

KAYLA CHELSEA THOMAS

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Education:

University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, California
Doctoral Student in School Psychology; GPA: 4.00
Degree: Ph.D., expected May 2028

Stanford University, Palo Alto, California
Major: Psychology; Minors: Education, Spanish
Degree: B.A., June 2022

Awards and Fellowships:

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship University of California, Berkeley
• Awarded fellowship in summer 2024 for advanced psychological Spanish study in Trujillo, Perú

Chancellor's Fellowship 2022 University of California, Berkeley

Andrea Naomi Leiderman Fellowship 2021 Stanford Haas Center for Public Service
• Awarded fellowship in summer 2021 for a student excelling in psychology and education research with a commitment to public service

Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education Research Grant 2020 Stanford University
• Awarded VPUE grant in 2020 to participate in summer research at the Biobehavioral Pediatric Pain Lab

PAC 12 Academic Honor Roll 2019, 2020

Clinical and Teaching Experience:

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Department of Psychology, UC Berkeley
Professor: Silvia Bunge, PhD August 2024 – Present
• Works as GSI (20 hours/week) for PSYCH 125: The Developing Brain
• Teaches 70 students in three discussion sections
• Supports student understanding of cognitive developmental neuroscience
• Will deliver lecture to 140 students titled "Why should educators care about the brain?"

Clinical Trainee PASEO Salud Mental
Supervisors: Brienne Kohrt, PhD; David Martínez, PhD; Lourdes Cabel Salinas, Lic. June – July 2024
• Conducted developmental and cognitive evaluations with children
• Provided psychosocial consults and mental health outreach
• Developed linguistic and cultural competency in Peruvian Spanish
• Completed all work in Trujillo, Perú with nonprofit, Sayariy Resurgiendo

Assessment Trainee Think College Now, OUSD
Supervisor: Stephanie D'Costa, PhD August 2023 – May 2024
• Write 6 psychoeducational reports for elementary school students
• Administer neuropsychological assessments in both English and Spanish
• Present at IEP meetings

Consultation Trainee Berkeley Early Childhood Education Programs

Supervisor: Amanda McKerracher, PhD

August 2023 – May 2024

- Provide classroom support in preschool classroom
- Teach weekly social emotional learning curriculum
- Conduct weekly consultation sessions with classroom teacher to improve class environment

Consultation Trainee

Think College Now

Supervisor: Stephanie D'Costa, PhD

August 2023 – May 2024

- Provide classroom support in Kindergarten classroom in both English and Spanish
- Lead weekly small group instruction for social emotional improvement
- Conduct weekly consultation sessions with classroom teacher to improve class environment

Graduate Tutor

University of California Berkeley

Supervisor: Tony Mirabelli, PhD

August 2023 – December 2023

- Provide 13 hours/week of one on one support to Berkeley Student athletes
- Teach students academic skills and support students emotionally as they navigate academics/athletics

Reader

University of California Berkeley

Supervisor: Everett Wetchler

January 2023 – May 2023

- Helped prepare examinations for Psych 2: Principles of Psychology Course
- Administered and graded examinations for >100 students

Classroom Assistant

Piedmont Unified School District

Supervisor: Alejandra Ojeda-Beck, PhD

January 2023 – May 2023

- Observed classrooms in Piedmont High School, Middle School, and Millennium High
- Provided individualized supports to middle and high school students during Academy period

Classroom Assistant

Piedmont Avenue Elementary School

Supervisor: Alejandra Ojeda-Beck, PhD

September 2022 – December 2022

- Provided general classroom support to a first-grade classroom in Oakland
- Worked one on one with students providing academic supports
- Informally assessed students on reading abilities

Assistant EdP Fellow and Math Tutor

Stanford Haas Center for Public Service

Preschool Counts

March 2021 – June 2022

Supervisor: Renee Scott, PhD

- Volunteer tutored with Stanford's Preschool Counts service-learning program
- Lead early math learning intervention by meeting one-on-one with preschool students
- Supervised other tutors and help organize program

Education Partnerships Fellow and Literacy Tutor

Stanford Haas Center for Public Service

Ravenswood Reads

September 2021 – June 2022

Supervisor: Renee Scott, PhD

- Lead one-on-one tutoring sessions with kindergarten students in East Palo Alto to improve student literacy and reading skills
- Supervised other tutors and organized program

Health Teacher

John F. Kennedy Middle School, Redwood City

Health Education for Life, Partnerships for Kids (HELP 4 Kids)

December 2020 – June 2021

- Lead weekly health education class for sixth graders
- Implemented curriculum that supports adolescents in their overall social-emotional and physical wellbeing

Swim and Dance Instructor

Stanford, CA

Kids with Dreams

January 2021 – June 2022

- Taught fitness and health classes to adolescents and young adult students with a variety of developmental delays
- Co-taught weekly dance and swim lessons
- Facilitated social engagement and provide social-emotional support during participants' peer interactions

Volunteer Teacher

East Palo Alto, CA

East Palo Alto Academy

January 2020 – March 2020

- Co-taught high school Spanish poetry class to a class of native speakers
- Co-created and implemented lesson plans with a focus on Latin American poetry
- Worked closely with students and supported them in personal poetry projects

