



## Emily Ferguson, PhD

Postdoctoral Scholar, Psychiatry

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### Bio

#### BIO

Emily Ferguson, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral academic researcher and clinician within Stanford University's Autism and Developmental Disorders Research Program (<https://med.stanford.edu/autism.html>) within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of California Santa Barbara and completed her clinical internship at the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Ferguson's research focuses on advancing understanding of mechanisms of challenging behaviors in autistic youth and adults to inform treatment development. Her work takes a comprehensive perspective, integrating methods from implementation science to improve the accessibility and quality of clinical care for underserved autistic populations, especially those with higher support needs (or "profound autism"). She is also interested in developing methods to improve self-regulation in individuals with profound autism to effectively manage self-injurious behaviors and aggression. Dr. Ferguson is currently supporting research in the Preschool Autism Lab (<https://med.stanford.edu/autismcenter/pre-school-autism-lab-program.html>), and exploring profiles of challenging behaviors with the Program for Psychometrics and Measurement-Based Care (<https://med.stanford.edu/sppmc.html>) in a diverse range of autistic and non-autistic youth to inform treatment approaches.

#### INSTITUTE AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

#### STANFORD ADVISORS

- Antonio Hardan, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

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### Publications

#### PUBLICATIONS

- **Self-injurious behaviors with increased likelihood of injury in autistic youth: The role of distress linked to a strong preference for sameness.** *Autism : the international journal of research and practice*  
Ferguson, E. F., Spackman, E., Hardan, A. Y., Uljarević, M.  
2025: 13623613251396036
- **One Size Doesn't Fit All: Variability in Autistic Children's Response to Pivotal Response Treatment** *BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES*  
Schuck, R. K., Jevtic, E., Ferguson, E. F., Millan, M., Slap, D. M., Uljarevic, M., Phillips, J. M., Hardan, A. Y., Gengoux, G. W.  
2025; 15 (12)
- **Challenging Behavior Domains in Individuals With Neurodevelopmental Genetic Syndromes: The Role of Psychological Features.** *American journal of medical genetics. Part B, Neuropsychiatric genetics : the official publication of the International Society of Psychiatric Genetics*  
Ferguson, E. F., Frazier, T. W., Hardan, A. Y., Uljarević, M.  
2025

- **Transdiagnostic Examination of Interrelationships Between Anxiety, Insistence on Sameness and Compulsions** *AUTISM RESEARCH*  
Spackman, E., Chetcuti, L., Baker, E. K., Ferguson, E. F., Yerys, B. E., Herrington, J. D., Frazier, T. W., Leekam, S. R., Hardan, A. Y., Harrington, J. W., Uljarević, M.  
2025
- **Transdiagnostic Examination of Interrelationships Between Anxiety, Insistence on Sameness and Compulsions.** *Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research*  
Spackman, E., Chetcuti, L., Baker, E. K., Ferguson, E. F., Yerys, B. E., Herrington, J. D., Frazier, T. W., Leekam, S. R., Hardan, A. Y., Harrington, J. W., Uljarević, M.  
2025
- **Using Language Environment Analysis System (LENA) in Natural Settings to Characterize Outcomes of Pivotal Response Treatment.** *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*  
Ferguson, E. F., Steele, M., Schuck, R. K., Millan, M. E., Libove, R. A., Phillips, J. M., Gengoux, G. W., Hardan, A. Y.  
2025
- **Family experiences with supplemental social security income and legal guardianship for autistic adults: A mixed-methods study** *RESEARCH IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS*  
Ferguson, E. F., Clarke, E. B., Schisterman, N., Lord, C.  
2025; 119
- **Family Experiences with Supplemental Social Security Income and Legal Guardianship for Autistic Adults: A Mixed-Methods Study.** *Research in autism spectrum disorders*  
Ferguson, E. F., Clarke, E., Schisterman, N., Lord, C.  
2025; 119
- **Toward improved understanding and treatment of self-injurious behaviors in autistic individuals with profound intellectual disability.** *Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research*  
Ferguson, E. F., Russell, K. M., Licona, S. J., Cai, R. Y., Frazier, T. W., Vivanti, G., Gengoux, G. W., Hardan, A. Y., Uljarević, M.  
2024
- **Exploring the Heterogeneity of Self-Injurious Behaviors in Autistic Youth: Patterns, Predictors, and Implications for Intervention.** *Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research*  
Ferguson, E. F., Spackman, E., Cai, R. Y., Hardan, A. Y., Uljarević, M.  
2024
- **CHARACTERIZING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN CLINICAL FEATURES AND DIVERSE TOPOGRAPHIES OF SELF-INJURIOUS BEHAVIORS IN AUTISTIC YOUTH**  
Ferguson, E. F., Spackman, E., Hardan, A., Uljarevic, M.  
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2024: S328
- **ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION FOR SUICIDAL AND SELF-HARM BEHAVIORS IN YOUTH**  
Ferguson, E. F.  
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2024: S327
- **Characterizing associations between emotion dysregulation, anxiety, and repetitive behaviors in autistic youth with intellectual disability.** *Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research*  
Ferguson, E. F., Spackman, E., Cai, R. Y., Hardan, A. Y., Uljarević, M.  
2024
- **"There is No Help:" Caregiver Perspectives on Service Needs for Adolescents and Adults with Profound Autism.** *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*  
Ferguson, E. F., Barnett, M. L., Goodwin, J. W., Vernon, T. W.  
2024