

# SYDNEY KLEIN

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## EDUCATION

- Fall 2021     **Doctor of Philosophy | University of Connecticut** | Storrs, Connecticut  
Human Development and Family Sciences  
Advisor: Dr. Alaina Brenick  
Current standing: PhD Candidate | Expected graduation: Aug. 2026
- 2019-2021     **Master's | New York University** | New York, New York  
General Psychology | GPA: 4.0  
Focus in social and developmental psychology  
Thesis: Analysis of Children's Media and Children's Interracial Attitudes  
(under review)
- 2015-2019     **Bachelor of Arts | SUNY Geneseo** | Geneseo, New York  
Psychology Major | Cumulative GPA: 3.78 | *Magna Cum Laude*  
Senior Manuscript: [Dance in Black and White: Examining the Stereotypes of Black and White Ballerinas and Hip-hop Dancers](#)

## CERTIFICATES

- **Graduate Certificate in College Instruction** | University of Connecticut
  - Completed May 2025
- **Scientific Teaching Fellow** | Mobile Summer Mobile Summer Institute on Scientific Teaching and Transformation | University of Connecticut
  - Completed: May 2024

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Rhode Island College

**Adjunct Instructor** | Human Development | Upcoming placement: Fall 2025, Spring 2026

### Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

**Teaching Assistant** | Foundations in Psychology | Rodger Williams, RI site location | June-August 2025

### University of Connecticut

**Teaching Assistant** | Diversity Issues in HDFS | Professor: Kristen van Ness | Jan 2025-May 2025

**Instructor of Record** | Human Development, Digital Media and Technology | Aug. 2024 – Dec. 2024

**Instructor of Record** | Developmental Approaches to Intergroup Relations and Victimization | Jan. 2024-May 2024

**Teaching Assistant** | Professional Communication in HDFS | Professor: Rebecca Puhl, PhD. | Aug. 2024-Dec. 2024

**Teaching Assistant** | Diversity Issues in HDFS | Professor: Dr. Kevin Ferreria van Leer | Aug 2023-May 2024

**Teaching Assistant** | Professional Communication in HDFS | Professor: Kristin Van Ness, M.A. | Aug. 2022-Dec. 2022

**Teaching Assistant** | Diversity Issues in HDFS | Professor: Dr. Edna Brown | Jan. 2022-May 2022

**Teaching Assistant** | Research Methods | Professor: Dr. Rachel Tambling | Aug. 2021-Dec. 2021

#### New York University

**Class Assistant** | Social Psychology | Professor: Dr. Eric Knowles & Dr. Tessa West | Sept. 2020- May 2021

**Recitation Leader** | Introduction to Psychology | Advisors: Dr. Edgar Coons and Dr. Aenne Brielmann | Sept. 2019- Dec. 2019

#### SUNY Geneseo

**Teaching Assistant** | Introduction to Psychology | Professor: Dr. Monica Schneider | Jan. 2018-May 2018

**Psychology Tutor** | Psychology Department | Sept. 2016- May 2019

## **GRANTS, HONORS & AWARDS**

2025 Graduate School Pre-Doctoral Fellowship | University of Connecticut | **\$1000**

2025 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Fellowship | University of Connecticut | **\$200**

2024 Faculty-Student Collaborations Research Grant | UConn Hartford  
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: A. Brenick; undergraduate awardees: S. Andrade, H. Mohamed, & K. Scally) | Project title: *Considering Teachers and Schools in Relation to Students' Responses to Bias-Based Bullying of Immigrant-Background Peers* | **\$1,000**

2024 Graduate School Pre-Doctoral Fellowship | University of Connecticut | **\$2200**

2024 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Fellowship | University of Connecticut | **\$600**

2023 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Fellowship | University of Connecticut | **\$2676**

2022 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Pre-Doctoral Summer Fellowship | University of Connecticut | **\$1,750**

2022 Outstanding Teaching Assistantship Award | Department of Human Development and Family Sciences | University of Connecticut

2022 Recognition of Excellence in Mentoring Award | Student Athlete Success Program | University of Connecticut

2021 M.A. Research Poster Competition | New York University | **\$150**  
Placed second in a competition for most compelling poster presentation

2020 Master-Mentorship Model Grant | New York University | **\$800**  
Awarded to Masters students conducting an empirical thesis with tenured principal investigators

2020 M.A. Research Poster Competition | New York University | **\$100**  
Placed third in a competition for most compelling poster presentation

