

Livia C. Merrill, Ph.D.

EDUCATION and TRAINING

- 2025 **Ph.D., Developmental, Cognitive, & Behavioral Neuroscience**
Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, TX
- 2022 **M.A., Developmental, Cognitive, & Behavioral Neuroscience**
Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, TX
- 2014 **M.S., Neuroscience**
School of Science and Engineering, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- 2012 **B.S., Neuroscience (Cum Laude)**
School of Science and Engineering, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2026 – *Associate Professor*, Dept. of Psychology, University of St. Thomas
- 2025 – 2026 *Research Program Manager*, Neurocognitive Disorders Center, UTHealth Houston
- 2022 – 2025 *Teaching Fellow*, Dept. of Psychology, University of Houston
- 2020 – 2025 *Graduate Research Assistant*, Dept. of Psychology, University of Houston
- 2020 – 2021 *Teaching Assistant*, Dept. of Psychology, University of Houston
- 2019 – 2020 *Research Assistant II*, Dept. of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital
- 2017 – 2019 *Psychometrist*, Dept. of Pediatric Neuropsychology, Dell Children's Medical Group
- 2014 – 2017 *Research Coordinator*, Dept. of Pediatrics, Tulane School of Medicine
- 2013 – 2014 *Graduate Research Assistant*, Dept. of Cell and Molecular Biology, Tulane University
- 2010 – 2013 *Undergraduate Research Assistant*, Dept. of Cell and Molecular Biology, Tulane University

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS and CHAPTERS

1. **Merrill, L.C.**, Ortiz-Jimenez, A., Francis, D., Venta, A., & Bick, J.R. (In Preparation). Prenatal maternal cortisol during the COVID-19 pandemic and the association with pandemic-related stress and coping behaviors. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.
2. Hakim R., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Falk-Vargas, A., Whalen, E., Xia, T., Ochoa, O., Hunter, D., Schulz, P.E. (Submitted). Real world evidence for amyloid-targeted treatments: lecanemab and donanemab. *Alzheimer's and Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring*.
3. Cattani, M., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Whalen, E., Falk-Vargas, A., Patel, H., Maziero, M.P., Schulz, P.E. (Submitted). Sex, race, and ethnicity differences in the outcomes, results, and safety of FDA-approved anti-amyloid immunotherapies for Alzheimer's disease: A systematic review. *Alzheimer's and Dementia*.
4. Lee, E.A., Maziero, M.P., **Merrill, L.C.**, Colpo, G.D., Couture, L., Baskin, L., Cahuiche, A.E., Petway, A., Reese, E., Anderson, K.M., McCullough, L.D., Schulz, P.E., Ortiz, G.J. (Submitted). Longitudinal trajectories of neurologic symptoms and cognitive associations at 36-months post-hospitalization for COVID-19. *Neurology*.
5. Valdes, C.M., Gomez, W., Andreo-Lopez, J., Bettinetti-Luque, M., Vashin V., Ortiz, G.J., Bukhbinder, A.S., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Bagliatetto-Vargas, D., Dabaghian, Y., Shulz, P.E., Morales, R. (Submitted). Immunizations against COVID-19 and influenza maintain memory and decrease Alzheimer's pathology in the APP/PS1 mouse model. *Alzheimer's and Dementia*.

