

Giya Gupta

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EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego

2025

B.S. in Psychology with a specialization in Developmental Psychology

B.S. in Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience

Magna Cum Laude

WORK EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo, Department of Psychology

June 2025 - present

Buffalo Early Learning Lab (PI: Dr. Federica Bulgarelli)

Lab Manager

- Managed and supported 5+ ongoing studies investigating children's language acquisition across infancy, toddlerhood, and early childhood
- Designed and led an independent study examining preschoolers' evaluation of informants during word learning, from experimental design and stimulus development through data collection, data analysis, and manuscript preparation
- Led an adult perception study examining listeners' ability to identify intended addressees from speech, overseeing stimulus creation, participant recruitment, data collection, statistical analysis, and manuscript preparation
- Recruited and managed research participants through Children Helping Science (CHS) and maintain a comprehensive participant database in REDCap
- Supported lab operations through IRB protocol preparation, scheduling, documentation, and study coordination
- Trained and onboarded undergraduate research assistants and collaborated with graduate students, and the PI to coordinate day-to-day research activities
- Organized lab meetings, guest speaker events, research trainings, professional development, and community outreach events to support collaboration and research development
- Contributed to research dissemination through manuscript preparation, scientific presentations, and publications

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Social and Cognitive Development Lab, University at California, San Diego

2023 - present

(PI: Dr. Gail Heyman)

Research Assistant

- Leader of the review team, responsible for detailed reading, synthesis, and analysis of articles on topics like infant reputation management, child development, artificial intelligence, and social norm acquisition in children
- Recruited and collected data from children (ages 5-12) at local public parks for studies on social disclosure, self-judgment, incentives, and reputation management
- Conducted targeted literature reviews for the lab's master database, focusing on relevant articles from sources like Child Development, Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, and Developmental Psychology

- Collaborated on an inter-institutional project on pragmatics and social inferences under Dr. Heyman and Dr. Hannah Rohde (University of Edinburgh)
- Contributed to the development of sentiment analysis codes in Python (NLTK) for a project that is examining student and instructor perception regarding the use of artificial intelligence tools in education
- Summarized relevant articles across social science fields for insights on Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR) and developmental research methods for upcoming projects
- Organized laboratory events and managed administrative tasks, including mentoring new research assistants.

Language and Cognitive Development Lab, University at California, Berkeley
(PI: Dr. Mahesh Srinivasan; Mentor: Nina Schoener)

2024

Summer Research Intern, Continuing Volunteer Research Intern

- Involved in creating stimuli, recruiting participants, conducting literature reviews, and collecting data
- Tested children at schools and museums to investigate what they learn from overheard speech in comparison to child-directed speech
- Implemented accuracy and behavioral coding of data from the overhearing project using DataVyu
- Coded and analyzed data collected from studies on children's acquisition of Hindi kinship terms
- Presented projects during lab meetings and at lab reading group events
- Invited to continue collaboration asynchronously involving qualitative coding and open-ended data analysis for the partial knowledge demonstrated by children in the acquisition of Hindi kinship terms
- Assisting with the ideation and study design for the next phase of the lab's cross-cultural work in Gujarat, India

Academic Internship Program, University at California, San Diego

2023 - present

Mentors: Dr. Gail D. Heyman (UC San Diego), Nina Schoener (UC Berkeley)

Summer Intern

- Wrote a research paper titled 'Little Listeners, Big Learners: Exploring How Children Engage With Overheard Speech' capturing the literature, methods, procedure, and preliminary results from the pilot phase of the overheard conversations study I worked on during my summer internship.
- Conducted an informational interview with Nina Schoener and wrote a report on my takeaways about the responsibilities of a PhD student, developments in the field, and resources for prospective students
- Submitted weekly reflections to demonstrate the core competencies learned during the program like research ability, oral presentation skills, written communication, technological fluency, and collaboration

Faculty Mentorship Program, University of California, San Diego

2024

(PI: Dr. Gail Heyman)

Mentee

- Authored an in-depth research paper 'Bridging Disciplines: Understanding Social Norms through a Conceptual Synthesis' under the guidance of Dr. Heyman and Dr. Waltzer
- The paper offers a holistic synthesis of the formation, fluidity, and force of social norms across disciplines like healthcare, economic systems, political systems, and academic institutions, while simultaneously offering implications for future research
- Presented the paper and the poster at the UC San Diego Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Accepted as a poster presentation for the 'Origins of Social Mind' mini-SPSP preconference in 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructional Assistant, University of California, San Diego