2020 MA Travel Grant | New York University | **\$300**  
Awarded for travel to present research at national conferences

2019 Senior Award for Outstanding Leadership | SUNY Geneseo  
Awarded to one senior per year in the psychology department

2019 Undergraduate Travel Grant | SUNY Geneseo | **\$600**  
Awarded for travel to present research at national conferences

2018 Dr. Myrtle Merritt Annual Scholarship for Contribution as Ambassador to Dance Studies | SUNY Geneseo | **\$1000**

2018 Recognized Dance Study Ambassador | SUNY Geneseo  
Award for excellence in dance history, study, and performance

2018 Psi Chi | SUNY Geneseo  
Membership awarded to psychology majors in the top 35% of their class, with a GPA of 3.00 or higher

2017 Golden Key National Honor Society | SUNY Geneseo  
Membership awarded to students with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher in their first 4 semesters of undergraduate study

2016 Phi Eta Sigma | SUNY Geneseo  
Membership awarded to undergraduates who received a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in their first year.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

\*denotes undergraduate student mentee

### ***Peer Reviewed Articles***

**Klein, S., \*Mohamed, H., \*Andrade, S., \*Scaily, K., Kelly, M. C., & Brenick, A.** Who should I

listen to? Gender and age effects in how group norms relate to adolescents' intergroup relations and prejudiced attitudes. *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology* (in press).

**Klein, S.,** Csizmadia, A., & Adamsons, K. (2024). A symbolic interactionist model of White adolescents' digital critical racial literacy and digital anti-racist action. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 0(00), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12568>

**Klein, S.,** Zestcott, C. A., & Brenick, A. (2023). Dance in black and white: Examining the stereotypes of Black and White ballerinas and hip-hop dancers. *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1123/wspaj.2023-003>

#### ***Articles Under Review***

Rizzo, M.T., Moran, M., Leveille, C., Boyd, A., Chum, C., Liles, J., **Klein, S.,** Britton, T. & Rhodes, M. (under review). *The Role of Media in White, U.S. Children's Developing Racial Biases*. New York University

**Klein, S.,** \*Mohamed, H., \*Andrade, S., \*Scaily, K., Kelly, M. C., & Brenick, A. (under review). *The Role of Teachers in how U.S. Youth Evaluate and Respond to Immigrant Biased-based Bullying*. University of Connecticut

#### ***Articles in Preparation***

**Klein, S.,** (in preparation) *Development of the digital critical motivation scale*. University of Connecticut.

#### ***Other Published Works***

Phillips, K. (October 24, 2023). Audience expectations: Study shows patrons expect to see White ballerinas. *UConn Today*. Retrieved from <https://today.uconn.edu/2023/10/audience-expectations-study-shows-patrons-expect-to-see-white-ballerinas/>

**Klein, S.** (2018). The modern contributions of Loie Fuller and Isadora Duncan. *The Proceedings of Great Day*. State University of New York at Geneseo: Creative Commons.

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

\*denotes undergraduate student mentee

#### ***Invited Presentations - National***

Brenick, A. & **Klein, S.** (2024, June 21-23). Safeguarding academic freedom: Restrictive

legislation, institutional censorship, and threats to personal safety. [Invited Interactive Discussion]. The *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Conference*, Philadelphia, PA.

### ***Talks - National***

**Klein, S.,** Csizmadia, A., (2023). Symbolic Interactionist Model for White Adolescents' Digital Critical Action. Presented at the Theory Construction and Research Methodology workshop at the *National Council on Family Relations Annual Meeting*, Orlando, FL.

**Klein, S.,** \*Zurequi, M., & Brenick, A. (2023). Covid-19 and the right to housing for the unhoused community. Talk given at the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues*, Denver, CO.

**Klein, S.,** Wu, R., \*Shafique, H., Kelly, M., & Brenick, A. (2023). The role of teachers in how U.S. youth evaluate and respond to immigrant biased-based bullying. Talk given at the *Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT.

Wu, R., **Klein, S.,** Amador, E., Lewis, K., Gonzalez-Mendoza, A., Shafique, H., Kelly, M., & Brenick, A. (2023). Judgements of and responses to intergroup bias-based bullying: Addressing race, immigrant background and school climate. Flash talk given at the *Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT.

### ***Talks - Local***

**Klein, S.** (Spring 2025) Experiences with mid-range model development. Invited lecture for Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut

**Klein, S.** (Spring, 2022/2023) Creating academic research posters. Invited lecture for Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut.

**Klein, S.** (Fall 2022/2023). Pursuing the personal: How to turn daily phenomena into research questions. Invited lecture for Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut.