6. Maziero, M.P., Lee, E.A., Colpo, G.D., Couture, L., **Merrill, L.C.**, Baskin, L., Cahuiche, A.E., Petway, A., Fan, H., Reese, E., Anderson, K.M., McCullough, L.D., Schulz, P.E., Ortiz, G.J. (2026). Cognitive trajectories after hospitalization for SARS-CoV-2 infection: A 36-month longitudinal study. *The Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, appi-neuropsych.
7. **Merrill, L.C.**, Robinson, M.R., Ortiz-Jimenez, A., Francis, D., DeMaster, D., & Bick, J.R. (2025). Maternal childhood maltreatment is associated with young children's white matter microstructure; Evidence for intergenerational neurobiological embedding of early life adversity?. *Developmental Psychobiology* 67(6), e70095.
8. Harnett, N., **Merrill, L.C.**, & Fani, N. (2024). Racial and ethnic socioenvironmental inequity and neuroimaging in psychiatry: A brief review of the past and recommendations for the future. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 1-13.
9. Gigliotti-Manassis, A., Rutter, T.M., Cook, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Korom, M., Selvanathan, T., Camacho, M.C., Fetal, Infant, and Toddler Neuroimaging Group (FIT'NG), & Bick, J.R. (2024). Perinatal Risk and Later Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Dynamic Systems Approach* (pp. 175-208). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
10. Bick, J.R., Rutter, T.M., Holland, C.M., Mueller, I., Mahmoodi V., Gigliotti-Manassis, A., **Merrill, L.C.**, Camacho, M.C., Inala, S., Ortiz-Jimenez, A., DeMaster, D., & Spann, M.N. (2024). Prenatal Risk and Later Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Dynamic Systems Approach* (pp. 139-174). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
11. **Merrill, L.C.**, Lipschutz, R., Li, X., Shen, S., Ortiz-Jimenez, A., & Bick, J. (2024). Age-dependent associations between RSA reactivity, affective and cognitive regulation, and psychopathology risk in young children exposed to varying levels of socioeconomic disadvantage. *Developmental Psychobiology*, e22487.
12. Raghubar, K.P., Heitzer, A.M., Malbari, F., Gill, J., Sillitoe, R.V, **Merrill, L.C.**, ... & Kahalley, L.S. (2024). Adaptive, behavioral, and emotional outcomes following post-operative pediatric cerebellar mutism syndrome in survivors treated for medulloblastoma. *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*, 1(aop), 1-8.
13. Mikolajewsky, A.J., Allen, N.P., **Merrill, L.C.**, Carter, M.C. & Manguno-Mire, G.M. (2021). Employing the risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model and predicting successful completion in an alternative drug court program: preliminary findings from the orleans parish drug court. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* 131.
14. **Merrill, L.C.**, Jones, C.W., Drury, S.S., & Theall, K.P. (2017). The differential impact of oxytocin receptor gene (oxtr) in violence-exposed boys and girls. *International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience* 59: 60-67.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Shyer, M., Li, W., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Kim, Y., & Schulz, P.E. (2026, July). *Rapid Progressors in Alzheimer's Disease: Differences in Cognitive Domain Decline & Using Neuroimaging to Predict Cognitive Decline*. Poster presentation at the 2026 Alzheimer's Association International Conference, London, England, United Kingdom.
2. Shyer, M., Li, W., Ma, X., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Kim, Y., & Schulz, P.E. (2026, March). *Rapid Progressors in Alzheimer's Disease: Differences in Cognitive Domain Decline*. Poster presentation at McGovern Medical School Research Retreat, Houston, Texas.
3. Shyer, M. Li, W., Ma, X., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Kim, Y., & Schulz, P.E. (2026, February). *Time is of the Essence: Identifying and Predicting Rapid Progressors of Alzheimer's Disease*. Neuroscience Program Work-in-Progress Seminar, Houston, Texas.

