and mechanisms underlying the development of moral norms*. Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Vaish, A. (chair) (2014, July). *The emotional foundations of early prosocial behavior*. International Conference on Infant Studies, Berlin, Germany.

Vaish, A. (chair) (2012, June). *Sophisticated social-moral abilities in early development*. International Conference on Infant Studies, Minneapolis, MN.

TALKS

Shu, Y., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). The impact of inequality on children's trust and prosociality. Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Gerken, R., Chai, Q., Viswanath, P., Kumar, A., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). A cross-cultural examination of children's expressions of gratitude in the United States and India. TLC Global Gratitude Summit (Virtual).

Bernard, C., Chai, Q., Viswanath, P., Kumar, A., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). The development of children's understanding of gratitude in two cultures. TLC Global Gratitude Summit (Virtual).

Chai, Q., Viswanath, P., Kumar, A., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). Does parental gratitude predict child gratitude? Evidence from India and the United States. TLC Global Gratitude Summit (Virtual).

Viswanath, P., Kumar, A., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). Socialization of gratitude in children: Parental practices and cultural insights from India. TLC Global Gratitude Summit (Virtual).

Yucel, M., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). The role of harm salience on children's and adults' perceptions of unfairness. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.

Shu, Y., & Vaish, A. (2024, June). The impact of inequality on children's prosocial behaviors. Jean Piaget Society, Toronto, Canada.

Gerdemann, S., Asiedu-Addo, E., Ogundamisi, M. T., Vaish, A., Parkinson, B., & Hepach, R. (2023, September). Children's emotional responses to failed helping actions: A body posture study using Kinect. Fachtagung Entwicklungspsychologie (German Section for Developmental Psychology), Berlin.

Vaish, A., McElroy, C., & Kelsey, C. (2023, March). Young children's forgiveness of intentional transgressors. Society for Affective Science, Long Beach, CA.

Beeler-Duden, S., & Vaish, A. (2023, March). Children incorporate intentions into their evaluations of prosocial agents. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Kelsey, C., McElroy, C., Oostenbroek, J., & Vaish, A. (2023, March). The emergence of flexible forgiveness in early development. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Yucel, M., Eisen, E., Stern, J., Lillard, A. & Vaish, A. (2023, March). Children's assessment of morally ambiguous characters. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Yucel, M., Drell, M. B., Jaswal, V. K., & Vaish, A. (2022, April). "No fair!": Children's and adults' perceptions of fairness norms. Cognitive Development Society Conference, Madison, WI.

Beeler-Duden, S., & Vaish, A. (2022, March). Intentions inform children's understanding of emotions and prosocial behavior. Positive Emotion preconference at Society for Affective Sciences Convention, Virtual.

Yucel, M., Drell, M. B., Jaswal, V. K., & Vaish, A. (2022, February). How do children and adults evaluate fairness norms? Origins of the Social Mind preconference at SPSP, San Francisco, CA.

McElroy, C., Kelsey, C., Oostenbroek, J., & Vaish, A. (2021, April). Beyond accidents: Young children's forgiveness of intentional transgressors. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.

Yucel, M., Drell, M. B., Jaswal, V. K., & Vaish, A. (2021, April). Is fairness moral? Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.

Vaish, A. (2020, February). The development of forgiveness in the preschool years. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Vaish, A. (2019, March). Tattling as punishment: Young children tattle to enforce moral norms. Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Yucel, M., & Vaish, A. (2019, March). Norms with affect: Young children and adults show higher arousal to moral than conventional transgressions. Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Beeler-Duden, S., & Vaish, A. (2019, March). Upstream reciprocity in preschool-age children: Evidence for early gratitude? Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Grossmann, T., Missana, M., Altvater-Mackensen, N., Gutenberg, J., & Vaish, A. (2019, March). Evidence for a link between brain sensitivity to emotional vocalizations in infancy and later empathy-related behavior. Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Oostenbroek, J., & Vaish, A. (2018, October). The emergence of forgiveness in preschool-age children. Society for Research in Child Development special topic meeting on 'Promoting Character Development Among Diverse Children and Adolescents,' Philadelphia, PA.

