

SYDNEY KLEIN

(585)738-9256
sydney.klein@uconn.edu

EDUCATION

- Fall 2021 **Doctor of Philosophy | University of Connecticut** | Storrs, Connecticut
Human Development and Family Sciences
Advisor: Dr. Alaina Brenick
- 2019-2021 **Masters | 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](#)
- 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](#)

GRANTS, HONORS & AWARDS

- 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 | 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

Peer Reviewed Articles

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

Klein, S., & Csizmadia, A. (under review). *A Symbolic Interactionist Model of White Adolescents' Digital Critical Racial Literacy and Digital Anti-Racist Action*. University of Connecticut.

Articles in Preparation

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

Brenick, A., **Klein, S.**, Carvalho, D., Romano, K., & Stepka, A. (in preparation). *The role of peer and parent outgroup attitudes, age, and gender in adolescents' evaluations of Arab-Jewish intergroup relations*. University of Connecticut.

Klein, S., Boyd, A., Moran, M., Chum, C., Leveille, C., Rizzo, M. T., & Rhodes, M. (in preparation). *Analysis of children's media and children's interracial attitudes*. New York University.

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

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, 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., Pitcher, K., & Brenick, A. (2024, June). RWA mediates support for right to housing and critical action. To be 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

Mar. 2024

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

- Actively solicit submissions for Social Issues from Student Perspectives, the GSC section of SPSSI's newsletter The Forward.
- Conduct targeted outreach to student members of SPSSI based on themes and deadlines for upcoming issues.
- Exercise 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

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 testing and examination processes

Feb. 2022-Present

Secretary and Social Chair | The UConn Council of Family Relations | University of Connecticut

Jan. 2022-Present

Academic Mentor | Student Athlete Success Program | University of Connecticut

- Paid position
- Develop students-athletes' independent learning skills and motivation
- Help 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

July 2022

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

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

- Instruct students on presenting empirical data

Nov. 2021-May 2022

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

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

Sept. 2021-May 2023

Graduate Assistant for the HDFS Honors Program | University of Connecticut

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

Oct. 2020-May 2021

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

- Advise and mentor undergraduate students on applying to graduate school
- Enhance leadership and communication
- Develop professional relationships

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut

Instructor of Record | Human Development, Digital Media and Technology | Upcoming:
Aug. 2024

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

Teaching Assistant | Diversity Issues in HDFS | Professor: Dr. Kevin Ferreria van Leer | August
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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

May 2021-Present

PhD Student Researcher | Brenick Lab

Advisor: Dr. Alaina Brenick | University of Connecticut

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
- 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