4. Shyer, M., Li, W., Ma, X., Harris, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, Kim, Y., & Schulz, P.E. (2026, February). *Rapid Progressors in Alzheimer's Disease: Differences in Cognitive Domain Decline*. Poster presentation at the 8th Annual Symposium on Aging Research, Houston, Texas.
5. Stiehl, N., **Merrill, L.C. (Mentor)**, O'Bryant, S., Schulz, P.E. (2026, January). *Effects of Medications on Brain Health in Alzheimer's Disease: A Multimodal Imaging Approach*. Poster presentation at University of Houston (UH) Dementia Unlocked symposium, Houston, TX.
6. Laughlin, H., **Merrill, L.C.**, Barry, K., DeMaster, D., Bick, J.R. (2024, September). *Neural Indicators of Visual Attention in Premature Toddlers*. Oral presentation at 3rd annual meeting of Fetal, Infant, & Toddler Neuroimaging Group (FIT'NG) Conference, Baltimore, MD.
7. **Merrill, L.C.**, Ortiz-Jimenez, A., Laughlin, H., Barry, K., Robinson, M., Bick, J.R. (2024, September). *Effects of Maternal Childhood Maltreatment Exposure on White Matter Integrity in Young Children*. Poster presentation at 12th annual meeting of the Flux Society for Cognitive Developmental Neuroscience, Baltimore, MD.
8. Barry, K., Laughlin, H., **Merrill, L.C.**, Bick, J.R. (2023, September). *Integrating Dimensional Models of Early Adversity: Relative Contributions of Caregiver and Environmental Risks*. Poster presentation at 11th annual meeting of the Flux Society for Cognitive Developmental Neuroscience, Sonoma, CA.
9. **Merrill, L.C.**, Lipschutz R., & Bick, J.R., (2022, November). *Parasympathetic Regulation During Cognitive Tasks and Behavioral Outcomes among Low SES Children*. Poster presentation at the 54th annual meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, San Diego, CA.
10. Biekman, B., Wilde, E.A., Desai, N.K., MacLeod, M.C., Abildskov, T., Hunsaker, N., **Merrill, L.C.**, Orobio, J., Okcu, M.F., Minard, C., Chu, D., Raghobar, K., DeLeon, Luz., Whitehead, W., Grosshans, D., Paulino, A., Chintagumpala, M.M., & Kahalley, L.S. (2022, February). *Neurocognitive Outcomes and White Matter Microstructure Following Proton Radiotherapy for Pediatric Brain Tumors*. Poster presentation at the 49th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, New Orleans, LA.
11. **Merrill, L.C.**, Shen, S.S., & Bick, J.R., (2021, April). *Associations Between Perceived Family Resources and Cortical Morphology in Young Children With Varying SES*. Poster presentation at Society for Research in Child Development Virtual Biennial Meeting.
12. Christopher, K., **Merrill, L.C.**, & Kahalley, L.S., (2020, April). *Association between Posterior Fossa Syndrome and Academic Fluency Performance in Medulloblastoma Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivors*. Poster presentation at Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences Symposium, Houston, TX. (Accepted; Conference canceled due to COVID-19).
13. Mikolajewsky, A.J., Allan, N., **Merrill, L.C.**, Carter, M., & Manguno-Mire, G.M. (2020, March) *Differences in Substance Use Trajectories Across Treatment Tracks in the Orleans Parish Drug Court*. Poster presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
14. **Merrill, L.C.**, Orobio, J., MacLeod, M.C., Wilde, E.A., Desai, N.K., Chintagumpala, M.M., Okcu, M.F., & Kahalley, L.S. (2020, February). *Incidental Findings on Neuroimaging in a Study of Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivors Compared to Healthy Controls: Clinical and Research Implications*. Poster presentation at the 48th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Denver, CO.
15. Loblein, H.J., Merrill, L.C., & Jones K.E. (2019, February). *A Case of Phonological Alexia Following Pediatric AVM Rupture*. Poster presentation at the 47th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, New York City, NY.
16. **Merrill, L.C.**, Lund, E.M., Nussbaum, N.L., & Titus, J.B. (2018, October). *The Relationship of WISC-V Profiles with Seizure Variables in Pediatric Epilepsy*. Poster presentation at the 38th annual meeting of the

National Academy of Neuropsychology. New Orleans, LA.

17. Loblein H.J., **Merrill, L.C.**, Nussbaum, N.L., & Titus, J.B. (2018, October). *Fluid Reasoning in Pediatric Epilepsy: The Relationship of Executive Functioning with the WISC-V*. Poster presentation at the 38th annual meeting of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. New Orleans, LA.
18. **Merrill, L.C.**, Jones, C.W., Drury, S.S., & Theall, K.P. (2016, June). *Oxytocin Genotype Moderates the Relationship between Violence Exposure and Behavioral and Biological Outcomes in At-risk Youth; The impact on society's drive for intervention*. Poster presentation at the International Neuroethics Network Conference, Paris, France.
19. Topolski, N., Dismukes, A.R., **Merrill, L.C.**, Drury, S.S., & Theall, K.P. (2016, May) *Developmental Trajectory of Cortisol Reactivity in Typically Developing Infants at 4 and 12 Months of Age*. Poster presentation at the 20th biennial meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies. New Orleans, LA.
20. Dismukes, A.R., Shirtcliff, E.A., **Merrill, L.C.**, Theall, K.P., Hatch V.I., & Drury S.S. (2016, May). *Sex and Race Differences in Infant Stress Responsivity*. Poster presentation at the 20th biennial meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies. New Orleans, LA.
21. **Merrill, L.C.**, Meyer, V.J., Dismukes, A.R., & Drury, S.S. (2015, March). *Violence Exposure Effects on Telomere Length Moderated by Oxytocin Receptor*. Poster presentation at Tulane University Health Sciences Research Day. New Orleans, LA.
22. **Merrill, L.C.** & Inglis, F.M. (2011, August). *The Effects of PCP on the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex*. Poster presentation at Tulane University Neuroscience Summer Research Program. New Orleans, LA.
23. **Merrill, L.C.**, Bigazzi, O., Chadovich, M., James, C., & Vijayaraghavan, M. (2010, December). *Changes in Lake Water in Audubon Park*. Poster presentation for Cell Biology, Center for Public Service, Tulane University. New Orleans, LA.

