

Kirsten McLaughlin
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A. EDUCATION

- 2023** **Ph.D. in Psychology and Neuroscience**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Major Area: Developmental Psychology
Concentration: Quantitative Psychology
Dissertation: “Evaluating the Fetal Programming Effects of Prenatal Risk Factors on Newborn Brain Anatomy and Infant Sleep Characteristics”
- 2019** **M.A. in Psychology and Neuroscience**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Major Area: Developmental Psychology
Thesis: “Three Measures of Prenatal Tobacco Use: Methodological Comparisons and Infant Outcomes”
- 2016** **B.A. in Psychology**
The University of Maryland, College Park
Thesis: “An Examination of the Impact of Parental Beliefs and Parent-adolescent Relationship Quality on Adolescent Behavioral Problems during the Transition to High School”
- 2016** **B.S. in Family Science**
The University of Maryland, College Park
Major Area: Child and Family Development

B. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 – Present** **Postdoctoral Researcher, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up Lab**
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Delaware
Principal Investigator: Mary Dozier, Ph.D.
- 2022 – 2023** **Statistical Consultant**
The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

C. CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biopsychosocial development; Prenatal programming effects; Early life experiences; Emerging stress and regulation physiology; Parenting; Infant sleep health; Health disparities; Quantitative analysis

D. AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022** International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award (\$325)
- 2021** International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award (\$250)
- 2021 – 2023** T32 Predoctoral Fellowship, Carolina Consortium on Human Development
- 2020** Harriet Rheingold Student Fellowship (\$7,000)
- 2019** Developmental Faculty Funds (\$500)

2018, 2021	Dashiell Research Travel Fund Award (\$500)
2014	Recipient of the Behavioral and Social Sciences College Scholarship (\$1,200)
2013 – 2016	Distinguished Dean's List

E. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018 – 2023	<p>Graduate Research Assistant, The Brain and Early Experience Laboratory Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</p> <p>Principal Investigators: Drs. Cathi Propper and Roger Mills-Koonce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned to the Brain and Early Experience study, a longitudinal study examining the influences of early life experiences on brain development, and the Mood, Mother, and Infant study, a longitudinal study examining the effects of perinatal depression on child development Recruitment specialist responsible for recruiting over 200 participants Assisted in developing protocols, training staff, and supervising undergraduate research assistants Aided in data collection and analysis, including home visits, conducting infant magnetic resonance imagining scans, analyzing heart rate data, processing actigraphy data, and behaviorally coding parent-child interactions Coordinated biological sample collection and analysis, including urine, blood, stool, saliva, and hair
2015 – 2016	<p>Undergraduate Research Assistant, The Laboratory for the Study of Child and Family Relationships Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology, The University of Maryland, College Park</p> <p>Principal Investigator: Dr. Kenneth Rubin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned to the Preschool Shyness study, a research study examining the effects of a new intervention for behaviorally inhibited preschool children Live coded participant behaviors using the Play Observation Scale in classroom settings Operated Noldus' The Observer TX and Acqknowledge software to track heartrate and galvanic skin conductance of participants Analyzed heartrate data using CardioBatch Plus and CardioEdit software
Summer 2015	<p>Undergraduate Research Assistant, The Institute for Research on Youth Depression and Prevention Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, Rutgers University</p> <p>Principal Investigator: Dr. Jami Young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned to the Interpersonal Psychotherapy: Adolescent Skills Training Intervention, a preventative intervention for adolescent depression which targeted interpersonal vulnerabilities for depression Assisted in conducting the therapeutic intervention for participating adolescents Aided graduate students in scheduling sessions and inputting data

2014 – 2015**Undergraduate Research Assistant, The Interpersonal Relationships Laboratory**

Department of Psychology, The University of Maryland, College Park

Principal Investigator: Dr. Edward Lemay

- Assigned to the Interpersonal Security Regulation Study, a research study examining how individuals maintain relationships with chronically insecure partners
- Behaviorally coded videos of romantic couples discussing their last argument using a Likert scale that gauged destructive behaviors of insecure partners
- Worked with qualitative and quantitative research

F. TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**2022 – 2023****Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Student: Grace E. Russell

Honors Thesis: “Testing Associations between Socioeconomic status during Pregnancy, Prenatal Diet Quality, Breastfeeding, and Infant Sleep Characteristics at 6 Months of Age”

2022 – 2023**Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Student: Emma Fagerberg

Honors Thesis: “Effects of Prenatal Environmental Factors on Early Infant Temperament”

Spring 2022**Instructional Assistant, Social Media, Technology, & the Adolescent Brain**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor: Rosa Li, Ph.D.

