

Audrey I. Utti
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EDUCATION

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, TX
M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Expected: August 2027

University of Houston, Houston, TX
M.A. in Psychology
Conferred: May 2017

University of Houston, Houston, TX
Ph.D in Developmental Cognitive Behavioral Neuroscience
Expected: Not Completed

University of Houston, Houston, TX
B.S. in Biotechnology, *Honors in Major*
Minors in Psychology & Biology
Conferred: December 2012

University of Houston Downtown, Houston, TX
January 2009- May 2010

Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX,
September 2007- December 2008

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2014 – May 2017

Cognitive Development Lab
University of Houston, Houston, TX

- Project lead on four research projects:
 - *Head-Camera Autism:* I collected data from children (ages 3-5) and their parents to investigate the differences in parental gesturing between parents of children with and without autism spectrum disorders. I also looked at how these gestural changes helped organize the child's attention.
 - *Eye-Tracking Depression:* This study was started in the Fall of 2015. We recruited mothers with and without a clinical diagnosis of postpartum depression. I looked at gestural differences between these mothers towards their infants and how it shaped their child's attention.
 - *Eye-Tracking Infant:* We collected data from young infants 3 to 18 months of age and their parents. I proposed my master's thesis based on this data set to characterize parent gesturing behavior and explore how these gestures affect motion and object size in the child's view.

- *Perceptual Role in Adjective Learning*: This study looked into how the perceptual arrangement of object kinds influences early abilities of learning new adjectives.
- Supervised 4 teams of 3-4 undergraduate research assistants each.
- Actively maintained a conducive and collaborative environment to ensure optimal productivity, camaraderie, and to minimize turnover.
- Created and conducted training sessions on the following:
 - *Video Processing using Yarnbus and Adobe Premiere*
 - *Coding using Datavyu, Ruby, and R-Studio*
 - *Participant and special population (participants with autism spectrum disorder or major depressive disorder) interactions*
 - *Experiment apparatus set-up (eye-tracking devices, python scripts, and matlab) and standard operating procedures*
 - *Literature reviews*
- Analyzed data using R Studio.
- Conducted thorough literature reviews and wrote reports for peer review.
- Created and presented posters based on research findings.
- Managed and organized all research data using privacy/confidentiality protocol.
- Managed all IRB submissions, modifications, continuing reviews, and correspondence necessary to keep all studies active.
- Strictly enforced IRB protocols for each study to ensure compliance and ethical practices.
- Organized and supervised the implementation of new study protocols and protocol changes.
- Heavy involvement in designing studies, creating stimuli, and establishing experiment guidelines and protocols.
- Handled lab inventory, including ordering/purchasing supplies.
- Managed/distributed compensation and thousands of dollars in gift card inventory. Maintained inventory and expense logs.
- Maintained relationships between our lab and professionals at the Texas Medical Center and Autism Centers around Houston.
- Continuously established new connections with professionals for recruitment efforts and collaborative projects.
- Maintained and organized laboratory's network and participant data.
- Utilized constructive disciplinary action when necessary.
- Organized new talent recruitment efforts and selected prospective talent, conducted interviews, and stream-lined on-boarding.
- Ran lab meetings and individual meetings to assign new tasks and discuss concerns and new information.

Research Assistant

Cognitive Development Lab

University of Houston, Houston, TX

June 2012 – August 2014

- Managed two research projects.
- Trained new undergraduate research assistants on coding, eye tracking, and standard operating procedures for experiments

- Reached out to community and businesses to maintain relationships and organized monthly recruitment events.
- Coordinated and conducted interviews.
- Maintained organization of large amounts of data and assigned weekly coding assignments.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of St. Thomas

Fall 2023 – Present

- Manage 4-6 courses with 24-40 students for Spring & Fall sessions.
- Continuous restructuring of courses each semester.
- Manage 2-4 online courses during Summer and Winter sessions.
- Provide Academic Advising for students ~20-30 hours each semester.
- Serve as an active Faculty Advisor to three Registered Student Organizations.
- Courses Taught:
 - General Psychology (PSYC 1332)
 - Child Psychology (PSYC 2332)
 - Human Growth and Development (PSYC 3339)
 - Foundations of Statistical Analysis (PSYC 3433)
 - Biopsychology (PSYC 4438)
 - Health Psychology (PSYC 4439)

