Department of Psychology • University of California, Riverside

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**Education**

2024(expected) **Developmental Psychology – Ph.D.**

2021 **Developmental Psychology – M. A.**

University of California, Riverside (UCR)

Advisor: Misaki N. Natsuaki, Ph.D.

2019  **Psychology – B.A.** (*Summa cum laude*)

GPA – 4.0

California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

2016 **Psychology – A.A.** *(Summa cum laude)*

**Welding – A.S.** *(Summa cum laude)*

Antelope Valley College (AVC)

**Awards and Honors**

2020 – 2021 **Outstanding Teaching Assistant** – UCR

2019 – 2021 **Eugene Cota Robles** Fellowship – UCR

2017 – 2019 National Institute of Health (NIH) **BUILD PODER Scholar** (Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity; Promoting Opportunities for Diversity in Education and Research) ($40,000) – CSUN

2019 **BUILD PODER CLUB** Scholarship – CSUN

2016 – 2018 **Dean’s List** – CSUN

2014 – 2016 **President’s List** – AVC

**Certifications**

2021 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 4-Digit Diagnostic Code Online Course *– University of Washington*

2021 Biomedical Conduct of Research – *Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)*

2018 Summer Training Academy For Research Success (STARS) – *University of California San Diego (UCSD)*

2017 Protecting Human Research Participants – *(NIH)*

**Publications**

Natsuaki, M. N., **Perez, E. V.,** Mehrkesh, A. (in press) Acne. In R. Levesque (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Adolescence* (3rd ed.)

Todd, T., Miodrag, N., Salazar, M., Endinjok, B., **Perez, E.,** Jensen, J. (in preparation). The effects of a peer-mentored physical activity program on health-related fitness and physical activity of college students on the Autism Spectrum

**Perez, E. V.,** Natsuaki, M. N., Leve, L. D., Ganiban, J. M., Shaw, D. S., Riess, & D., Neidershier, J. M. (in preparation). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and maternal self-reports of prenatal alcohol exposure: Do they converge?

Varghese, A., **Perez, E. V.,** Natsuaki, M. N., Neiderhiser, J., Shaw, D., Ganiban, J., Reiss, D., Leve, L. (in preparation). Faith can get you through it: Investigating the impact of spirituality and knowledge about adoptive parents on birth parents’ perinatal grief*.*

**Research Presentations**

**Perez, E. V.,** Natsuaki, M. N., Neiderhiser, J., Shaw, D., Ganiban, J., Reiss, D., Leve, L (2022, May). *Investigating the effects of post-adoption grief on biological mothers’ parenting of children not placed for adoption.* Oral Presentation at the Rudd Summer Adoption Research Institute 22, Virtual

Varghese, A., **Perez, E. V.,** Natsuaki, M. N., Neiderhiser, J., Shaw, D., Ganiban, J., Reiss, D., Leve, L (2021, July). *Faith can get you through it: Investigating the impact of spirituality and knowledge about adoptive parents on birth parents’ perinatal grief.* Oral Presentation at the International Conference on Adoption Research 7, Virtual

Todd, T., Miodrag, N., Jensen, J., Marks, E., Fitzpatrick, S., Bricker, J., Endinjok, B., & **Perez, E. V.** (May, 2021). *Comparing fitness levels of college students with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder.* Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Virtual.

**Perez, E. V.,** Natsuaki, M. N., Leve, L. D., Ganiban, J. M., Shaw, D. S., Riess, & D., Neidershier, J. M., (2021, April). *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and maternal self-reports of prenatal alcohol exposure: Do they converge?* Poster session presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual

Wang, J., **Perez, E. V.,** Varghese, A., Weichold, K., Natsuaki, M. N., (2020, March). *A mixed methods study of how culture shapes youths’ understanding of puberty and attitudes toward pubertal timing.* Poster session presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Diego, California. (Conference canceled)

Miodrag, N., Todd, T., Caris, M.**,** Endinjok, B., Herrera, R., **Perez, E.V.** & Salazar, M. (2019, May). *Stepping it up: Assessing physical activity of college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster session presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada

Miodrag, N., Todd, T., Caris, M.**,** Endinjok, B., Herrera, R., **Perez, E.V.** & Salazar, M. (2019, May). *Does participation in a peer-mentored physical activity intervention increase health-related fitness in college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder?* Poster session presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada

**Perez, E. V.,** & Tonyan, H. (2019, April)*“My best day is everyday”: A constructivist grounded theory study of contentment among family child care providers*. Poster session presented at the Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, California

Herrera, R., **Perez, E. V.**, Caris, M., Endinjok, B., Miodrag, N., & Todd, T. (2019, April). *Into Fitness Together: A physical activity intervention for college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster session presented at the CSUN StudentAnnual Research & Creative Works Symposium,

**Perez, E. V.,** & Deák, G. (2018, August). *Extending models of patterned input in maternal speech to prelinguistic infants*. Oral presentation at the annual UCSD Summer Research Conference, San Diego, CA.

Todd, T., Miodrag, N., Endinjok, B., Caris, M., **Perez, E.V.** (June, 2018). *Experiences of peers and peer-mentors during a peer-mentor physical activity program for college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster session presented at the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, Denver, Colorado.

Miodrag, N., Todd, T., Colgate, S., **Perez, E. V.,** Endinjok, B., & Salazar, M. (2018, May). *The effects of a peer supported physical activity intervention for college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster session presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

**Perez, E. V.,** Caris, M., Miodrag, N., & Todd, T. (2018, April). *Increasing physical activity and fitness among college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder through a peer supported intervention*. Poster session presented at the CSUN StudentAnnual Research & Creative Works Symposium, Northridge, CA.

**Research Experience**

2019-Present **Graduate Student Researcher**

*Developmental Transitions Lab*

PI: Dr. Misaki N. Natsuaki

UCR, Riverside, CA

2021-Present **Graduate Student Researcher**

*Adversity and Adaptation Lab*

PI: Dr. Tuppett Yates

UCR, Riverside, CA

2017-2019 **Biomedical Researcher**

*Into Fitness Together (IFiT)*

PI: Drs. Nancy Miodrag and Teri Todd

CSUN, Northridge, CA

*Autism Cultural Competency*

PI: Drs. Nancy Miodrag and Ivor Weiner

CSUN, Northridge, CA

Summer 2018 STARS **Research Assistant**

Cognitive Development Lab

PI: Dr. Gedeon Deák

UCSD, San Diego, CA

**Teaching Instructor**

*Course evaluations available upon request*

2022, Summer Abnormal Psychology – UCR

**Teaching Assistant**

*Course evaluations available upon request*

2022, Spring Life Span Development - UCR

2022, Fall Psychological Methods: Statistical Procedures – UCR

2021, Fall

2021, Summer Psychological Methods: Research Procedures – UCR

2020, Summer

2021, Spring Adolescent and Emerging Adulthood – UCR

2021, Winter Abnormal Psychology – UCR

2022, Winter

2020, Fall Introductory Psychology – UCR

**Invited talks & panels**

2022 BUILD PODER Summer Jumpstart Guest Talk – CSUN

2022 BUILD PODER Winter Panel- CSUN

**Service Experience**

2022 R’ PSYC Conference Review Committee Member – UCR

2020 Ross D. Parke Lecture Series – UCR

*Co-organizer*

2019-2021 Japan Trans Pacific Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Program – Tokyo, Japan; UCR

**Skills**

**Languages:** Fluent in English, Proficient in Spanish

**Research/Statistics:** MPLUS; SPSS; ELAN; CLAN; R Software; Qualitative analysis through generic coding and constructivist grounded theory methods

**Membership**

**Professional**

2021 Society for Research in Child Development

2019 International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)

2018-2019 Western Psychological Association – Student Affiliate Member

2018 North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity (NASPSPA)

**University**

2018 CSUN’s Autism Affinity Group

2017 CSUN’s Institute For Sustainability