

# BANANA PSYCH

**UCSC Psychology Newsletter, Fall 2016, Volume 28**  
**Editor: Joel Schooler**



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### Credits:

**Cover Photo: Victoria Hollis**

**Editor: Joel Schooler**

## Accomplishments

**Joanna Weill:** Finished the Program

**Annie Ditta:** Qualified

**Talia Waltzer:** "Helped out with a symposium for undergraduate research in the social sciences and humanities ([tinyurl.com/SURU-HASS](http://tinyurl.com/SURU-HASS))"

**Margarita Azmitia:** "My daughters, Maria-Andrea and Carmen, and I started volunteering with the Warming Center for the homeless mid December--we also collected warm clothes, boots, and blankets from friends and colleagues to donate."

**Sara Goodman:** "took a job as a Research Analyst in the Division of Advancement and External Affairs at snowy, cold (but beautiful!) Syracuse University and relocated to upstate NY in December. Travis & I presented a poster at the 2016 Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in Boston, MA in November."

**Erin Toolis:** "A revised version of my qualifying exam was accepted to be published in the American Journal of Community Psychology:"

**Christine Rosales:** "Launched a new achievement program at the Women's Center called M.I.N.T. (Matriculating, Influencing, Networking, Triumphant). It is a mentorship programs that assists womyn from underrepresented backgrounds in applying to Ph.D. and Master's programs. The goals for the program are to help womyn: create strong applications for graduate school, build a relationship with a graduate student mentor, build a strong community with other womyn in the program, reclaim spaces within the university for critical dialogue and consciousness raising, and disrupt the academe by having people who live on the margins come to the center to write, publish, research, advocate for social change, and threaten white male fragility."

**Pat Samermit:** "Presented a poster on irony and embodiment at the Current Trends in Figurative Language Research Workshop in Tübingen, Germany. I ate a lot of schnitzel!"

**Kelsey James:** "...recently found out that my undergrad research was accepted to a conference (AERA). I will be going there in April (under a travel grant from my former advisor) and presenting my research on learning from language games. "

## Faculty Highlight: Leila Takayama



### Would you please share your background with us?

I was born in Honolulu and grew up there until middle school. Then our family moved to Palo Alto and I've lived in the Bay Area ever since. I'm a bit of a traitor, going to UC Berkeley for undergrad and then Stanford for grad school. After spending more than a few years doing research in industry at places like Willow Garage and GoogleX, I decided it was important to me (and my work) to be able to do research out in the open, collaborating with other people, disciplines, and institutions.

### What attracted you to this position at UCSC?

The open, creative, interdisciplinary, and supportive community here at UCSC is incredibly appealing to me. I'm incredibly excited about the growing human-computer interaction (HCI) community here, cutting across multiple divisions and departments. Also, living near the ocean and working in the redwoods helps me to be more centered and think more clearly.

### What do you enjoy the most about working in the UCSC psychology department?

Working with students on getting closer to their life and career goals is the best. In the past few months, I've found the most joy in helping students gain new perspectives, apply their knowledge to real world problems, discover their passions, and pursue them (e.g., land internships, join a research lab). There are lots of exciting things going on with starting up a new research lab, learning about colleagues' work, and teaching, but I get the deepest satisfaction from the one-on-one mentoring that I get to do here.

### Do you have any hobbies or interests that you would like to share with us?

Despite being from Hawaii, I've always loved winter sports. As a kid, I used to do competitive figure skating and recreational Alpine skiing. I still love doing both. I also like to knit, throw pottery, hike, practice yoga, play badminton (in a gym, not in a backyard), travel, and learn new skills. Last year, I finally worked my way up to running a 5K. Now that I live in Santa Cruz, I'm learning how to surf. Getting in and out of wetsuits takes some practice!

### Is there anything else you'd like to share with the psychology community?

Please stop by and visit anytime. I am almost always up for a coffee or going out for a walk. I'm not a foodie, but I do appreciate a good latte, milk tea, or dark chocolate. Believe it or not, I don't read much science fiction and was never on a robotics team. I just like robots because of the things we learn about ourselves through using them. That's why I'm calling my group the Re-embodied Cognition (ReCo) Lab rather than the Human-Robot Interaction Lab. It's not about the robots. It's about the people.

## Welcome to all the new Grad Students!



**Mike Vallerga** is a California native, having attended San Jose State University for his BA and MA. Later, he taught there as a lecturer for two years, before attending UC Santa Cruz. His research interests center around gender, sexuality, and power. As such, he was fortunate to become a GSA representative for the the Title IX Office's Community Coordinated Review Team for Sexual Assault and Harassment. His adviser is Eileen Zurbriggen.