Oostenbroek, J., & Vaish, A. (2018, April). Forgiveness as a social signal: Young children respond favorably to those who forgive. Society for Affective Science, Los Angeles, CA.

Vaish, A. (2017, May). The development of flexible concern. Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Liebal, K., Vaish, A., Haun, D. B., & Tomasello, M. (2016, August). Sympathy does not motivate instrumental helping in different species of captive great apes. Joint meeting of the International Primatological Society and the American Society of Primatologists, Chicago, IL.

Hepach, R., Vaish, A., Kano, F., Albiach-Serrano, A., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2016, August). Changes in chimpanzees' internal arousal in response to witnessing conspecifics being helped. Joint meeting of the International Primatological Society and the American Society of Primatologists, Chicago, IL.

Hepach, R., Vaish, A., Müller, K., & Tomasello, M. (2016, May). Flexibility in children's intrinsic motivation to help others. International Conference on Infant Studies, New Orleans, LA.

Vaish, A., Hepach, R., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2015, March). (Pro)social emotions: The development of guilt and gratitude. Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.

Hepach, R., Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2015, March). Young children's elevation in posture increases after they have helped others. Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.

Vaish, A., Over, H., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2014, July). The prosocial functions of guilt in early development. International Conference on Infant Studies, Berlin, Germany.

Hepach, R., Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2014, July). Social emotions influence young children's prosocial motives and reinforce their helping behavior. International Conference on Infant Studies, Berlin, Germany.

- Vaish, A., Herrmann, E., Markmann, C., & Tomasello, M. (2014, January). Preschoolers value those who sanction non-cooperators. Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.
- Hepach, R., Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2014, June). Preschoolers become motivated to alleviate others' distress themselves when they are responsible. Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Vancouver, Canada.
- Vaish, A., & Hepach, R. (2013, April). Young children's responses to moral transgressors. Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.
- Hepach, R., Vaish, A., & Grossmann, T., & Tomasello, M. (2013, April). What motivates young children's prosocial behavior? Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.
- Vaish, A., & Hepach, R. (2012, June). Young children go below the surface in their social-moral evaluations. International Conference on Infant Studies, Minneapolis, MN.
- Vaish, A. (2011, August). Moral mediators of young children's prosocial behavior. European Conference on Developmental Psychology, Bergen, Norway.
- Vaish, A. (2011, March). Property as morality: Young children's moral responses to property rights violations. Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Vaish, A., & Hepach, R. (2011, March). Young children sympathize with others when it makes sense to do so. Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2011, March). Not all emotions are created equal: The emergence of the negativity bias in infancy. Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Vaish, A., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2010, March). Young children's behavior toward victims and perpetrators. International Conference on Infant Studies, Baltimore, MD.
- Vaish, A. (2009, August). Sympathy and moral evaluations as mediators of young children's prosocial behavior. European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Budapest, Hungary.
- Vaish, A., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2009, August). Mediators of prosocial behavior in early childhood. European Conference on Developmental Psychology, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Vaish, A., Carpenter, M., & Tomasello, M. (2009, April). Whom to help, whom not to help: Mediators of prosocial behavior in early childhood. Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, CO.
- Vaish, A. (2008, September). Whom to help, whom not to help: Mediators of prosocial behavior in early childhood. British Psychological Society Developmental Section, Oxford, U.K.
- Vaish, A., Warneken, F., Tomasello, M., & Carpenter, M. (2008, March). Social-cognitive contributors to prosocial behavior. International Conference on Infant Studies, Vancouver, Canada.