POSTS and MEDIA FEATURES

1. Garella, P., & Tyahi, B. (Hosts). (2023, Sept 5). Livia Merrill on Psychological Impacts on Children due to Prenatal Stress (No. 15) [Audio podcast episode]. In *The Knowmads*. <https://podbay.fm/p/the-knowmads-podcast>
2. **Merrill, L.C.** (2014, July 29). Do prison sentences alter oxytocin levels? *The Neuroethics Blog*. <http://www.theneuroethicsblog.com/2014/07/do-prison-sentences-alter-oxytocin.html>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 – 2025 &

2022 – 2023 *Teaching Fellow* (4 semesters)

Child Development (PSYC 2308)

University of Houston, Houston, TX

Role: Preparing weekly lectures for a class of ~80 undergraduate students, presenting curriculum-relevant lectures, grading assignments, and holding office hours.

2024

Teaching Fellow (2 semesters)

Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology: Lecture and Lab (PSYC 2305)

University of Houston, Houston, TX

Role: Preparing weekly lectures and laboratory material for a class of ~80 undergraduate students, presenting curriculum-relevant lectures, teaching how to write an APA empirical manuscript, grading assignments, and holding office hours.

- 2021 *Guest Lecturer*
Physiological Psychology (PSYC 3341)
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Supervisor: Rebecca Lipschutz, PhD
Role: Invited to guest lecture on the topic of hormones and motivated behavior
- 2022 – 2022 *Teaching Assistant*
Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 2320)
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Supervisor: Antoine Lebeaut, MA, LPA
Role: Grading and giving feedback on assignments and holding office hours.
- 2020 – 2021 *Teaching Assistant*
Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (PSYC 3350)
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Supervisor: Evelina Deleanu, PhD
Role: Grading and giving feedback on assignments and holding office hours.
- 2017 – 2017 *Undergraduate Course Discussion Leader*
Adverse Childhood Experiences: Intersections of Violence, Neuroscience, Law, and Public Health
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Supervisor: Stacy Drury, MD, PhD
Role: Guiding weekly small-group discussions, organizing field trips, and assisting in lectures

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – 2026 *Research Program Manager*
Neurocognitive Disorders Center
Department of Neurology, UTHealth, Houston, TX
- 2020 – 2025 *Graduate Research Assistant*
Laboratory of Early Experience and Development
Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, TX
Supervisor: **Johanna Bick, PhD**
- 2019 – 2020 *Research Assistant II*
Department of Pediatrics
Texas Children's Hospital
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Supervisor: **Lisa Kahalley, PhD**
- 2014 – 2017 *Research Coordinator*
Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Laboratory
Department of Pediatrics
Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA
Supervisor: **Stacy Drury, MD, PhD**
- 2010 – 2014 *Undergraduate and Graduate (Master's) Research Assistant*
Department of Cell and Molecular Biology
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Supervisor: **Fiona Inglis, PhD**
- 2010 – 2010 *Summer Biomedical Intern*