2024

PSYC 193L: Laboratory Topics in Psychology

- Attended weekly teaching team meetings, developed lecture materials, and created weekly quiz questions
- Evaluated and graded assignments, monitored student progress, and facilitated discussions
- Held weekly office hours to provide personalized feedback on assignments and review missed concepts
- Maintained channels of communication and discussion boards with students on Canvas, Discord, and email to address their questions and provide a space for intellectual conversation amongst peers

Instructional Assistant, University of California, San Diego

2024

COGS 17: Neurobiology of Cognition

- Facilitate weekly discussion sections to review class material with smaller, focused groups
- Hold weekly office hours to answer students' questions and review their performance
- Attend regular teaching team meetings to ensure ongoing communication regarding student progress
- Assist with course preparation, proctoring of examinations, grading of homework, quizzes, exams, and extra credit assignments

Peer Mentor, University of California, San Diego

2024 - 2025

Social and Cognitive Development Lab

- Organized and conducted one-on-one mentoring sessions to support a foreign transfer student
- Provided targeted support in formal writing, including lab report writing and APA-style formatting
- Guided and reviewed students' weekly progress and end-of-quarter presentations

Peer Educator, University of California, San Diego

2024 - 2025

Academic Integrity Office

- Lead multiple sections of the Academic Integrity Seminar and conduct workshops on Collaborating with Integrity
- Provide support for students who have experienced academic integrity violations to help them navigate their challenges and enhance their academic practices
- Facilitate reading and writing workshops focused on the principles of academic integrity and core values in education
- Guide students in brainstorming and practicing strategies to prevent integrity violations and achieve academic success
- Grade student assignments to provide constructive feedback

PUBLICATIONS

Gupta, J., Shua, S., Heyman, G., Rohde, H., (under review) Inferring Moral Shortcomings From Targeted Reminders.

Gupta, J., Bulgarelli, F., (in prep) Decoding addressee: Discriminating between infant-directed and overheard speech produced by parents and siblings.

Gupta, J., Bulgarelli, F., (in prep) Word learning across domains: Preschoolers' selective use of child and adult informants.

PRESENTATIONS

Gupta, J., Bulgarelli, F., (2026) Word learning across domains: Preschoolers' selective use of child and adult informants. [Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Meeting, Montreal, CA.]

Gupta, J., & Heyman, G. D. (2025). How children make sense of praise: The role of pragmatic inferences in social reasoning. [Poster presented at the Western Psychological Association annual convention, Las Vegas, NV.]

Gupta, J., Waltzer, T., & Heyman, G. D. (2024). Bridging Disciplines: Understanding Social Norms through a Conceptual Synthesis. [Poster presented at the University of California, San Diego OURS Symposium, San Diego, CA.]

Gupta, J., Waltzer, T., & Heyman, G. D. (2024). Bridging Disciplines: Understanding Social Norms through a Conceptual Synthesis. [Poster presented at the 'Origins of Social Mind', mini-SPSP online preconference]

HONORS & AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Inductee, Sigma Chapter, UC San Diego	2025
Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award, UC San Diego	2025
Provost Honors, UC San Diego.	2023 - 2024
All India Rank Merit Holder, 2nd Rank (out of ~100,000 students)	2022

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Center for Early Literacy and Responsible AI, University at Buffalo	Jan 2026 - May 2026
<i>Volunteer</i>	

- Contributed to an interdisciplinary, multi-university project investigating early literacy and children's language development
- Transcribed preschool- and kindergarten-aged children's interviews using ACLEW annotation schemes.
- Prepared annotated speech data for subsequent linguistic and developmental analysis

Psi Chi International Society, University of California, San Diego	2022 - present
<i>Member</i>	

- Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology that encourages, stimulates, and maintains excellence in scholarship while advancing the field of psychology
- Engaged in various activities such as organizing and attending guest lectures, professional development workshops, community service projects, and psychology-related field trips

Triton Brain Injury Network, University of California, San Diego	2023
<i>Member</i>	

