

Rebecca Zhu

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Last Updated: June 2024

Employment

Postdoctoral Scholar – Stanford University Principal Investigator: Michael C. Frank	2023 – present
Postdoctoral Scholar – University of California, Berkeley Principal Investigator: Alison Gopnik	2022 – 2023
Lab Manager – Harvard University Principal Investigator: Susan Carey	2015 – 2017

Education

Ph.D. in Psychology – University of California, Berkeley Dissertation Committee: Alison Gopnik, Steven Piantadosi, John Campbell (philosophy)	2017 – 2022
Hon. B.Sc. in Psychology Research and English, Double Specialist – University of Toronto With High Distinction	2011 – 2015

External Research Grants

Aga Khan Foundation & Jacobs Foundation, Schools2030 Program (\$152,528 USD; Role: PI) “The development of picture comprehension: Improving learning materials and assessment tools in global contexts”	2021 – 2023
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Fellowships & Awards

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$140,000 CAD)	2024-2026
NAEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Semifinalist	2024
American Psychological Foundation Lorraine D. Eyde Grant (\$3,500 USD)	2023
Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute Fellowship (\$4,400 USD)	2023
Jean Piaget Society Dissertation Prize Finalist	2023
Institute of Cognitive and Brain Sciences Research Grant (\$5,000 USD)	2022
John L. Simpson ABD Graduate Research Fellowship in International Studies (\$7,500 USD)	2021
Barbara and Arnold Silverman Graduate Fellowship (\$3,000 USD)	2021
SURF SMART Mentoring Award (\$5,000 USD)	2021
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award	2021
Berkeley Psychology Department Graduate Student Instructor Excellence Award	2020
Center for Effective Global Action Seed Funding (\$4,400 USD)	2020
Society for Philosophy and Psychology Diversity Travel Award (\$100 USD)	2019
Berkeley Psychology Department Travel Grant (\$600 USD)	2019
NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship – Doctoral (\$63,000 CAD)	2019-2022
NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral (\$105,000 CAD)	declined
Berkeley Graduate Division Conference Travel Grant (\$1,500 USD)	2019
Berkeley Graduate Division Conference Travel Grant (\$1,500 USD)	2018
Berkeley Fellowship (\$56,000 USD)	2017-2019
McNab Scholarship in Psychology (\$400 CAD)	2015
Trinity College Provost’s Scholar (\$200 CAD)	2015
David Derwyn Owen Prize (\$400 CAD)	2015
George Gray Falle Graduating Scholarship (\$300 CAD)	2015
Trinity College Travel Fund (\$500 CAD)	2015

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (\$5,625 CAD)	2014
University of Toronto Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Fund (\$2,500 CAD)	2014
George Gray Falle Scholarship (\$2,000 CAD)	2014
Trinity College Travel Fund (\$500 CAD)	2013
John Pettigrew Scholarship (\$400 CAD)	2013
Canada Post Scholarship (\$6,000 CAD)	2013
University of Toronto Dean's List Scholar	2012-2015
University of Toronto President's Entrance Scholarship (\$2,000 CAD)	2011

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (in press). Providing explanations shifts preschoolers' metaphor preferences. In S. Nichols & J. Knobe (Eds.), *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy Volume 5*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., Zhu, L.Z., & Gopnik, A. (in press). Preschoolers' comprehension of functional metaphors. *Open Mind*.

Zhu, R., & Gopnik, A. (2024). Preschoolers and adults metonymically extend proper names to owned objects. *Child Development*, *95*, 177-190. doi: 10.1111/cdev.13999

Zhu, R., & Gopnik, A. (2023). Preschoolers and adults learn from novel metaphors. *Psychological Science*, *34*, 696-704. doi: 10.1177/09567976231165267

Zhu, R. (2021). Preschoolers' acquisition of producer-product metonymy. *Cognitive Development*, *59*, 101075. doi: 10.1016/j.cogdev.2021.101075

Luoto, J., Garcia Lopez, I., Aboud, F.E., Singla, D., **Zhu, R.**, Otieno, R., & Alu, E. (2021). An implementation evaluation of a group-based parenting intervention to promote early child development in rural Kenya. *Frontiers in Public Health*, *9*, 443. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.653106

Thai, S., Lockwood, P., **Zhu, R.**, Li, Y., & He, C.J. (2019). The family ties that protect: Expanded self-comparisons in parent-child relationships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *36*, 1041-1066. doi: 10.1177/0265407518754363

Tskhay, K.O., **Zhu, R.**, Zou, C., & Rule, N.O. (2018). Charisma in everyday life: Conceptualization and validation of the General Charisma Inventory. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *114*, 131-152. doi: 10.1037/pspp0000159