Spring 2021**Instructor, Child Development**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2020 – 2021**Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Research Fellowship**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Student: Samantha Garcia Cruz

Project: “The Mediating Role of Prenatal Maternal Mindfulness on the Association between Prenatal Stress and Infants’ Emotional Reactivity at 6 Months”

Fall 2020**Instructional Assistant, Child Development**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor: Rosa Li, Ph.D.

Spring 2020**Instructional Assistant, Research Methods in Psychology**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor: Patrick Harrison, Ph.D.

Fall 2019**Student, College Teaching Class**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor: Jeannie Loeb, Ph.D.

G. GUEST LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS

- Fall 2022** **The Effect of Maternal Fatty Acids Intake during Pregnancy on Infant Sleep Outcomes: Testing Breastfeeding as a Moderator**
Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Audience: Postdoctoral and Graduate, Interdisciplinary
- Spring 2022** **Physical Development: The Brain and the Body**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Child Development Course
Audience: Undergraduate, Interdisciplinary
- Spring 2021** **Impacts of Social Media on Sleep**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Social Media, Technology, & the Adolescent Brain Course
Audience: Undergraduate, Interdisciplinary
- Fall 2020** **Prenatal Stress and Maternal and Infant Health**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Child Development Course
Audience: Undergraduate, Interdisciplinary
- Spring 2020** **Influences of Prenatal Tobacco Use on Infant Outcomes**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Child Development Course
Audience: Undergraduate, Interdisciplinary
- Fall 2019** **Three Measures of Prenatal Tobacco Use: Methodological Comparison and Infant Outcomes**
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Developmental Psychology Seminar
Audience: Postdoctoral and Graduate, Interdisciplinary

H. EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Ad-hoc reviewer for: Child Development, Journal of Affective Disorders, and Parenting: Science and Practice.

I. SERVICE

- 2022 – 2023** The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Developmental Psychology Graduate Student Representative for Admissions Committee
- 2021 – 2022** The Carolina Consortium on Human Development organizing committee
- 2019 – 2020** The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Developmental Psychology Seminar organizing committee

J. PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS

McLaughlin, K., Chandra, A., Camerota, M., & Propper, C. (2022). *Relations between Infant Sleep Quality, Physiological Reactivity, and Emotional Reactivity to Stress at 3 and 6 Months*. Infant Behavior and Development.

Propper, C., **McLaughlin, K.**, Goldblum, J., Camerota, M., Gueron-Sela, N., Mills-Koonce, W. R., & Wagner, N. (2022). *Parenting and Child Sleep Problems in Infancy Predict School-Age Aggression and Inattention*. Sleep Health: Journal of the National Sleep Foundation.

Kral, T., Williams, C.Y., Wylie, A., **McLaughlin, K.**, Stephans, R. L., Mills-Koonce, W. R., Birn, R. B., Propper, C. B., & Short, S. (under review). *Intergenerational Effects of Racism on Amygdala and Hippocampus Resting State Functional Connectivity*.

McLaughlin, K., Grimes, M., Camerota, M., Wagner, N. J., Hodges, E. & Propper, C. (in prep). *Prenatal Tobacco Exposure and Infant Sleep: A Methodological Comparison*.

McLaughlin, K., Propper, C., Murgueitio-Meneses, N. J., & Mills-Koonce, W. R. (in prep). *Prenatal Adversity and Child Parasympathetic Functioning in The First 2 Years of Life: A Systematic Review*.

K. PRESENTATIONS

McLaughlin, K., Wylie, A., Short, S., & Propper, C. (March 2023). *Testing Associations between Prenatal Stress, Infant Sleep Characteristics, Breastfeeding, and Child Physical Growth over the First Years of Life*. Paper to be presented at symposium entitled “Infant Sleep and the Development of Obesity: Direct and Indirect Associations in Four Longitudinal Cohorts” for the 2023 Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Salt Lake City, UT.

McLaughlin, K., Cheatham, C., Short, S., & Propper, C. (March 2023). *Testing Associations Between Prenatal Fatty Acid Intake, Pre-Pregnancy Body Mass Index, Birth Outcomes, and Infant Sleep Characteristics at 6 Months of Age*. Paper to be presented at symposium entitled “Metabolic State and Nutrition during Pregnancy: Mechanisms and Moderators of Effects on Offspring Health and Development” for the 2023 Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Salt Lake City, UT.

Rong, X., Propper, C., **McLaughlin, K.**, & Short, S. (March 2023). *Associations of Pregnancy-Related Anxiety and Infant White Matter Microstructure*. Poster to be presented at the 2023 Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Salt Lake City, UT.

McLaughlin, K., Murgueitio Meneses, J. N., Cheatham, C., Propper, C., & Short, S. (November 2022). *The Effect of Maternal Fatty Acids Intake During Pregnancy on Infant Sleep Outcomes: Testing Breastfeeding as a Moderator*. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Meeting in San Diego, CA.

