

# Francesca (Fran) Querdasi

2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT · DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UCLA

☎ 206-422-4787 | ✉ frq@ucla.edu | 📍 fquerdasi | 📅 Updated December 2021

## Education

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### University of California, Los Angeles

PH.D. IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Minor: Quantitative Psychology
- Research mentor: Bridget Callaghan, Ph.D.
- GPA: 4.0

Los Angeles, CA

Sept. 2020-Present

### Pomona College

B.A IN PSYCHOLOGY, MAGNA CUM LAUDE (RECEIVED MAY 15, 2018)

- Distinction in the senior thesis
- Thesis title: "Fathers' Parenting in Challenging Contexts: The Role of Reflective Functioning"
- Thesis advisors: Patricia Smiley, Ph.D. and Guadalupe Bacio, Ph.D.
- GPA: 3.9

Claremont, CA

Aug. 2014 - May 2018

## Funding, Honors & Awards

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<b>International Society for Developmental Psychobiology (ISDP) Conference Abstract/Travel Award</b>	2021
<b>UCLA Faculty Women's Club Scholarship</b> - \$3,000 to support graduate study	2021-2022
<b>UCLA Psychology Summer Graduate Research Mentorship Award</b> - \$6,000 to support summer research	2021
<b>UCLA Doctoral Student Travel Grant</b> - \$1,000 for professional development	2021
<b>UCLA Dean's Scholar Award</b> - \$14,500 to support graduate study	2020-2022
<b>Pomona College Senior Psychology Prize</b> - for contributions to the psychology department & excellence in the senior thesis	2018
<b>Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society</b>	2018
<b>Sigma Xi Science Honor Society</b>	2018
<b>Pomona College Hewitt Memorial Scholarship</b>	2017, 2018
<b>Pomona College Summer Research Grant</b> - \$3,000 to conduct independent research	2016
<b>BECU Foundation Scholarship</b>	2014

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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King, L. S., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Humphreys, K. L., and Gotlib, I. H. (2021). Dimensions of the language environment in infancy and symptoms of psychopathology in toddlerhood. *Developmental Science*, e13082. <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13082>

**Querdasi, F. R.** and Bacio, G. A. (2021). Suicidal behaviors among Latina youth: An eco-developmental approach and narrative review. *Journal of Adolescence*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2021.10.007>

Rosenke, M., Natu, V., **Querdasi, F.**, Kular, H., Wu, H., Grotheer, M., Berman, S., Mezer, A., and Grill-Spector, K. (2021). Infants' cortex undergoes microstructural growth coupled with myelination. *Nature Communications Biology*, 4(1191). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-021-02706-w>

Buttitta, K. V., Smiley, P. A., Kerr, M. L., Rasmussen, H. F., **Querdasi, F. R.**, and Borelli, J. L. (2019). In a father's mind: paternal reflective functioning, sensitive parenting, and protection against socioeconomic risk. *Attachment & Human Development*, 21(5):445-466. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616734.2019.1582596>

## Manuscripts Under Review

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Grotheer, M., Rosenke, M., Wu, H., Kular, H., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Berman, S., Yeatman, J. R., and Grill-Spector, K. (under review). Catch me if you can: Least myelinated white matter bundles develop fastest during early infancy. Preprint: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.29.437583v1>

King, L. S., Humphreys, K. L., **Querdasi, F. R.**, and Gotlib, I. H. (in revision). Experiences of stress and trauma are associated with the trajectory of hair cortisol concentration across pregnancy

Humphreys, K. L., Dennis, E. L., King, L. S., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Segarra, J. R., Sisk, L. M., Camacho, M. C., and Gotlib, I. H. (in revision). Maternal stress and infant amygdala volume: Exploring the specificity of preconception, prenatal, and postnatal stress

## Manuscripts In Preparation

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**Querdasi, F. R.**, Meaney, M. J., Karnani, N., Broekman, B., Yap-Seng, C., Gluckman, P. D., Daniel, L. M., Yap, F., Eriksson, J. G., and Callaghan, B. L. (in preparation). Intergenerational adversity exposure, gut microbiota composition, and psychopathology symptoms in early childhood

## Presentations

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<sup>†</sup> Chu, K. A., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Towner, E., Taylor, E., and Callaghan, B. L. (2021, November). *The Role of Parent-Child Interaction in Emotional Processing, Alexithymia, and Mental Health*. Poster presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Chicago, IL

**Querdasi, F. R.**, Meaney, M., Karnani, N., Broekman, B., Yap-Seng, C., Gluckman, P., Daniel, L. M., Yap, F., Eriksson, J., and Callaghan, B. L. (2021, November). *Intergenerational Adversity Exposure & Gut Microbiota Composition in Early Childhood*. Poster presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Chicago, IL

**Querdasi, F. R.** (2021, May). *Intergenerational Adversity Exposure & Gut Microbiota Composition in Young Childhood*. Research talk presented at the Developmental Psychology Research Forum, ULCA

**Querdasi, F. R.** (2021, February). *Stress & Gut Microbiome Development in Early Childhood*. Research talk presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Area Meeting, Prospective Students' Weekend, UCLA