Hochmann, J. R., Tuerk, A., Sanborn, S., **Zhu, R.**, Long, R., Dempster, M., & Carey, S. (2017). Children's representation of abstract relations in relational/array match-to-sample tasks. *Cognitive Psychology*, *99*, 17-43. doi: 10.1016/j.cogpsych.2017.11.001

Tskhay, K.O., **Zhu, R.**, & Rule, N.O. (2017). Perceptions of charisma from thin slices of behavior predict leadership prototypicality judgments. *The Leadership Quarterly*, *28*, 555-562. doi: 10.1016/j.leaqua.2017.03.003

Manuscripts Under Review

Zhu, R., Pitchik, H., Nduku, T., Engelmann, J., Fernald, L., & Gopnik, A. (in principle acceptance). The development of picture comprehension across early environments: Evidence from urban and rural toddlers in Western Kenya. *Developmental Science*.

Zhu, R. (under review). Preschoolers represent abstract relations predicated upon kind membership.

Zhu, R., Nduku, T., Engelmann, J., & Gopnik, A. (under review). Investigating the validity of assessments involving picture stimuli across cultures and contexts: Evidence from young children in Kenya and the U.S.

Hochmann, J.R., **Zhu, R.**, Zhu, L.Z., Kroupin, I., & Carey, S. (under review). Learning the words "same" and "different" in the preschool years.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

Zhu, R., & Gopnik, A. (2022). Preschoolers and adults make inferences from novel metaphors. In J. Culbertson, A. Perfors, H. Rabagliati, & V. Ramenzoni (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 373-379). Cognitive Science Society.

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (2021). Providing explanations shifts preschoolers' metaphor preferences. In T. Fitch, C. Lamm, H. Leder, & K. Teßmar-Raible (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp.1977-1983). Cognitive Science Society.

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (2020). 4- and 5-year-olds' comprehension of functional metaphors. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1968-1974). Cognitive Science Society.

Conference Talks

Zhu, R., Nduku, T., Engelmann, J., & Gopnik, A. (2024). The development of picture comprehension across early environments: Evidence from urban and rural toddlers in Western Kenya. *Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society*. Pasadena, CA.

Zhu, R., Nduku, T., Engelmann, J., & Gopnik, A. (2024). Investigating the validity of assessments involving pictures across global contexts: Evidence from preschoolers in Mombasa, Kenya and Berkeley, USA. "Why Basic Cognitive Science Needs Diversity: Theoretical Value and Practical Considerations" Preconference, *Cognitive Development Society*. Pasadena, CA.

Zhu, R., Pitchik, H., Nduku, T., Engelmann, J., Fernald, L., & Gopnik, A. (2023). Are assessments involving picture stimuli valid in global contexts? Evidence from preschoolers in Mombasa, Kenya. *Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development*. Salt Lake City, UT.

Zhu, R., & Gopnik, A. (2022). Preschoolers and adults make inferences from novel metaphors. *44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Toronto, Canada.

Luoto, J., Otieno, R., Garcia Lopez, I., Alu, E., **Zhu, R.**, & Aboud, F.E. (2021). Implementation research on an effective parenting program in Kisumu, Kenya: Comparing group and home delivery. *Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development*. Virtual conference.

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (2019). Preschoolers' metaphor comprehension in causal contexts. *11th Annual Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Tskhay, K., **Zhu, R.**, Zou, C., & Rule, N. (2015). Measuring and understanding "everyday" charisma. *16th Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. Long Beach, CA.

Conference Posters

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (2021). Providing explanations shifts preschoolers' metaphor preferences. *43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Virtual Conference.

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (2021). Can preschoolers shift their metaphor preferences? *46th Annual Meeting of the Society of Philosophy and Psychology*. Virtual conference.

Zhu, R., Pitchik, H., Fernald, L., & Gopnik, A. (2020). When and how do toddlers in rural Western Kenya understand the referential nature of pictures? *42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Virtual conference.

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., Gopnik, A. (2020). 4- and 5-year-olds' comprehension of functional metaphors. *42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Virtual conference.

Zhu, R., Goddu, M.K., & Gopnik, A. (2019). Preschoolers' metaphor comprehension in causal contexts. *45th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology*. San Diego, CA.

Zhu, R., & Srinivasan, M. (2018). Children's acquisition of regular metonymy: Exploring the producer-product relation. *10th Annual Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Zhu, R., Hochmann, J.R., Dempster, M., Sanborn, S., & Carey, S. (2017). Preschoolers' acquisition of the words 'same' and 'different'. *Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society*. Portland, OR.

Zhu, R., & Carey, S. (2017). Noun labels facilitate success on relational match-to-sample with same and different kinds. *7th Annual Central European University Conference on Cognitive Development*. Budapest, Hungary.