POSTERS (since 2020)

- Chai, Q., Qi, Y., He, J., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). What makes a gift? Giving motivations shape gift perceptions among children and adults. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Chai, Q., Viswanath, P., Kumar, A., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). The development of children's understanding of gratitude in two cultures. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Vaish, A., & Shu, Y. (2025, May). The impact of inequality on children's trust and prosociality. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Clayton, S., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). Boundaries of early forgiveness: The impact of apology type on children's forgiveness of intentional transgressions. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Berman, E., & Vaish, A. (2025, May). Children judge friends who help for selfish reasons more harshly than strangers who do so. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Shu, Y., & Vaish, A. (2024, March). The impact of inequality on children's prosocial behaviors. Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.

Clayton, S., Ma, S., Shu, Y., & Vaish, A. (2024, March). Boundaries of early forgiveness: The impact of apology type and transgression frequency on children's forgiveness decisions. Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.

Shu, Y., & Vaish, A. (2023, March). The impact of the experience of inequality on children's prosocial behaviors. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Costello, H., Chajes, J., Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2023, March). Is fairness intuitive? The effect of time pressure on children's decision making. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Chajes, J., Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2021, August). Fairness takes time: Development of cooperative decision-making in childhood. American Psychological Association, Virtual.

*Beeler-Duden, S., Pelletz, K., & Vaish, A. (2021, August). Recipient identifiability increases prosocial behavior in early childhood. American Psychological Association, Virtual. *Signifies equal contribution.

Chajes, J., Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2021, May). Fairness takes time: Development of cooperative decision-making in childhood. Association for Psychological Science, Virtual.

*Stern, J., Yucel, M., Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2021, April). Childhood roots of "being green": Moral judgments of environmental actions in children and adults. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual. *Signifies equal contribution

Thomas, S., Kelsey, C., & Vaish, A. (2021, April). "No one is going to recess": How children evaluate collective versus targeted punishment. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.

Marzougui, J.B., Yucel, M., & Vaish, A. (2021, April). The impact of inequality on young children's helpfulness to others. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.

Stern, J., Yucel, M., Grossmann, T., & Vaish, A. (2021, February). Moral judgments of environmental harm mediate the association between political orientation and sustainable behavior. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Sustainability Preconference, Virtual.

Yucel, M., Drell, M. B., Jaswal, V. K., & Vaish, A. (2021, February). Is distributional fairness more like a moral or conventional norm? Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Origins of the Social Mind Preconference, Virtual.

Yucel, M., Hepach, R., & Vaish, A. (2020, July). Norms with affect: Young children and adults show higher arousal to moral than conventional transgressions. Association for Psychological Science, Virtual Poster Showcase.

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE & FEATURES

The science of parenting. [Virginia Magazine](#), Spring 2025

By first grade, children begin to perceive collective punishment as unfair. [UVA Today](#), November 2024

Giving thanks isn't just a holiday tradition. It's part of how humans evolved. [AP News](#), November 2023

Do young children care about others? [On Humans](#) podcast, July 2023

Children as young as 5 are quite discerning when it comes to cheaters. [UVA Today](#), June 2023

Six new studies that can help you rediscover gratitude. [Greater Good Magazine](#), November 2022

Charting a global map of gratitude. [John Templeton Foundation](#), September 2022

Can you ever forgive me? UVA Research Shows Capacity begins in early childhood. [UVA Today](#), May 2022

The science of forgiveness. [John Templeton Foundation](#), Dec 2020 (produced by [Freethink](#))

Eyes wide open: In new findings, 3-year-olds react to immorality. [UVA Today](#), November 2020

Generosity breeds generosity: 4-year-olds who receive a kindness pay it forward. [UVA Today](#), February 2020

What young kids already know about forgiveness. [Greater Good Magazine](#), June 2019

User manual for a feeling: Guilt. [Zeit Online](#), May 2019 [German]

Interview with [Nature Research Behavioural & Social Sciences Community](#), February 2019

Guilt is good. *Illimitable* (UVA Alumni magazine), 2018

The eyes have it. [UVA Today](#), October 2018

The sense of guilt is important. [Azione](#), August 2018 [Italian]