Adjunct Professor at the University of St. Thomas

Fall 2019 – Spring 2023

- Manage 1-3 course(s) with 24-40 students for Spring & Fall sessions.
- Manage 1 course during Summer and Winter sessions.
- Comfortable with in-person, online asynchronous, and online synchronous modalities.
- Courses Taught:
 - General Psychology (PSYC 1332)
 - Child Psychology (PSYC 2332)
 - Human Growth and Development (PSYC 3339)
 - Biopsychology (PSYC 4438)

Teaching Fellow at the University of Houston

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

- Managed a classroom of 80-95 students each semester.
 - Child Development (PSYC 2350)
- Formulated syllabus and grading schemes.
- Created engaging lectures and lectured twice a week.
- Developed evaluative measures based on existing research to ensure retention of material.
- Held mentoring and tutoring sessions for students whenever needed.

Teaching Assistant

- Helped manage courses of 80-90 students each semester.
 - Introduction to Cognition (PSYC 3350) Summer 2016
Instructor: Kelly Vaughn, M.A.
 - Introduction to Cognition (PSYC 3350) Spring 2016
Instructor: Vicki Wagner, M.A.
 - Child Development (PSYC 2350) Fall 2015
Instructor: Rachel Jobe
 - Child Development (PSYC 2350) Fall 2015
Instructor: Katherine Reynolds
 - Psychology of Personality (PSYC 3325) Summer 2015
Instructor: Elizabeth Burris Garner, M.A., J.D.
 - Psychology of Personality (PSYC 3325) Spring 2015
Instructor: Elizabeth Burris Garner, M.A., J.D.
 - Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 4322) Spring 2015
Instructor: Derek Szafranski, Ph.D
- Aided in grading exams, quizzes, assignments, and essays.
- Proctored exams with 80-90 students in each exam.
- Met with students for tutoring sessions.
- Calculated final grades.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Grayson Executive Learning, Academic and ADHD Coach – Houston, TX

February 2024 – June 2024

- Worked one-on-one to teach strategies and help students develop skills in the areas of time management, planning, organization, overcoming procrastination, as well as advanced study skills.
- Engaged students in thought-provoking questions and conversations that organically facilitated positive behavior change.
- Provided case management and coordinated services with teachers, therapists, psychiatrists, and special education advocates.

Revalushion Management Agency, Operations Manager – Houston, TX

May 2018 – July 2024

- Created all training materials for Training and Development Department
- Collaborated closely with Director to proactively manage and support learning and development initiatives for a portfolio of 26-30 talent.
- Reduced talent cancellations and no-shows by 90% after developing and implementing new systems.
- Improved operational efficiency by streamlining processes related to screening, interviewing, hiring, onboarding, and training new talent.
- Created, reviewed, and proofread all on-boarding documents and contracts.
- Instructional designer and curriculum developer for all orientation materials, onboarding, training/continued training for interns, new hires, and new talent.
- Restructured staff training and internship program leading to 100% completion and retention rate and improved productivity.

OptumRx, Supervisor of Pharmacy Operations – Sugar Land, TX

November 2017 - May 2018

- Supervised a team of 26 direct reports in the United States and a remote team of 20 direct reports in the Philippines.
- Collaborated seamlessly with cross-functional team members to enhance individual Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Facilitated constructive feedback sessions and executed comprehensive performance reviews.
- Communicated progress updates during daily/weekly stakeholder meetings.
- Managed workload, overtime, and timesheets for all direct reports.
- Conducted impactful coaching sessions to strategically ready employees for new responsibilities, fostering positive team morale and enhancing overall performance.
- Conducted thorough interviews, employing strategic evaluation techniques and made hiring decisions.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Utti, A., Cirino, P., & Yoshida, H. (2017, April). *Parents' gesture adaptations to children with autism spectrum disorders*. Poster presented at the Society for Child Development biennial meeting. Austin, TX