Natu, V., Rosenke, M., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Kular, H., Wu, H., Grotheer, M., Berman, S., Mezer, A., and Grill-Spector, K. (2021, January). *Cortex Exhibits Microstructural Tissue Growth that Proceeds Hierarchically Across Visual Processing Streams During the First 6 Months of Human Life*. Poster presented at the Virtual Society for Neuroscience Meeting

Grotheer, M., Rosenke, M., Wu, H., Kular, H., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Natu, V., Y. J. R., and Grill-Spector, K. (2021, January). *Catch Me if You Can: Least Myelinated White Matter Bundles Develop Fastest During Early Infancy*. Poster presented at the Virtual Society for Neuroscience Meeting

King, L. S., Humphreys, K. L., Dennis, E. L., **Querdasi, F. R.**, Segarra, J. R., and Gotlib, I. H. (2020, May). *Sex-dependent Associations of Cortisol Reactivity with Hippocampal Volume at age Six Months*. Poster presented at the The Social and Affective Science Society Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA

<sup>†</sup> Lopez-Alvarez, N., Rosenke, M., **Querdasi, F.**, Rezai, A., Estrada, C., Wu, H., and Grill-Spector, K. (2019, August). *Gyrification of the Human Brain Continues Postnatally*. Poster presented at the Stanford Summer Poster Conference, Stanford, CA

**Querdasi, F. R.**, King, L. S., Humphreys, K. L., and Gotlib, I. H. (2019, May). *Antenatal Depressive Symptoms are Associated with the Trajectory of Hair Cortisol Concentration Across Pregnancy*. Poster presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

**Querdasi, F. R.**, King, L. S., Humphreys, K. L., and Gotlib, I. H. (2019, March). *Infant and Mother Cortisol Responses to the Still-Face Procedure*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD

Blackard, B., Smiley, P., **Querdasi, F.**, Scharlach, K., and Borelli, J. (2018, August). *Girl (disem)Power: Person Praise and Conditional Regard Predict Fixed Mindset in School-Age Girls*. Poster presented at the 126th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA

Partington, L., Pedroza, M., **\*Querdasi, F.**, Smiley, P., Borelli, J., and Doan, S. (2018, April). *Basal and Stress-Induced Physiological Indices of Emotion Regulation in Early Adolescents*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

Hecht, H., Pedroza, M., **\*Querdasi, F.**, **\*Scharlach, K.**, and Smiley, P. (2017, August). *Maternal Predictors of Poorer Self-Regulation in Toddlers*. Poster presented at the Pomona Summer Research Program Poster Conference, Claremont, CA

**Querdasi, F.**, Heleniak, C., McLaughlin, K., and Borelli, J. (2016, August). *The Roles of Emotion Reactivity and Regulation in Adolescent Sensitivity to Peer Rejection*. Poster presented at the Pomona Summer Research Program Poster Conference, Claremont, CA

\* indicates presenting author when not first author; <sup>†</sup> indicates mentee author

## Pre-Registrations of In-Progress Studies

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Querdasi, F. R. and Callaghan, B. L. (2020, November). Adversity exposure, gut microbiota development, and psychopathology in early childhood. Open Science Framework. <https://osf.io/c564x/>

## Research Experience

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### UCLA Department of Psychology

Brain and Body Lab

DOCTORAL STUDENT RESEARCHER

- PI: Bridget Callaghan, Ph.D.
- Mind, Brain, Body (MBB) Study: Links between early life adversity, the gastrointestinal microbiome, memory, and affective neurodevelopment across three years in middle childhood through adolescence

Los Angeles, CA  
Sept. 2020 - Present

### Stanford University Department of Psychology

Vision and Perception Neuroscience Lab

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

- PI: Kalanit Grill-Spector, Ph.D.
- Baby Brains Study: Investigating the development of brain structure and function in infancy with neuroimaging and computational modeling

Stanford, CA  
April 2019 - September 2020

### Neurodevelopment, Affect, and Psychopathology Lab

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

- PIs: Ian Gotlib, Ph.D. and Kathryn Humphreys, Ph.D.
- Brain and Behavior: Infant Experiences (BABIES) Study – Effects of perinatal experience on infant psychobiological development
- Stanford Preschool Study – Effects of maternal inflammation and stress history on preschool-age children’s neural and behavioral development

Stanford, CA  
July 2018 - April 2020

### Pomona College Department of Psychology

Childhood Attachment, Relationships, and Emotion Lab

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- PIs: Jessica Borelli, Ph.D. and Patricia Smiley, Ph.D.
- PARENT Study: Testing a clinical intervention to help mothers reflect on the positive aspects of their relationships with their children
- STAR Study: Relationships among caregiving behavior, caregiver attachment, and child development

Claremont, CA  
Jan. 2016 - May 2018

### University of Washington Department of Psychology

Stress and Development Lab

SUMMER RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- PI: Kate McLaughlin, Ph.D.
- STAR Study: Identifying dynamic changes in emotion, behavior, and brain function following stressful life events as they occur in real time during adolescence
- Independent project: Emotion reactivity and regulation following peer rejection in adolescence