Lots of kids tattletale – but maybe that’s a good thing. [The Charlotte Observer](#), April 2018
 To guilt or not to guilt? A social dilemma. [WNPR](#), April 2018
 When guilt is good. [The Atlantic](#), April 2018
 When do children show morality? [UVA Today](#), November 2016
 Experiments to do with your baby. [The Atlantic](#), December 6, 2013
 The difference between complaining and whining. [Psychology Today](#), October 2012
 Why are young children helpful? [Huffington Post](#), September 2012
 Toddlers don’t sympathize with crybabies. [PsychCentral](#), August 2012
 Kids just wanna be helpful. [Pacific Standard](#), August 2012
 Ability seen in toddlers to judge others’ intent. [The New York Times](#), November 2010
 Kids sensitive to moral behaviours. [The Times of India](#), November 2010
 Kleinkinder strafen Fieslinge ab. [Spiegel Online](#), November 2010 [German]
 Kinder helfen keinen Fiesen. [NZZ Online](#), November 2010 [German]

TEACHING (University of Virginia) S=Spring; F=Fall

Intro to Child Development (Undergraduate lecture): One semester/year since 2016S
 Moral Development (Undergraduate-Graduate seminar): 2015S, 2020F, 2021F, 2023F
 Morality & Honor (Undergraduate-Graduate seminar): 2018S
 Early Social and Moral Development (Graduate seminar): 2016F
 Social Development (Graduate seminar): 2015F, 2018S, 2025S
 Proseminar: Developmental Psychology (Graduate seminar): 2020S
Guest Lecturer: Moral Psychology seminar (Prof. Liane Young), Boston College - 2022
 Introduction to Child Psychology (Prof. Jessie Stern), Pomona College - 2024

ADVISING [+ ADVISEE AWARDS & HONORS]

Postdoctoral

University of Virginia

- Dr. Qiao Chai: 2023-2025
- Dr. Mary Shaocong Ma: 2023-2024 (now Research Assistant Professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- Dr. Stella Gerdemann: 2023-2024 (based at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)
- Dr. Jessica Stern: 2019-2023 (co-advisor) (now Assistant Professor at Pomona College)
- Dr. Janine Oostenbroek: 2016-2019 (now Prenatal and Parenting Psychologist at Redlands Psychologists in Brisbane, Australia)
 - 2016 and 2018: Prize for best oral presentation in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, UVA Postdoctoral Research Symposium

Graduate students

Advising

University of Virginia

- Emily Berman: 2023-present
- Sophie Clayton: 2022-present
2024: Selected for Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition
- Yuhang Shu: 2021-present
2025: SRCD Student and Early Career Council Dissertation Funding Award
2025: SRCD Student and Early Career Council Poster Competition Winner; SRCD Graduate Student Travel Award
2023: APS Student Grant Competition Winner
2023: SRCD Graduate Student Travel Award
- Johanna Chajes: 2018-2024 (co-advisor) (now Postdoc at U.VA Dept. of Psychology Babylab)

- 2023: Jefferson Fellowship
- Stefen Beeler-Duden: 2016-2022 (now Postdoc at University of Virginia School of Medicine)
- Meltem Yucel: 2015-2021 (now Assistant Professor at Michigan State University)
 - 2023: SPSP/SAGE Emerging Scholars Award
 - 2022: Society for Affective Science Best Dissertation in Affective Science Award
 - 2021: U.VA International Student Organization Graduate Academic Excellence Award; U.VA Raven Society Raven Award
 - 2020: APA Dissertation Research Award; APS Albert Bandura Graduate Research Award; Graduate Teaching Award; Psi Chi Travel Grant-SPSP; U.VA Three Minute Thesis 1st prize
 - 2019: U.VA Teaching Relief Fellowship; SRCD Graduate Student Travel Award
 - 2018: 2nd place for talk presented at U.VA Robert J. Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition
 - 2017-2019: LIFE Academy Graduate Fellow
 - 2017: U.VA Graduate Research Travel Award; SPSP Graduate Travel Award; SRCD Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholar
- Helet Botha: 2015-2019 (co-advisor) (now Assistant Professor of Business Policy and Strategy, University of Michigan-Dearborn)
- Caroline Kelsey: 2015-2020 (co-advisor) (now Postdoc at Boston Children's Hospital & Harvard Medical School; incoming Assistant Professor at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
 - 2018-2020: Jefferson Fellowship; LIFE Academy Graduate Fellow
 - 2018: Maury Pathfinder Award for best pre-dissertation in Psychology department