- The Triton Brain Injury Network supports those affected by brain injuries through outreach, education, and advocacy
- Actively participated in outreach initiatives aimed at providing recreational and emotional support for brain injury survivors. This includes attending regular one-on-one meetings and monthly group gatherings. During these sessions, I helped facilitate social interactions, encourage rehabilitation, and foster a sense of community among the survivors

stART – The creative catharsis	2020 - 2022
<i>Founder</i>	

- stART was an online platform that provided a creative outlet for people of all ages to express themselves through art, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Organized and led over 40 engaging art workshops and mental wellness programs for children and adults, encouraging participants to think, feel, engage, and create

Artizen by Jiya Gupta

2020 - 2022

Founder

- Artizen was a social venture where I designed and created a wide range of personalized, artistic products. The initiative combined creativity with social responsibility, making a tangible impact on the lives of those in need
- Sold over 50 products to 60 unique customers, which were exclusively designed and painted by me.
- Raised \$2,500, which I donated to the Kinnari Foundation, an NGO dedicated to supporting the higher education of 30 girls (ages 15-18) who are at risk of dropping out of school due to family or financial constraints

Sukoon Health, Delhi

2021

Volunteer Intern

- Sukoon Health is a mental health care provider that offers a range of psychological services including therapy, counseling, and support groups
- Engaged in discussions on various psychology topics, assisted with art therapy sessions, and contributed insights during case study analyses related to the biological and social factors influencing stress and trauma

What's on my mind? A-Z edition.

2021

Author

- Authored a book titled "What's on My Mind?" which is an anthology of twenty-six poems exploring the complexities of the human mind and emotions. The poems are written to inspire readers to reflect on their thoughts and enhance their social and emotional awareness (<https://www.whats-on-my-mind.com/>)
- The book is now published and available on Amazon. Proceeds from sales and royalties are donated to support developmental programs for underprivileged girls in India

Autism Support Group, Mumbai

2021

Volunteer Intern

- The Autism Support Group provides resources and support for children with autism and their families with a focus on improving emotional well-being and social integration
- Contributed to the development and delivery of art-based therapy for children with autism to improve emotional regulation and reduce social discomfort, promoting a more inclusive environment

Fortis Hospital, Department of Mental Health, Delhi

2020

Volunteer Intern

- The Department of Mental Health at Fortis Hospital offers comprehensive psychiatric care by integrating psychological principles with medical practice to treat various mental health conditions
- Gained practical experience in both the theoretical concepts and hands-on applications of clinical psychology

Savera Special School, Mumbai

2017 - 2020

Volunteer

- The Savera Special School provides education and support for children with intellectual disabilities, focusing on holistic development and inclusion
- Volunteered twice a week to teach English, Math, Dance, and Art to children with mental disabilities, fostering their cognitive and creative growth in a supportive learning environment

CERTIFICATIONS

Co-Curricular Record in Psychology, University of California, San Diego 2023

- The Co-Curricular Record Certification in Career Development for Psychology at UC San Diego enables students to explore various career-related topics through participation in diverse activities
- Participated in workshops, information sessions, educational initiatives and events focused on student development, like the All-Majors Career Fair, Diversifying Psychology Events, Career Development in Psychology Information Sessions, Research Opportunities for Psychology Events, and Careers in Mind workshops

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program (CITI Program) Certificated Courses 2023

- Basic Human Subjects - Social & Behavioral Focus
- Research Involving Children (ID:9)
- Group 2 Social and Behavioral Research Investigators
- Conflicts of Interest
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Leader, Review Team, Social Cognitive Development Lab, University of California, San Diego	2024 – 2025
Design Editor, School publications, The Cathedral and John Connon school, Mumbai	2021 - 2022
Director, Psych-Socio Seminar, The Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai	2021 - 2022
Charge ‘affairs - School MUN, The Cathedral and John Connon school, Mumbai	2021 - 2022
School Prefect and House Monitor, The Cathedral and John Connon school, Mumbai	2021 - 2022
President, Interact Club, The Cathedral and John Connon school, Mumbai	2024 - 2025

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Programming languages: Python (beginner), R (intermediate)

Computer softwares: Eyetracking (SMI), DataVyu, ELAN (ACLEW Gold Standard Certified), Praat, JsPsych, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (fluent)