Seattle, WA  
May 2016 - August 2016

## Training Courses & Workshops

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**Foundations of Equitable Course Design and Inclusive Teaching** - CEILS Scientific Teaching Institute, UCLA

July 2021

**Microbiome Bioinformatics with QIIME2 Workshop** - Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, NIH

Jan 2021

**Summer Child Welfare Academy** - Pritzker Center, UCLA

2020

## Research Skills

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<b>Statistics</b>	MLR, Moderation, Mediation, GLM, Lasso Regression, Multilevel Modeling, EFA, PERMANOVA
<b>Programming</b>	<b>Proficient</b> in R, MATLAB. <b>Familiar</b> with Python, GitHub, Linux command line, SPSS, $\LaTeX$
<b>Microbiome Analysis Software</b>	Qiime2 bioinformatics microbiome analysis platform
<b>MRI Analysis Software</b>	Freesurfer, MATLAB, mrVista, iBEAT, ITK-SNAP
<b>Neuroimaging Methods</b>	<b>MRI:</b> Anatomical, quantitative, & diffusion acquisitions, <b>EEG:</b> Infants & adults, <b>fNIRS:</b> Children & adults
<b>Physiological Data Collection</b>	Hair, saliva, stool, blood, and cheek swab samples for hormone, microbiome, and DNA assays
<b>Language</b>	Spanish - advanced oral and written proficiency
<b>Clinical Interviewing</b>	SCID Depression Module (DSM-5), Life Stressor Checklist - Rev. (LSC-R), Traumatic Events Inventory (TESI)
<b>Laboratory Behavioral Assessments</b>	Still-Face Procedure (SFP), LAB-TAB, Free Play, Trier Social Stress Test for Children (TSST-C), WASI
<b>Virtual Data Collection</b>	Memory tasks, caregiver-child interaction paradigms, and biological samples collected remotely via Zoom

# Research Lab Mentorship

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## Academic Career Education

CONTENT CREATION & DISSEMINATION

2019-Present

- Contributes to educational resources on academic career stages from undergraduate research experience to graduate program applications
- Subset of content posted online at [Stanford](#) and [UCLA](#)
- Gives presentations on topics such as work-life balance, graduate program applications, and CV-building at lab research assistant meetings

## Individual Mentorship

ENTRY FORMAT: NAME, POSITION, INSTITUTION

2019-Present

- Deborah Banner, Postbaccalaureate Research Assistant, UCLA
- Nicole Fonacier, Undergraduate Psychology Major, UCLA
- Kristen Chu, Research Coordinator, UCLA
- Daisy Feddoes, Research Coordinator, Stanford University
- Nancy Lopez-Alvarez, Undergraduate Psychology Major, Stanford University
- Lois Williams, Undergraduate & Questbridge Scholar, Stanford University
- Javier Lopez, Undergraduate Human Biology Major, Stanford University
- Mahnoor Hyat, Undergraduate Psychology Major, Stanford University

# Teaching Experience

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## UCLA Department of Psychology

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Los Angeles, CA

2021-2022

- Developmental Psychology, Fall 2021 and Winter 2022
- Introductory Psychology, Winter 2021
- Teach discussion sections, design active learning activities, hold office hours, grade student exams and assignments

## Pomona College Writing Center

SCIENCE WRITING COORDINATOR AND WRITING PARTNER

Claremont, CA

2015-2018

- Planned and carried out workshops for Pomona College introductory biology and psychology courses
- Trained TAs and Writing partners on how to tutor science writing
- Worked with over 100 Pomona College students on writing skills (e.g., argumentation, organization) across disciplines
- Worked as lead attached partner for Neuroscience courses, providing in-person and written comments on 30+ literature reviews

# Academic & Community Service

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## UCLA Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program (GUM)

MENTOR & ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Los Angeles, CA

2021-Present

- GUM aims to support undergraduate students, particularly those who have been historically marginalized, in pursuing graduate/professional education through mentorship
- Provides 1:1 mentorship for a psychology undergraduate student
- As advisory board member, participates in outreach and program promotion, visioning and long-term planning, program accountability, and dissemination of program outcomes and achievements on campus

## Next-Gen Scholars Program (NGSP)

MENTOR

University of Minnesota (virtual)

2020-2021

- NGSP is a graduate student-led mentorship program for underrepresented undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students interested in applying to psychology PhD programs
- Provides 1:1 mentorship and feedback on graduate school application materials for two post-baccalaureate students

## Garey High School

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Pomona, CA

2018

- Met weekly with 5 high school students to discuss issues that they faced related to mental health, discrimination, peer and family conflicts, structural inequities, etc., under supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist

## Maternidad Sardá (Public Maternity Hospital)

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER

Buenos Aires, Argentina

2016

- Interacted with new and expectant mothers from a variety of socioeconomic, cultural, and nativity backgrounds exclusively in Spanish
- Conducted a research project on experiences of immigrant women in public hospitals: conducted interviews, synthesized epidemiological, theoretical, and experimental findings, and wrote a 15-page paper in Spanish