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

- Robert Hepach (PhD co-advisor, 2009-2013) (now Associate Professor at University of Oxford)
- Christiane Markmann (MA co-advisor, 2010)
- Stefanie Keupp (MA co-advisor, 2009) (now Postdoc at German Primate Center, Göttingen)
- Manuela Missana (MA co-advisor, 2009)

Dissertation committees

University of Virginia

- 2025: Kenn Dela Cruz
- 2024: Johanna Chajes
 - Abha Basargekar
 - Zoe Robertson
- 2022: Stefen Beeler-Duden [Chair]
- 2021: Meltem Yucel [Chair]
- 2020: Caroline Kelsey
 - Sierra Eisen
- 2019: Helet Botha
- 2018: Marissa Drell
- 2017: Shaina Rowell
 - Andrew Morgan (Department of Philosophy)

External evaluator

- 2023: Stella Gerdemann (University of Leipzig)
- 2022: Sophie Cameron (University of Queensland)
- 2021: Kristy Jia Jin Lee (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
- 2019: Connair Russell (LIFE Fellow, Max Planck Institute, Berlin): Dissertation proposal committee
- 2018: Matti Wilks (University of Queensland)
- 2017: Nereida Bueno Guerra (University of Barcelona)

Undergraduate students

Distinguished Majors Projects: Advisor

- 2025-2026: Yufan Liang [Harrison Undergraduate Research Award]
 - Grace Delaar
 - Helen Sparling

- 2024-2025: Kranti Kaur
Caleb Soong
Paul Lambidakis
Ruby Gerken
- 2022-2023: Qiyuan Hu
- 2021-2022: Shirley Liu [Small Research and Travel Grant]
Madeline Brence [Harrison Undergraduate Research Award]
- 2020-2021: Kayla Pelletz
- 2019-2020: Jenna Marzougui [Minerva Scholars Award]
Carolynn McElroy [Small Research and Travel Grant]
Kelly Cheung (Political Philosophy, Policy & Law)
- 2018-2019: Christina Marlow [Harrison Undergraduate Research Award]
Sarah Thomas [Harrison Undergraduate Research Award]
- 2015-2016: Anand Tripathi (Co-advisor)

Distinguished Majors Projects: Second Reader

- 2024: Kayla Kusel
Alexander Johansson
- 2023: Sydney Anderson
Anne-Chanel Renald
- 2019: Katherine Haynes (Neuroscience)
- 2018: Daniel Yonas
- 2017: Caroline Chamberlain
- 2015: Shannon Savell
Sydney Sampson

Semester Scholars Projects: Advisor

- 2019-2020: Madeline Brence
- 2018-2019: Udeyvir Cheema

Double Hoo Projects: Advisor

- 2022-2023: Johanna Chajes & Hailey Costello
- 2019-2021: Stefen Beeler & Kayla Pelletz
- 2017-2019: Meltem Yucel & Mitchell M. Fratus

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journals

Associate Editor: *Cognition* (since 2021)

Consulting Editor: *Child Development* (2019-2021)

Guest Co-Editor: Special Section in *Child Development* on “The motivational foundations of prosocial behavior: A developmental perspective” (published in 2016)