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017 – 2019 *Psychometrist*
Pediatric Neuropsychology Clinic
Dell Children's Medical Group, Austin, TX
Supervisors: **Kelly E. Jones, PhD, ABPP; Nancy L. Nussbaum, PhD, ABPP; Jeffrey B. Titus, PhD**
Role: Conducted neuropsychological assessments on the pediatric population who had epilepsy, developmental delays, and/or those with recently sustained traumatic brain injuries or concussions. Assisted in treatment recommendations, patient engagement, and report-writing. Exposed to hospital procedures, including neurosurgical laser ablations, electroencephalogram (EEG), and Wada procedures.
- 2016 – 2019 *Child Psychiatric Evaluation Coder*
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA
Supervisor: **Charles Zeanah Jr, MD**
Role: Reviewed evaluations of young child behavior and symptomology typically associated with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), and Callous-Unemotional (CU) traits.
- 2016 – 2017 *Forensic Psychology Assistant*
New Orleans Forensic Aftercare Clinic, New Orleans, LA
Supervisor: **Gina Manguno-Mire, PhD**
Role: Assisted in risk assessment evaluations, competency evaluations to stand trial, and clinical assessments for screening Tulane student-athletes.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – 2019 *Guardian ad Litem*
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Austin, TX
Role: Advocated medical, educational, and personal needs in the courtroom for three siblings. Collaborated with Child Protective Services (CPS), attorneys, and school personnel.
- 2017 – 2020 *Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program Intern*
Drug Court, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, New Orleans, LA
Supervisor: **Gina Manguno-Mire, PhD**
Role: Assisted with administration and data organization for grants related to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- 2012 – 2012 *Investigator Intern*
Orleans Public Defenders (OPD), New Orleans, LA
Role: Assisted the Staff Investigators in their investigation of ongoing criminal cases, interviewed witnesses, photographed and surveyed crime scenes, and reviewed police and prison calls.

HONORS and AWARDS

Funding and Academic Awards

2024 Summer Fellowship for Research Excellence, University of Houston, Houston, TX
 2022 Ahn Lac Tran Scholarship Recipient, University of Houston, Houston, TX
 2012 Cum Laude (B.S. In Neuroscience), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
 2011 Summer Neuroscience Research Award, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
 2011 – 2013 *Dean's List*, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Other Certificates

2025 GCP- Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research, CITI Program
 2025 Biomedical Researcher & Key Personnel, CITI Program
 2023 Research Conflict of Interest Course, CITI Program
 2023 Social and Behavioral Researcher, CITI Program
 2021 MRI Independent User Training (Level 1 and Level 2), Core for Advanced Magnetic Research Imaging
 2020 Human Research- Social-Behavioral-Educational Researchers, CITI Program
 2020 Responsible Conduct of Research- Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program
 2020 Responsible Conduct of Research- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program
 2020 200-Hour Radiant Warrior Yoga Teacher Training (Yoga-Alliance Registered), Yoga Farm Ithaca, NY
 2018 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Travis County, Austin, TX
 2015 LA CaTS Research Coordinator Training Certificate, Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science, New Orleans, LA
 2015 Child Abuse Reporting Training Certificate, New Orleans, LA
 2015 LA CaTS Human Subjects Research Clinical Coordinator Training Certificate, Louisiana Clinical and Translational Science, New Orleans, LA

MEMBERSHIPS and SERVICE

Professional Memberships

2024 – Fetal, Infant, & Toddler Neuroimaging Group (FIT'NG), *Member*
 2024 – Flux Society for Cognitive Developmental Neuroscience, *Member*
 2022 – 2024 International Society for Developmental Psychobiology (ISDP), *Member*
 2022 – 2024 National Science Policy Network (NSPN), *Member*
 2013 – 2020 Neuroethics Women, Emory University, *Member*
 2012 – 2020 Society for Neuroscience, *Member*

Journal Ad Hoc Reviewer

- Developmental Psychobiology (2024)

Other Memberships

2020 – Yoga Alliance, *Member/Instructor*
 2019 – 2021 Youth Professional Group: Crime Stoppers of Houston, *Member*
 2011 Newcomb Tulane College Leaders
 2011 Tulane University Neuroscience Summer Research Program
 2010 – 2014 Tulane University Neuroscience Association, *Member*

OUTREACH

2024 Brain Awareness Week, Health Museum, Houston, TX
 2016 – 2017 Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, New Orleans, LA

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Proficient in *R* Statistical software, *R* markdown, Bash scripting (Linux), SAS, SPSS
- Proficient in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data acquisition
- Proficient in diffusion data pre-processing and analysis with FMRIB Software Library (FSL)
- Proficient in a range of statistical tests (linear, nonlinear, logistic regressions, mixed-effects models, ANOVAs, chi-square/t-tests, data imputation techniques, model comparisons, power and effect sizes)
- Proficient in data collection modalities, such as REDCap and Qualtrics
- Proficient in administering a wide array of neuropsychological testing material across toddlerhood, childhood, and adulthood age ranges
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Hobbies include: yoga, reading, biking, hiking, and exploring with my toddler