**Ibette Valle:** I recently graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle and grew up just 3 hours south of there in Vancouver, WA. My parents and siblings came to the United States as immigrants and we made our living on the fields as migrant farmworkers. When I started school, I was my happiest in the classroom, learning and mastering subjects was such a great feeling yet I spent a lot of time in my youth wondering why what we did at home was “different” from the other kids in my classes. When I would speak about my desire to go to college my parents couldn’t

understand what it meant or how someone like me could do something like that, it was unheard of. This little bit of my past, along with incredible and memorable experiences with other first-generation college students throughout college is what drives my research interests here at UCSC. With the mentorship of Rebecca Covarrubias in the Social area, I am going to focus on first-generation college students, their families (I am especially interested in Latinx families), and the cultural transition to college. It is my hope that I will also be able to work with Latinx families in Watsonville who participate in agricultural work. I am looking forward to my time here at UCSC!



**Giselle Laiduc:** I am from Tempe, Arizona. I graduated from the University of Arizona in 2011 with a BS in Psychology and a BA in Spanish/Portuguese. I love modern art and took a lot of art and art history classes for my minors as well. I work with Dr. Rebecca Covarrubias in her Culture and Achievement Collaboratory alongside Ibette Valle. I am interested in developing and implementing cultural interventions to help increase the recruitment and retention of underrepresented

students in STEM. I seek to do this by eventually shifting the cultural contexts of academic institutions to be more inclusive of diverse students.



**Camille Conery:** I graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 2008 with a B.A. in psychology, then went to law school at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. After law school I worked as a lawyer for a couple of years, before deciding to come back to graduate school. Now I am back at UCSC, in the social psych area. My advisor is Craig Haney, and my research interest is in psych and law.



**Sean Stone** is a first year graduate student working with Ben Storm. Sean re-joins the Storm Lab after being involved in the lab as an undergraduate here at UCSC. Sean is interested in exploring memory dynamics in the context of computers and the Internet, focusing in particular on how people use digital technology as a form of cognitive offloading.

**Note:** These are graduate students who submitted bios. Please check the department page for a full current list.

## Publications and Presentations

Radmacher, K. A., & Azmitia, M. (2016). Family Emotional Support and the Individuation Process Among Asian-and Latino-Heritage College-Going Emerging Adults. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.

Azmitia, M. (in Press). Social Identity

Juan, M. J. D., Syed, M., & Azmitia, M. (2016). Intersectionality of Race/Ethnicity and Gender Among Women of Color and White Women. *Identity*, 16(4), 225-238.

Thomas, V., & Azmitia, M. (2016). Tapping Into the App Updating the Experience Sampling Method for the 21st Century. *Emerging Adulthood*, 4(1), 60-67.

Thomas, V., Azmitia, M., & Whittaker, S. (2016). Unplugged: Exploring the costs and benefits of constant connection. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 63, 540-548.

Acacia Overoye "Presented a poster, "'Observer's body movements affect ability to process gestures'" at Psychonomics in Boston.

Azmitia, M. (in press) Social identity. In M. Bornstein (Ed. K. Fingerman, Section Ed.), *Sage Encyclopedia of Lifespan Development*, Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA

Regina Langhout Langhout, R.D., Ellison, E.R., Kohfeldt, D., Nguyen, A., Fernández, J.S., Silva, J.M., Gordon Jr, D.L., & Tam Rosas, S. (2016). Thinking through our processes: How the UCSC Community Psychology Research & Action Team strives to embody ethical, critically reflexive anti-racist feminist praxis. *Global Journal of Community Psychology Practice*, 7(4), 1-11. Available at <http://www.gjcpp.org/pdfs/2ReginaL-et-al.pdf>

Sam Hughes: I presented a paper on Prison Masturbation Policies at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Conference in Phoenix Arizona. I was also extensively quoted in an article for Vice on the same topic: [https://tonic.vice.com/en\\_us/article/why-its-illegal-for-prisoners-to-masturbate](https://tonic.vice.com/en_us/article/why-its-illegal-for-prisoners-to-masturbate)

Annie Ditta: Presented a poster titles "'When Are Incubation Periods Most Helpful for Problem Solving?'" at Psychonomics."

Toolis, E. E. (In press). Theorizing critical placemaking as a tool for reclaiming public space. *American Journal of Community Psychology*."

Giselle Laiduc: I am going to the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in San Antonio to present a poster (in Jan 2017). I didn't do anything cool in the fall quarter. :)

Ibette Valle: I will be presenting a poster at SPSP.

## Kooky Quarterly

We asked faculty and grad students what they would bring on a conference trip...

- S'mores
- Fruit bars
- Chocolate covered pretzels
- Chocolate
- Coffee! x 3
- Oatmeal.
- Cheez-its
- Trader Joe's Coconut Strips
- An entire carton of goldfish crackers
- Chex Mix
- Kombucha x 2
- Hot Cheetos
- Peanuts
- Caffeinated mints. An infinite amount of them.
- Oreos
- Reviewer 3's Tears
- Wine
- Lara bars
- Circus Cookies

## In Memoriam Bruce Bridgeman



*1944-2016*

<https://brucebridgeman.sites.ucsc.edu>