### ***Research Posters - International***

**Klein, S.,** & Csizmadia, A. (2024). Scrolling for change: Leveraging family and social media to explore pathways of White adolescents' digital critical action using D-Crit. Poster to be presented at the *International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development Biennial Meeting*, Lisbon, Portugal.

### ***Research Posters - National***

**Klein, S.,** \*Mohamed, H., \*Andrade, S., \*Scaily, K., Kelly, M. C., & Brenick, A. (2025,

May). Considering teachers and schools in relation to students' responses to bias-based bullying of immigrant-background peers. Poster to be presented at the *Society for Research on Child Development*. Minneapolis, MN

**Klein, S.,** \*Mohamed, H., \*Andrade, S., \*Scaily, K., Kelly, M. C., & Brenick, A. (2025, May). The race of a victim of bullying matters...but so do teachers' helpful prosocial responses. Poster to be presented at the *Society for Research on Child Development*. Minneapolis, MN.

**Klein, S.,** Pitcher, K., & Brenick, A (2024, June). RWA mediates support for right to housing and critical action. Poser presented at the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA.

\*Karna, A., **Klein, S.,** & Brenick, A. (2023, March). Acculturative development of South Asian-American late adolescent and emerging adult second-generation immigrants. Poster presented at the *Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT.

Stekler, N., & **Klein, S.** (2023, February). Are homeless individuals agents or objects? How media sources frame homelessness, considering the role of COVID-19. Poster presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Atlanta, GA.

\*Karna, K., **Klein, S.,** Brenick, A., (2022, June). Ethnic identity associated with second-generation, South Asian-American young adults. Poster presented at the *Biennial Convention of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Klein, S.,** Brenick, A., Berger, R., & Benatov, J. (2022, March). Can Mindfulness Interventions Increase Prosocial Behaviors in Jewish-Israeli Kindergarten Children? Mindful Versus Empathy-based Approaches. Poster presented at the *Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting*, New Orleans, LA.

Brenick, A., Wu, R., \*Zureiqi, M., Seraj, M., **Klein, S.,** & Berger, R. (2022, May). Promoting positive intergroup relations amidst conflict: Contact v. skills-training interventions. Paper presented at the *Society for Research in Child Development Special Topics Conference* "Construction of the Other: Development, Consequences, and Applied Implications of Prejudice and Discrimination", Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

**Klein, S.,** \*Boyd, A., \*Moran, M., \*Chum, C., \*Leveille, C., Rizzo, M. T., & Rhodes, M. (2021, February). A Content analysis of racial biases in children's media consumption. Poster presented at a pre-conference in the 22nd Annual Meeting of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, virtual.

**Klein, S. & Zestcott, C. A.** (2020, February). Dance in Black and White: Examining the Stereotypes of Black and White ballerinas and hip hop dancers. Poster presented at the 21st Annual Meeting of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, New Orleans, LA.

Branch, S., Rabinovich, J., **Klein, S.**, & Zestcott, C. A. (2019, February). Examining perceptions of tattoos on hiring decisions. Poster presented at the 20th Annual Meeting of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Portland, OR.

### ***Research Posters - Local***

**Klein, S.**, \*Boyd, A., \*Moran, M., \*Chum, C., \*Leveille, C., Rizzo, M. T., & Rhodes, M. (2021, April). A Content analysis of racial biases in children's media consumption. Poster presented at the 2021 *M.A. Research Conference*, New York University, New York, NY.

**Klein, S. & Zestcott, C. A.** (2020, April). Dance in Black and White: Examining the Stereotypes of Black and White ballerinas and hip hop dancers. Poster presented at the 2020 *M.A. Research Conference*, New York University, New York, NY.

## **SERVICE & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCES**

Jan. 2022-Present

**Academic Mentor** | Student Athlete Success Program | University of Connecticut

- Paid position
- Develop academically at-risk students-athletes' independent learning skills and motivation toward completing academic work
- Create working relationships with students that are built on trust, communication, and support
- Help academically at-risk student-athletes with establishing objectives, reading textbooks and articles effectively for comprehension and retention and keeping course materials and notes organized
- Tailor mentoring to students' individual learning needs

Dec. 2022-Present

**Administrative Learning Assistant & Senior Mentor** | Student Athlete Success Program | University of Connecticut

- Paid position
- Assist in logistical and managerial tasks to support the program
- Organize schedules, oversee mentoring relationships, develop training materials, and appropriately allocate resources
- Evaluating learning tests and examination processes

Feb. 2022-Present

**Secretary and Social Chair** | The UConn Council of Family Relations (UCCFR)  
| University of Connecticut

- Organize social outings for members of UCCFR
- Prepare materials for recruitment events
- Communicate with members of the HDFS graduate community and faculty at UConn
- Record meeting notes for UCCFR and maintain organization

Mar. 2024 – Aug. 2024

**Member-at-Large Communication Focus** | Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Graduate Student Committee

- Solicited submissions for Social Issues from Student Perspectives, the GSC section of SPSSI's newsletter The Forward.
- Conducted targeted outreach to student members of SPSSI based on themes and deadlines for upcoming issues.
- Exercised editorial oversight by reviewing all submissions and editing those accepted for Social Issues from Student Perspectives.