Intern

New York City, NY

The Gillen Brewer School

September 2014 – September 2018

- Volunteered throughout high school at a therapeutic preschool and elementary school serving students with developmental delays
- Assisted the therapeutic team in teaching a social-emotional curriculum to support children in identifying their emotions and problem solving
- Participated in literacy activities related to the *Sounds In Motion* program
- Modeled and facilitated pretend play

Research Experience:

Doctoral Student Researcher

Berkeley School of Education

Risk, Resilience, and Culture Lab

August 2022 – Present

PI: Chunyan Yang, PhD

- Assist in coordination of study examining trauma-informed leadership and teaching practices of Transitional Kindergarten educators
- Create interview protocol and conduct hour long, semi-structured interviews with Transitional Kindergarten teachers

Research Assistant

Stanford University Graduate School of Education

Stanford Project on Adaptation and Resilience in Kids (SPARK Lab)

June 2021 – June 2022

PI: Jelena Obradović, PhD

- Assisted in coordination of social-emotional learning curriculum (*Kimochis*) study as part of research-practice partnership with San Francisco Unified School District
- Processed and clean data using R and Excel and create surveys using Qualtrics
- Conducted literature reviews for lab and personal projects
- Collected social-emotional learning data and classroom observational data at SF preschools in English and Spanish
- Initiated and work on independent project researching social-emotional learning and school readiness in students with IEPs

Research Assistant
Biobehavioral Pediatric Pain Lab
PI: Laura E. Simons, PhD

Stanford University School of Medicine
September 2019 – June 2021

- Assisted in organization of fear conditioning study and graded exposure therapy study
- Initiated independent project focused on memory bias through qualitative interviews by conducting and transcribing 100+ interviews, creating coding scheme, training coders and using SPSS to interpret data
- Used FreeSurfer neuroimaging software to edit MRI data for 100+ participants
- Conducted study visits with participants, both in the lab and at the MRI scanner, using E-Prime

Research Assistant
American Voices Project

Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (SCPI)
January 2021 – March 2021

PIs: Vanessa Coleman, PhD; Peter Cookson, PhD; Kathryn Edin, PhD; Corey Fields, PhD; Jonathan Fisher, PhD; Stephanie Garlow, PhD; David Grusky, PhD; C. Matthew Snipp, PhD; Charles Varner, PhD

- Collaborated with researchers from SCPI, Princeton University Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, and the American Institutes for Research
- Conducted in-depth (3.5 hour) qualitative interviews with participants throughout the United States
- Used NVivo coding software and detailed coding scheme to interpret data about the American experience during the pandemic
- Assisted in writing crisis reports

Abstracts and Poster Presentations:

Thomas, K.C., Heathcote, L.C., Timmers, I., Perry, C.E., Noel, M., Simons, L.E. (2020, December 9-11) *Memory bias for learned threat and safety cues in youth with chronic pain* [Poster Presentation] USASP 2020 Conference, virtual. (Abstract published in *Journal of Pain*, Volume 22, Issue 5, P607)

Perry, C.E., Thomas, K.C., Heathcote, L.C., Borsook, D., Simons, L.E., Timmers, I. (2020, December 9-11) *The role of hippocampus and amygdala morphology in memory bias of learned fear in youth with chronic pain* [Poster Presentation] USASP 2020 Conference, virtual. (Abstract published in *Journal of Pain*, Volume 22, Issue 5, P604)

Leadership Experience:

Division I Athlete

Stanford, CA

Stanford Women's Rowing

September 2018 – June 2021

- Balanced 20+ hours per week of training, travel, and competition with academic schedule
- Demonstrated the ability to set and achieve both individual and team goals at a high level
- Adeptly performed in high-pressure, competitive situations
- Helped team achieve top 5 NCAA finishes three years in a row

Volunteer

San Francisco, CA

Caridades Católicas

March 2021 – June 2021

- Conducted phone calls in Spanish to help recent immigrants register for COVID-19 vaccination
- Counseled immigrants in Spanish to help them register for health insurance through Covered California

Student Ambassador

Stanford, CA

Rubenstein-Bing Student Athlete Civic Engagement (ACE) Program

June 2020 – June 2021

- Chosen to participate in international service program, ACE in Perú
- Selected to work through Stanford-Duke University partnership to promote service opportunities for athletes on campus through meetings and social media outreach

Team Captain and Assistant Coach
City Island Rowing

Bronx, NY
2017 – 2018

- Won national championship in Women’s Single Sculls
- Voted captain by teammates and led team in bonding activities and group workouts
- Coached middle school and high school rowers in one-on-one and group settings
- Mentored teammates during national and international competitions

Team Captain
Voices Against Brain Cancer

New York, NY
2012 – 2018

- Raised more than \$57,000 for brain cancer research and was honored as the 2012 Youth Ambassador

Industry Experience:

Operations Intern
Qwell

New York, NY
June – August 2019

- Edited and created new web pages using WordPress for July 2019 launch of startup that provides online medical booking platform for patients and doctors
- Designed drip campaigns and marketing emails
- Recruited doctors to join the Qwell provider network through cold calling
- Worked 40 hours/week for summer

Skills, Interests and Professional Affiliations:

- Languages: Spanish (Advanced Clinical Competency, August 2024), English (Native), Portuguese (Intermediate)
- Software: R, Stata, FreeSurfer, NVivo, Microsoft Office, Qualtrics, and REDCap
- Professional Organizations: Student Affiliate of APA Division 53 and Division 16
- Interests: Watersports, baking, hiking, camping