

# DIEGO PLACIDO | CURRICULUM VITAE

Center for Mind and Brain - University of California, Davis  
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Davis, CA 95616  
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www.diegoplacido.com

## EDUCATION

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|--------------------|---|
| 2025 (anticipated) | Ph.D. Developmental Psychology   University of California at Davis<br><i>Computational Social Science Designated Emphasis<br/>Quantitative Psychology Minor</i> |
| 2022               | M.A. Developmental Psychology   University of California at Davis<br><i>Quantitative Psychology Minor</i>   |
| Dec. 2015          | B.A. Psychology   Brandeis University<br><i>Neuroscience &amp; Computer Science Focus</i>   |

## ACADEMIC & RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Effects of contextual influences on attention, learning, and memory
- Multisensory perception and integration of audio, visual, and tactile modalities
- Neural correlates of visual attention, socioemotional reasoning, and executive functions
- Impact of socioeconomic status, culture, and social dynamics on cognitive development

## RESEARCH TRAINING

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| 2020-   | <i>PhD Graduate Student Researcher</i><br>Cognition in Context Laboratory<br>University of California at Davis - Center for Mind and Brain<br><i>Director: Yuko Munakata, Ph.D.</i>                                 |
| 2019-21 | <i>PhD Graduate Student Researcher</i><br>Neurocognitive Development Laboratory<br>University of California at Davis - Center for Mind and Brain<br><i>Director: Susan M. Rivera, Ph.D.</i>                         |
| 2017-19 | <i>Laboratory Manager / Research Assistant</i><br>Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory<br>Brown University - Cognitive, Linguistics, & Psych. Sciences Dept.<br><i>Director: Dima Amso, Ph.D.</i>        |
| 2016-17 | <i>Clinical Research Assistant</i><br>Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment<br>Brown University - Bradley Hospital<br><i>Directors: Stephen Sheinkopf, Ph.D. &amp; Eric Morrow, M.D., Ph.D.</i> |

2014-16                      *Research Assistant*  
Memory and Cognition Laboratory  
Brandeis University - Volen National Center for Complex Systems  
*Director: Arthur Wingfield, D.Phil.*

SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & HONORS

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2024-25                      Professors for the Future Fellowship, University of California at Davis  
2024                              Dukes Travel Award, UC Davis Psychology Dept.  
2022                              Karen D. Horobin Psychology Graduate Student Research Award, UC Davis  
   Psychology Dept.  
2021                              Outstanding Leadership & Service Award, UC Davis Psychology Dept.  
2021                              American Psychological Association Anne Anastasi Graduate Student  
   Research Recognition Award  
2021-24                        National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship  
2021                              Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society  
   *only top 10% of seniors and graduate students across all disciplines elected*  
2020,21                        Templeton Travel Award, UC Davis Psychology Dept. (x3)  
2020,21,22                     Diverse Mentoring Initiative Award, UC Davis Psychology Dept. (x7)  
2020                              Best Graduate Student Talk, UC Davis Psychology Dept. Annual Conference  
2020-21                        Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, University of California at Davis  
2020,21                        NASEM Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, *Honorable Mention* (x2)  
2020                              Psychology fMRI Training Program Fellowship, University of Michigan  
2019-20                        First-Year Research Fellowship, University of California at Davis  
2019-20                        First-Year Diversity Fellowship, University of California at Davis  
2019                              *1st Prize* Research Award, Brown University Carney Institute for Brain Science  
2018                              National Science Foundation Innovation Corps Fellowship  
2015-16                        Provost Undergraduate Research Grant, Brandeis University  
2014,15                        Alumni and Friends Scholarship, Brandeis University (x2)  
2013                              ExxonMobil Northern Virginia CC Honors Program Scholarship  
2011                              Rotary International Club Vocational Education Award

PUBLICATIONS

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*\* denotes co-first author; + denotes mentored student; ++ denotes co-mentored student*

1. Placido, D., Traut, H.J., & Munakata, Y. (in prep.). Supporting the development of inhibitory control: The promise of considering individual differences in cognitive effort.