Utti, A., Burling, J.M., & Yoshida, H. (2015, March). *The role of eye gaze in adjective learning: exploring looking behaviors*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting. Philadelphia, PA

Utti, A., Burling, J. M., & Yoshida, H. (2013, April). *Adjective learning in children: Mechanisms involved in the successful acquisition and extension of novel adjectives*. Poster presented at the 27th National Conference on Undergraduate Research. La Crosse, WI

Burling, J. M., **Utti, A. I.**, & Yoshida, H. (2013, April). *Attention coincides with perceptual similarity during adjective learning*. Talk presented at the conference for the Southwestern Psychological Association. Ft Worth, TX

Utti, A., Burling, J. M., & Yoshida, H. (2012, October). *Adjective learning and perception*. Poster presented at the University of Houston Undergraduate Research Day. Houston, Texas

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Mental Health and Wellness Club, Founder and Faculty Advisor

January 2025 – Present

- I established this group to help meet student needs concerning mental health and wellness. Our group hosts 4 successful events each semester that targets loneliness, anxiety, depression, and burnout.

Neuroscience Society, Faculty Advisor
October 2024 – Present

Pickleball Club, Faculty Advisor
March 2024 – Present

Body Balance Haven, Faculty Advisor
October 2023 – Present

Developmental Cognitive Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate Student Advocacy Group, Founder and Leader

August 2016 – May 2017

- I established this group to help identify the issues impacting graduate students' progress in the program and to work towards feasible solutions with the Department Chair and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

DCBN Brown Bag Committee, Lecture Organizer

August 2014 – May 2017

- Organized interesting talks from professors and professionals in the cognitive, developmental, and behavioral neuroscience areas all across Houston, TX.

Graduate and Professional Students Association, Communications Officer

August 2016 – May 2017

- Communicated new information to all students in the association through various media outlets.

Undergraduate Senior Honor's Thesis, Served on Thesis Committee and Project Supervisor for Robyn Douglass

Spring 2015

Undergraduate Research Poster Presentations, Served as Project Supervisor

Hocking, C., Utti, A., & Yoshida, H. (2017, April). The Role of Parental Gesturing with Children with ASD in Development of Joint Attention. Poster submitted to the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX

Douglas, R., Utti, A., & Yoshida, H. (2015 April). Parental Gesture Use and Language Development in Children with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders. Poster presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association, Wichita, KS.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Saint Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee
Spring 2026

Saint Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee
Spring 2025

Saint Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee

Spring 2024

Teach Online Awards to Spur Transformation (TOAST)

Spring 2024

Society for Research in Child Development Travel Award

Spring 2015

Graduate Research Assistant Stipend Program Award

Fall 2014

National Conference of Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Spring 2013

Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis Silver Award

Spring 2013

Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis Award Nominee

Spring 2013

Professional Organizations & Honor Societies

Phi Kappa Phi

Spring 2025 - Present

Chi Sigma Iota

Spring 2025 - Present

Chair, Mentoring Committee

American Psychological Association

Spring 2025 - Present

American Counseling Association

Spring 2025 - Present

American Mental Health Counseling Association

Spring 2025 – Present

Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling

Spring 2025 - Present

Texas Counseling Association

Fall 2025 - Present

TRAINING/SKILLS

- Telemental Health Training
- CITI Biomedical Investigator Certification
- Psychological First Aid
- Operations Management
- Project Management
- Higher Education
- Classroom Management
- Team Management
- Mentoring/Advising
- Public Speaking
- Program and Curriculum Planning and Development
- Event Planning/Management
- Academic and ADHD Coaching
- Google Workspace
- ADDIE Method
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Learning Management Systems
- Eye-tracking devices & Tobii eye-tracking
- Yabus eye video syncing software
- Adobe Premiere software for video syncing
- Adobe Photoshop