Mar. 2023

**Student Reviewer** | Journal of Research on Adolescence

- Reviewed a blind manuscript that was submitted to the journal for publication
- Under the guidance of Dr. Eva Lefkowitz at the University of Connecticut

July 2022

**Research Mentor** | Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Senior Summit Program | University of Connecticut

- Paid position
- Guided high achieving high-school students through a 3-week research intensive program
- Lectured & advised students on the scientific method in social research (including research question development, hypothesis, literature review, cleaning and analyzing data, interpreting results, brainstorming implications)
- Instructed students on presenting empirical data

Nov. 2021-May 2022

**Abstract Check & Social Media Chair** | Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Student Committee

- Organized abstract check program for non-native English speakers submitting to present at the 2023 SPSP Conference
- Provided feedback and mentoring on undergraduate's SPSP conference submissions.
- Participated in the SPSP Student Committee mentorship match program
- Communicated information about SPSP via social media
- Made editorial decisions on the committee's social media

Sept. 2021-May 2023

**Graduate Assistant for the HDFS Honors Program** | University of



#### Connecticut

- Paid position
- Assisted the director of the HDFS honors program in mentoring, advising, and coordinating the honors juniors and seniors
- Helped students map out their goals and create timelines for progress
- Gathered and present materials and resources for academic support and student's professional development
- Gained expertise on writing processes, organization, and structure

Oct. 2020-May 2021

#### **Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Mentorship Program** | New York University

- Advised and mentor undergraduate students on applying to graduate school
- Enhanced leadership and communication abilities to best support new scholars
- Developed professional relationships with mentees and faculty at NYU

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

**International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development** | 2024-Present

**National Council on Family Relations** | 2023-Present

**Society for Research on Child Development** | 2021 - Present

**Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues** | 2021 - Present

**Society for Research on Adolescents** | 2021 - 2022

**Society for Personality and Social Psychology** | 2018 – 2023

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

May 2021-Present

#### **PhD Student Researcher** | Brenick Lab

Advisor: Dr. Alaina Brenick | University of Connecticut

- Receive doctoral training in research methodology and data analysis (multiple regression, ANOVAs, HLM, SEM, psychometric evaluations)
- Develop testable research questions and hypothesis in youth anti-racism and critical consciousness, bias-based bullying, youth intergroup relations, attitudes and moral development
- Mentor undergraduate students and assisting them with grant writing, poster presentations and conducting research
- Write IRB proposals
- Write publication-quality manuscripts and undergo the peer-review process with reputable journals

Feb. 2020- July 2021

#### **Masters Research Assistant** | Conceptual Development and Social Cognition Lab

Advisors: Dr. Marjorie Rhodes and Dr. Michael Rizzo | New York University

- Assist coordinators with backend data processing of ongoing longitudinal studies
- Develop online studies using Qualtrics

- Develop complex media coding schemes with Datavyu
- Create and run R scripts for data analyses
- Supervise and train research assistants in video coding and data analyses
- Develop syllabi for undergraduate research assistants based on project goals and timelines
- Advance grant and manuscript writing skills
- Prepare conference paper and poster presentations

Dec. 2017- May 2019

**Lab Manager** | Social Cognition Lab

Advisor: Dr. Colin Zestcott | SUNY Geneseo

- Assisted in developing and executing multiple projects
- Supervised research assistants on research procedures and protocol
- Designed an independent study based on personal interests and ran data analyses
- Advanced skills in research methodology and data analysis with SPSS
- Presented research at multiple conferences

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- White youths' racial socialization & racial identity development
- Critical consciousness and critical literacies
- (Digital) socio-political and civic engagement in children, adolescents and adults
- Youth social and moral development and social information processing
- Bias-based bullying and victimization experiences
- Discrimination intervention/reduction
  - In family contexts
  - In school settings
  - In recreational environments
  - Through media (both traditional and new)
- Development of essentialism and conceptualizing social groups