2. Munakata, Y., Placido, D., & Zhuang, W. (2023). What's next? Advances and challenges in understanding how environmental predictability shapes the development of cognitive control. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*.
3. Nketia, J., Al Sager, A., Dajani, R., Placido, D., & Amso, D. (2023). Executive functions in Jordanian children: What can the hearts and flowers task tell us about development in a non-western context? *Journal of Cognition & Development*.
4. Zengilowski, A., Maqbool, I., Pratap Deka, S., Niebaum, J.C., Placido, D., Katz, B., Shah, P., & Munakata, Y. (2023). Overemphasizing individual differences and overlooking systemic factors reinforces educational inequality. *npj Science of Learning*.
5. Amso, D., Govindarajan, L.N., Gupta, P., Placido, D., Baumgartner, H., Lynn, A., Gunther, K., Sharma, T., Veerabadran, V., Thakkar, K., Kim, S., & Serre, T. (pre-print). Using computational analysis of behavior to discover developmental change in memory-guided attention mechanisms in childhood. *PsyArXiv*.
6. Wang, J.Y., Grigsby, J., Placido, D., Wei, H., Tassone, F., Kim, K., Hessel, D., Rivera, S.M., & Hagerman, R.J. (2022). Clinical and molecular correlates of abnormal changes in the 1 cerebellum and globus pallidus in fragile X premutation. *Frontiers in Neurology: Applied Neuroimaging*.
7. Banks, A.++, Yonehiro, J., Placido, D., Munakata, Y. (2021). Scaffolding development: Steps toward a meta-analysis of the role of parents in shaping children's executive functioning. *McNair Association of Professionals National McNair Research Journal*.
8. Dajani, R., Al Sager, A., Placido, D., & Amso, D. (2020). The value of the We Love Reading program for executive functions in Jordanian children. *EPiC Series in Education Science: Proceedings of the MIT LINC 2019 Conference, 3*, 61-71.

## REFEREED ABSTRACTS

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\* denotes co-first author; + denotes mentored student; ++ denotes co-mentored student

### SYMPOSIA

1. Placido, D.\* & Yonehiro, J.\* (2021, May). Holding graduate programs accountable in combating systemic racism through the implementation of the racial justice report card. (Co-Speaker). UC Davis Graduate Anti-Racism Symposium, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
2. Duarte, S.E.\*, Placido, D.\*, Rodriguez, J.E.\*, Santisteven, A.C.\*, Smith, L.K.\*, Trainor, B.C.\*, & Yonehiro, J.\* (2021, May). Psychology graduate program diversity, equity, and inclusion activities. (Co-Chair). UC Davis Graduate Anti-Racism Symposium, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).

### TALKS & POSTERS

1. **Placido, D.**, Zengilowski, A., Ward, A., Khaligh, N.H.++, & Munakata, Y. (2024, May). Does current ecological relevance attenuate the effects of chaotic home environments on children's inhibitory control performance? *Talk & poster presented at the Stanford University Bay Area Developmental Symposium, Stanford, CA.*
2. **Placido, D.**, Zengilowski, A., Ward, A., Khaligh, N.H.++, & Munakata, Y. (2024, March). Does current ecological relevance attenuate the effects of chaotic home environments on children's inhibitory control performance? Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Enial Conference, Pasadena, CA.
3. Khaligh, N.H.++, Zengilowski, A., **Placido, D.**, & Munakata, Y. (2023, June). Hidden strengths in childhood: An asset-based perspective on measures of inhibitory control. Poster presented at the UC Davis Psychology Department ASPIRE Program Symposium, Davis, CA.
4. Khaligh, N.H.++, Gonzales, C.+, Sivakumar, S.+, Rafael, S.+, Murakami, M.+, Cyrus, J.+, Zengilowski, A., **Placido, D.**, Matthews, J., & Munakata, Y. (2022, May). Developing identity as a math student: Leveraging Black and Latinx youth voices. Poster presented at the UC Davis Psychology Department Spring Conference, Davis, CA.
5. **Placido, D.**, Traut, H.J., & Munakata, Y. (2021, September). Can cognitive effort predict who benefits most from distinct types of inhibitory control practice? Poster presented at the Flux International Congress on Integrative Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
6. Banks, A.++, Yonehiro, J., **Placido, D.**, & Munakata, Y. (2021, July). Scaffolding development: A meta-analysis on the role of parents in shaping children's executive function development. Poster presented at the UCLA McNair Conference, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
7. Tong, A.++, Ji, D.++, Lee, R.++, Banks, A.++, Holm, A.++, Dirzo, M.++, Waltmon, J.++, **Placido, D.**, Yonehiro, J., & Munakata, Y. (2021, May). Elucidating links between parental scaffolding and executive functions development in children through a meta-analytic approach. Poster presented at the UC Davis Psychology Department Spring Conference, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
8. Banks, A.++, Yonehiro, J., **Placido, D.**, Waltmon, J.++, & Munakata, Y. (2021, May). Parental scaffolding prepares groundwork for children to thrive with executive functions. Poster presented at the UC Davis Undergraduate Research Conference, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
9. **Placido, D.**, Traut, H.J., & Munakata, Y. (2021, April). Using pupillometric measures to predict individual differences in children's responsiveness to inhibitory control interventions. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
10. Prater Fahey, M., Grahek, I., Dean Wolf, C., **Placido, D.**, Orwicz, A., Amso, D., & Shenhav, A. (2020, September). When is effort worthwhile? Learned efficacy influences how adolescents allocate cognitive control. Poster presented at the Flux International Congress on Integrative Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).