Ad hoc Reviewer: British Journal of Developmental Psychology; Child Development; Child Development Perspectives; Cognition; Cognition, Brain, Behavior. An Interdisciplinary Journal; Cognition and Emotion; Cognitive Development; Developmental Psychology; Developmental Review; Developmental Science; Emotion; Evolution and Human Behavior; Evolutionary Psychology; Frontiers in Psychology; Infancy; Infant and Child Development; International Journal of Behavioral Development; Journal of Applied Social Psychology; Journal of Child Language; Journal of Cognition and Development; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Experimental Child Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Nonverbal Behavior; Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology; Motivation and Emotion; Nature Human Behavior; Philosophical Psychology; PLoS One; PNAS; Psychological Science; Social Development; TICS

Grants

Ad hoc Reviewer: National Science Foundation, John Templeton Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Israel Science Foundation

Conferences

'Normative and Moral Reasoning, Religious Cognitive Development' Review Panel Co-Chair: Cognitive Development Society (2023)

'Moral Development' Review Panel Co-Chair: Society for Research in Child Development (2017)

Ad hoc Reviewer: International Congress of Infant Studies (2020, 2022, 2024); Cognitive Development Society (2017, 2019); Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2014, 2018); Society for Research in Child Development (2013, 2021)

Internal Tenure and Promotion Review: 2024

External Tenure and Promotion Review: 2022

UNIVERSITY SERVICE (University of Virginia)

2024-2025	Director of Graduate Admissions
2024	Environmental Sciences Chair Search - External Committee Member, DEI Representative
2023-2024	Director of Graduate Admissions
2023	Reviewer for Double Hoo Awards
2021-2022	Director of Graduate Admissions Jane Batten Bicentennial Professor of Early Childhood Education Search Committee, School of Education and Human Development
2021	Reviewer for Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards
2020	Reviewer for Graduate Teaching Awards
2019-present	IRB-SBS Board Member
2018	Reviewer for Elisabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Fellowship
2017	Reviewer for Elisabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Fellowship

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE (University of Virginia)

Committees

2024-2025	Chair, DEI Graduate Admissions Sub-Committee Steering Committee Developmental Psychology Academic General Faculty Search Committee (chair)
2023-2024	Chair, DEI Graduate Admissions Sub-Committee Steering Committee
2022-2023	3 rd -year Review Committee (chair) Graduate Recruitment and Data Committee
2021-2022	Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Committee Graduate Curriculum Committee (a DEI sub-committee) Graduate Recruitment and Data Committee
2020-2021	Steering Committee Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Committee Covid-era Graduate Training Taskforce (chair)
2019-2020	Steering Committee Evaluation of Teaching and Learning Committee Human Participants Committee
2018-2019	Human Participants Committee Fundraising, Newsletter, Webpage Committee

- 2017-2018 Neuroscience Cluster Faculty Search Committee
Futures Committee
Undergraduate Program and Curriculum Committee
Steering Committee
- 2016 New Psychology Chair Search Committee
- 2015-2016 Colloquium Committee Co-chair
- 2014-2015 Minority and Ethnic Relations Committee

Presentations & panels

- 2024 Talk presented at The College Science Scholars Program
Panel on Degrees and Careers in Psychology (organized by DEI National Outreach Committee)
- 2023 Talk presented at The College Science Scholars Program
- 2019 Young Faculty Panel (organized by Professional Issues Committee)
- 2016 Panel on Family Issues and Work/Life Balance (organized by Gender & Sexuality Committee and Women’s Concerns Committee)
- 2015 Talk presented at The College Science Scholars Program
- 2015 Departmental Colloquium for prospective students

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2022 Alexandria City High School to discuss Developmental Psychology and academic career (virtual)
- 2021 Deeper Dialogues (hosted by Theological Horizons, University of Virginia) on [‘Forgiveness’](#)
Public Engagement event on forgiveness for print and broadcast media journalists (organized by John Templeton Foundation)
- 2019 Presentation at Mountaintop Montessori School (Charlottesville, VA) on ‘Social and emotional development in the elementary years’

Last updated on October 20, 2025