Murgueitio Meneses, J. N., **McLaughlin, K.**, Sheridan, M., Willoughby, M., Mills-Koonce, R., Short, S. J., & Propper, C. (November 2022). *Testing the Effects of Threat Exposure on Negative Affect and Parasympathetic Activity during Infancy and Early Childhood*. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Meeting in San Diego, CA.

McLaughlin, K., Short, S., & Propper, C. (May 2022). *Associations Between Financial Strain, Prenatal Sleep Characteristics, Postnatal Caregiving Quality, and Infant Temperament at 6 months*. Paper presented at symposium entitled “The Links between Caregiving and Cognitive and Socioemotional Development across Infancy and Childhood in the Context of Risk and Adversity” at the Annual Psychological Science Conference in Chicago, IL.

McLaughlin, K., Propper, C., Berman, I., Barr, J., & Short, S. (November 2021). *The Association Between Prenatal Maternal Hair Cortisol Levels and Infant Parasympathetic Functioning at 6 months*. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Meeting in Chicago, IL.

Barr, J., Propper, C., Wylie, A., **McLaughlin, K.**, & Short, S. (November 2021). *Examining the Effects of Prenatal Hair Cortisol on Neonatal Neurodevelopment and Infant Temperament as Predictors of*

Externalizing Disorders. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Meeting in Chicago, IL.

Kral, T., Propper, P., Williams, C., **McLaughlin, K.**, Gomes, L., Wylie, A., Birn, R. B., & Short, S. (September 2021). *Effects of Racism on Neonatal Resting State Functional Brain Connectivity*. Poster presented at The Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Virtual Congress.

Kral, T., Propper, P., Williams, C., **McLaughlin, K.**, Gomes, L., Birn, R., & Short, S. (April 2021). *Effects of Racism and Poverty on Infant Emotional Health and Functional Brain Networks*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Virtual Conference.

McLaughlin, K., Grimes, M., Camerota, M., & Propper, C. (March 2019) *Three Measures of Prenatal Tobacco Use: Methodological Comparisons and Infant Outcomes*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Rehder, P., **McLaughlin, K.**, Wang, G., Stuebe, A., & Mills-Koonce (July 2018) *The Influence of Maternal Depression on 12-Month Mother-Infant Attachment*. Poster presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

Rehder, P., Wang, G., **McLaughlin, K.**, Propper, C., Stuebe, A. & Mills-Koonce, R. (July 2018) *Maternal Sensitivity and Infants? Mother-Directed Gaze at 6 months of age*. Poster presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

L. GRANTS

Current

F32 HD112181-01 (McLaughlin, PI)

Submitted April 2023

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Early life nutritional disparities and infant sleep health: The mediating role of the hippocampus

M. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2022 – Present	Association for Psychological Science
2021 – Present	International Society for Developmental Psychobiology
2018 – Present	International Congress of Infant Studies
2018 – Present	Society for Research in Child Development

N. ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Behavioral Assessments

Reliable in administering the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI)

Behavioral Coding

Reliable in Play Observation Scale coding

Reliable in Still Face Paradigm behavioral coding

Reliable in Parent Child Interaction behavioral coding

Software Expertise

Proficient in SAS, SPSS, and MPlus statistical software

Proficient in electrocardiogram data collection and processing using Cardio Edit and Cardio Batch

Proficient in actigraphy data collection and processing using Actiware

Proficient in Qualtrics and RedCap software for research data

Proficient in Inquisit Web by Millisecond for precision psychological testing online

Certified Trainings

Human Imaging Training certified from the UNC-CH Biomedical Research Imaging Center
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Human Research certified
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Good Clinical Practice certified
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certified for adults and infants
Helping Advocates for Violence Ending Now (HAVEN) training certified

O. GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Graduate course work in contemporary research in human development, child development theory, cross-cultural perspectives on child development, advanced social development, developmental neuroscience, advanced research methods, multiple regression, multilevel modeling, hierarchical linear regression, structural equation modeling, writing for publication, and college teaching.

P. PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Mary Dozier, Ph.D. – *current postdoctoral supervisor*

Professor and Unidel Amy Elizabeth du Pont Chair in Child Development
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Delaware
215 Wolf Hall
Newark, DE 19716
mdozier@udel.edu

Cathi Propper, Ph.D. – *dissertation committee chair; co-advisor for my masters and doctoral training*

Associate Professor
School of Nursing, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Carrington Hall, S Columbia St
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
propper@unc.edu

Roger Mills-Koonce, Ph.D. – *co-advisor for my masters and doctoral training*

Associate Professor
Human Development and Family Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
100 E Cameron Ave
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
mills-koonce@unc.edu