11. **Placido, D.**, Hessler, D., & Rivera, S.M. (2020, July). Differences in temporal parietal junction activation between fragile X premutation carriers who do and do not convert to having Fragile X-Associated Tremor Ataxia Syndrome. *Talk* presented at the NFXF International Fragile X Conference, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
12. Wang, J.Y., Grigsby, J., **Placido, D.**, Hessler, D., Rivera, S.M., & Hagerman, R.J. (2020, July). The eye of the tiger sign in males carrying normal and premutation alleles of the *FMR1* gene. *Talk* presented at the NFXF International Fragile X Conference, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
13. **Placido, D.**, Hessler, D., & Rivera, S.M. (2020, May). Temporal information processing deficits exhibited in fragile X premutation carriers that convert to the full onset of Fragile X-Associated Tremor Ataxia Syndrome. *Talk* presented at the UC Davis Psychology Department Spring Conference, Virtual (*due to COVID-19 pandemic*).
14. **Placido, D.**, Malmberg, S., Liu, X., & Hwang, F., (2019, November). Enhancing executive functions using augmented reality. Poster presented at the Brandeis University Innovation Showcase (National Science Foundation Innovation Corps), Waltham, MA.
15. Lynn, A., Govindarajan, L., **Placido, D.**, Seungchan, K., Thakkar, K., Serre, T., & Amso, D. (2019, August). Top-down saliency maps link physical navigation and memory-guided attention in early childhood. Poster presented at the Flux International Congress on Integrative Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, New York, NY.
16. Dajani, R., Al Sager, A., **Placido, D.**, & Amso, D. (2019, June). The value of the We Love Reading read-aloud method for executive functions. *Talk* presented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Learning International Network Consortium, Cambridge, MA.
17. **Placido, D.**, Nketia, J.A., Werchan, D.M., & Amso, D. (2019, March). Exploring the effects of emotional support and cognitive stimulation on executive functions in children across socioeconomic status. Poster presented at the Brown University Carney Institute for Brain Science, Providence, RI.
18. **Placido, D.**, Malmberg, S., Liu, X., & Hwang, F., (2018, November). Effy: A mechanism to enhance executive functioning. *Talk* presented at the Brandeis University Innovation Showcase (National Science Foundation Innovation Corps), Waltham, MA.
19. **Placido, D.**, Nketia, J.A., Werchan, D.M., & Amso, D. (2018, August). Exploring the effects of emotional support and cognitive stimulation on executive functions in children across socioeconomic status. Poster presented at the Flux International Congress on Integrative Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Berlin, Germany.
20. Atagi, E., **Placido, D.**, & Wingfield, A. (2016, April). Examining the effects of age and hearing acuity on lexical detection latencies in linguistically complex sentences. Poster presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

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#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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| 2024       | <i>Leonard Learning Lab, Yale University</i>                                     |
| 2023       | <i>Isbell IDEA Research Lab, University of California at Merced</i>              |
| 2020,21,22 | <i>Divers-I-Tea Prospective Student Event, University of California at Davis</i> |
| 2019       | <i>Munakata Cognition in Context Lab, University of California at Davis</i>      |
| 2019       | <i>Kaldy Baby Lab, University of Massachusetts at Boston</i>                     |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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|---------------|---|
| 2024 (Spring) | <b><i>Guest Lecturer, "Ecological Theories of Development"</i></b><br>PSC 140 - Developmental Psychology (~380 students)<br>University of California at Davis - Psychology Department<br><i>Professor: Yuko Munakata, Ph.D.</i> |
| 2024 (Spring) | <b><i>Teaching Assistant</i></b><br>PSC 140 - Developmental Psychology (~380 students)<br>University of California at Davis - Psychology Department<br><i>Professor: Yuko Munakata, Ph.D.</i>                                   |

## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

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- Siemens 3T MRI Safety and Operator Certified

## RELEVANT SKILLS

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- ***Programming:*** R, Python, C#, Java, JavaScript, HTML, LaTeX, MATLAB, SAS, SPSS, SPM
- ***Laboratory:*** SMI RED eye-tracker, Tobii eye-tracker, fMRI, fNIRS, audiometer, BeGaze, DataVyu, E-Prime, PSLiveCapture, PsyScope X, Unity, Yabus
- ***Languages:*** English (Fluent), Spanish (Fluent), French (Modest), Japanese (Novice)

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### TO THE ACADEMY

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|---------|--|
| 2021    | <b><i>NSF-GRFP Fellow Panelist</i></b><br>Applying for Fellowships (Virtual Panel)<br>Next Gen Psych Scholars Program  |
| 2020    | <b><i>Co-Organizer &amp; Co-Moderator</i></b><br>Career Perspectives (Virtual Panel)<br>Flux: International Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience |
| 2020-22 | <b><i>Science Communications Committee Member</i></b><br>International Society for Developmental Psychobiology<br><i>Supervisor: Natalie Brito, Ph.D.</i>    |
| 2018-20 | <b><i>Trainee Liaison Committee Member</i></b><br>Flux: International Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience                                       |

Supervisors: Nim Tottenham, Ph.D. & Beatriz Luna, Ph.D.

TO THE DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY

- 2023 *PhD Graduate Student Panelist*  
Gradpathways Pursuing a PhD Workshop  
University of California at Davis - Graduate Studies
- 2022 *Sustaining and Advancing Anti-Racism Roundtable Panelist*  
Graduate Anti-Racism Symposium  
University of California at Davis - Graduate Studies
- 2022-23 *Anti-Racist Implementation Group Member*  
University of California at Davis - Graduate Studies
- 2021-23 *Committee on DE Educational Policy Student Representative*  
University of California at Davis - Computational Social Science DE
- 2021,22,23 *NSF-GRFP Fellow Panelist*  
Applying for the NSF-GRFP  
University of California at Davis - Psychology Department
- 2021,22 *Diversity Recruitment Planning Committee Member*  
University of California at Davis - Psychology Department
- 2020,21 *PhD Graduate Student Panelist*  
Meet the Leaders in Mind and Brain Research Virtual Interview Series  
University of California at Davis - Center for Mind and Brain
- 2020-21 *Anti-Racist Advocacy Group Member*  
University of California at Davis - Graduate Studies
- 2020 *Co-Organizer & Volunteer*  
Neurodiversity Summit (Virtual Panel)  
University of California at Davis - M.I.N.D. Institute
- 2020-22 *DEI Mentoring Fellowship Selection Committee Member*  
University of California at Davis - Psychology Department
- 2020-22 *DEI Graduate Student Branch Committee Member*  
University of California at Davis - Psychology Department
- 2020,21,22 *PhD Graduate Student Panelist*  
Divers-I-Tea Prospective Student Event  
University of California at Davis - Psychology Department
- 2019-20 *Graduate Student Association Representative*  
University of California at Davis

## RELEVANT OUTREACH & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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|------------|---|
| 2021-22    | <i>NPSP Mentor</i><br>Next Gen Psych Scholars Program   |
| 2020-      | <i>Graduate Student Peer Mentor</i><br>University of California at Davis - Psychology Department                                |
| 2018-20    | <i>Mentor</i><br>Letters to a Pre-Scientist Organization  |
| 2018-19    | <i>Sanctuary Volunteer</i><br>First Unitarian Church of Providence  |
| 2017,18,19 | <i>Science Volunteer</i><br>Brown University - Brain Fair   |
| 2017       | <i>Mentor</i><br>Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization  |
| 2015       | <i>Teaching Assistant</i><br>Brandeis University - Lemberg Children's Center<br><i>Supervisor:</i> Katherine Braun-Levine, M.A. |
| 2009-11    | <i>Student Volunteer</i><br>Key Club International<br><i>Supervisor:</i> Kathleen Riddle  |

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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- Association for Psychological Sciences
- Cognitive Development Society
- Cognitive Science Society
- Flux: The International Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
- Society for Research in Child Development