Thai, S., Lockwood, P., **Zhu, R.**, He, C.J., & Li, Y. (2017). Expanded-self comparisons in parent-child relationships. *18th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. San Antonio, TX.

Zhu, R., Hochmann, J.R., Sanborn, S., & Carey, S. (2016). Representations of entropy and the relations same and different early in human development. *38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Philadelphia, PA.

Thai, S., Lockwood, P., **Zhu, R.**, & He, C. (2016). The ups and downs of comparing your child: Parents' expanded-self comparisons. *International Association for Relationship Research Conference*. Toronto, ON.

Invited Talks

Psychology Colloquium, University of Edinburgh	2024
Cluster on Language Research, University of California, Davis	2024
Psychology Colloquium Flash Talk, Stanford University	2023
Diverse Intelligences Summit, University of St Andrews	2023
Lab for Developmental Studies (PI: Jesse Snedeker), Harvard University	2023
Mind and Body Lab (PI: Spike Lee), University of Toronto	2023
Cognitive Development and Social Cognition Lab (PI: Marjorie Rhodes), New York University	2022
Cognition and Learning Center (PI: Jinjing Jenny Wang), Rutgers University	2021
Computational Social Cognition Lab (PI: Julian Jara-Ettinger), Yale University	2021
Wollheim Philosophy Group, University of California, Berkeley	2021
AnalogyList Online Seminar	2020
Cognitive Tools Lab (PI: Judith Fan), University of California, San Diego	2020
Cognition and Language Lab (PI: Steven Piantadosi), University of California, Berkeley	2019
Developmental Neuroimaging Lab (PI: Ghislaine Dehaene), NeuroSpin Paris	2018
Social Learning Lab (PI: Hyowon Gweon), Stanford University	2018

Cross-Cultural Research Experience

Bogota, Colombia - with the Universidad de los Andes (1 trip, 1 week total)	2024
Mombasa, Kenya - with the Schools2030 Program (1 trip, 1 month total)	2022
Kisumu, Kenya - with the Safe Water and AIDS Project (3 trips, 4 months total)	2019 - present

Teaching Experience

As Graduate Student Instructor:

Sense and Sensibility and Science (Instructor: Alison Gopnik, John Campbell, Saul Perlmutter)	Spring 2021
Developmental Psychology (Instructor: Jan Engelmann)	Fall 2020
Methods in Cognitive Development (Instructor: Celeste Kidd)	Spring 2020

As Guest Lecturer:

"Linguistic Development", Developmental Psychology (Instructor: Jan Engelmann)	Fall 2020-2023
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For complete course evaluations, please see <https://osf.io/h3bwt/>

Mentorship Experience

Graduate Mentor, UC Berkeley Getting into Graduate School Diversity Program	2020 – 2023
Peer Mentor, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly of Students in Psychology	2019 – 2022

U.S. Research Assistants: Zoe Carwin[^], Mina Chang^{***}, Anna Cialfi^{*}, Megan Dempster, Emily Demsetz, Randall Hale, Esmerelda Herrera, Brooke Quynh Ho, Tiara Mckinney, Niki Parker, Audrey Kaufman, Sam Ku, Zhimeng Li^{*}, Maya Martinez-Krams, Phoebe Meyer, Sophie McMullen[~], Mary Nguyen, Pamee Sapasap^{**}, Emma Sayiner, Lily Zihu Zhu^{**}, Sasha Zitter

^{*} *PhD Student at Yale University, Department of Psychology*

^{**} *PhD Student at Harvard University, Department of Psychology*

^{***} *Lab Manager at Emory University, Department of Psychology*

[~] *Clinical Research Coordinator, UCSF; PsyD Student, Palo Alto University & Stanford University*

^{*} *M.Ed. Student at California State University – Long Beach, Department of Education*

^{**} *M.Ed. Student at the University of Washington, Department of Education*

[^] *UC Berkeley SURF Summer Research Fellow (\$5,000 USD)*

Kenya Research Assistants: Diana Chanya, Habona Jillo, Hector Juma, Pauline Masese, Juma Mohamed, Florence Ndungu, Denis Ochieng Athiany, Gabriel Ochieng Mange, Elizabeth Osore

Professional Services

Journal Reviewing: *Memory and Cognition, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Pragmatics, Psychological Science, Topics in Cognitive Science*

Conference Reviewing: *Cognitive Science Society, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Society for Research in Child Development*

Grant Reviewing: *American Psychological Foundation*

Public Outreach – Invited Talks

University of California, Berkeley - Early Childhood Education Program	2022
Schools2030 Program - Learning Session	2022

Public Outreach – Blog Posts

“Are assessments involving pictures valid in global contexts? Evidence from Mombasa, Kenya”	2022
“How do environmental factors affect picture comprehension in early childhood?”	2021