

EDUCATION

<i>Expected 2026</i>	Ph.D. Psychology (Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience) <i>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i> Advisor: Patricia A. Reuter-Lorenz, Ph.D. My research focuses on cognitive and affective working memory performance across the adult lifespan. I collect data online and employ statistical methods such as mixed model analysis of variance, multiple linear regression, linear mixed-effects model, and meta-analysis.
<i>August 2023</i>	M.S. Psychology, 4.0 GPA <i>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i> Advisor: Patricia A. Reuter-Lorenz, Ph.D. 619: <i>Revisiting the Effects of Age on Affective Working Memory in an Online Lifespan Sample</i>
<i>May 2021</i>	B.A. Psychology, 3.7 GPA <i>Miami University, Oxford, OH</i> Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Cum Laude distinction and Departmental Honors Minor in Gerontology Thesis: <i>Understanding Standardized Test Performance and Stress with Eye-Tracking</i> Honors and Awards: Departmental honors in Psychology, President's List (1 semester), Dean's List (4 semesters), Outstanding Gerontology Minor Award, Rhethawks Award ¹

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Brain aging, cognitive resilience, and cognitive decline in older adulthood, with a focus on memory changes across the lifespan. I am also interested in how emotion and cognition interact with aging, the development of interventions to support cognitive health in older adults, and approaches to promote cognitive well-being.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

<i>2025</i>	Rackham Graduate Student Candidate Research Grant (\$3000) <i>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i>
<i>2025</i>	Rackham Conference Travel Grant (\$900) <i>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i>

¹ "Dying with Integrity" selected for publication in the 2019-2020 edition of Rhethawks, a textbook used for students enrolled in Composition and Rhetoric (ENG 111) at Miami University in Oxford, OH.

- 2025 **Sallie P. Asche Travel Award (\$500)**
Center for Vital Longevity, the University of Texas at Dallas
- 2024-Present **International Max Planck Research School on Learning, Intuitions, and Future Evolution (LIFE) Fellow**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Fellows are committed to studying human development and behavior across the entire lifespan, considering how physical, social, and cultural environments shape these processes.
- 2024-2025 **Psychology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Awarded to two students per year who demonstrate exceptional teaching ability, growth, and creativity in the classroom; who provide outstanding mentorship to students and colleagues; and who show significant scholarly development throughout their graduate studies.
- 2024 **Rackham Conference Travel Grant (\$1150)**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2023 **Rackham Graduate Student Predoctoral Research Grant (\$1500)**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2023 **Rackham Conference Travel Grant (\$900)**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2023 **Sallie P. Asche Travel Award (\$500)**
Center for Vital Longevity, the University of Texas at Dallas
- 2021- 2026 **Rackham Merit Fellow**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Awarded to students who have a record of superior academic achievement and come from an underrepresented background.

PUBLISHED WORK

- Culler, K.L., Stuver, L., **Sarver, K. A.** (2023, September/October). Brain care for all: Why investing in brain health matters. *Today's Geriatric Medicine*, 16(5), 9-12.
- Culler, K.L., & **Sarver, K. A.** (2021, April 30). The thinking on brain games: One way to stay brain fit. [[Web log post](#)].

PRESENTATIONS

Research Talks

- May 2025 **Affective Working Memory and Affective Forecasting: Examining Age-Related Abilities in Emotional Maintenance and Prediction**
LIFE Academy Talk, University of Michigan

- Feb 2025 **Present and Future Feelings: The Effects of Age and Task Parameters on Emotional Working Memory**
Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience Area Forum Talk, University of Michigan
- Feb 2023 **Revisiting the Effects of Age on Affective Working Memory in an Online Lifespan Sample**
Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience Area Forum Talk, University of Michigan

Selected Research Posters

- Sarver, K.A.**, Bernardini, E.A., Frank, C.C., Iordan, A.D., & Reuter-Lorenz, P.A. (2025, November). *Working Memory for Emotion Predicts Affective Forecasting Accuracy: Replication in a Representative Young Adult Sample*. Poster presented at the Psychonomic Society Annual Conference in Denver, CO.
- Sarver, K.A.**, Bernardini, E.A., Frank, C.C., Iordan, A.D., Babu, H.J., & Reuter-Lorenz, P.A. (2025, February). *Affective Forecasting Accuracy and Working Memory for Emotion in Younger and Older Adults*. Poster presented at the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference in Dallas, TX.
- Sarver, K.A.**, Frank, C.C., Iordan, A.D., & Reuter-Lorenz, P.A. (2024, October). *Maintaining Valenced Memories: The Effects of Task Parameters on Working Memory for Positive and Negative Emotions*. Poster presented at the LIFE Academy in Berlin, Germany.
- Sarver, K.A.**, Frank, C.C., Iordan, A.D., & Reuter-Lorenz, P.A. (2024, April). *Affective Working Memory: Is it Easier to Maintain Positive than Negative Emotions?* Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Sarver, K.A.**, Frank, C.C., Mann Bryant, J. L., Iordan, A.D., & Reuter-Lorenz, P.A. (2023, February). *Revisiting the Effects of Age on Affective Working Memory in an Online Lifespan Sample*. Poster presented at the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference in Dallas, TX.
- Culler, K.L., Stuver, L., Faust, P., & **Sarver, K. A.** (2021). *Brain Health in a Global Pandemic: A Virtual Shift*. Presented at the 45th Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education's annual conference at Ohio University, Athens, OH.
- Sarver, K. A.**, Contreras, N., Petit, E., Vo, C., Davidson, L., Johnson, J. G. (2021, April). *Understanding Standardized Test Performance and Stress with Eye-Tracking*. Poster presented at the Virtual Stephen Hinkle Poster Session, Oxford, OH.

WORK HISTORY

Selected Research Experience

- Fall 2021-Present **Graduate Student Research Assistant, Cognitive & Affective Neuropsychology Lab**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
 Lab Director: Patricia Reuter-Lorenz, Ph.D.
- Research-related responsibilities include developing code in R, creating tasks in PsychoPy, creating surveys in Qualtrics, reviewing literature, designing studies, collecting data online, analyzing results,

writing about evidence and implications, and disseminating results via manuscripts, talks, and poster presentations

- Heavily involved in mentoring undergraduate research assistants
- Currently working on multiple projects related to understanding affective and non-affective working memory ability in younger and older adults

Oct 2018-May 2021 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, Judgment and Decision Making Laboratory**

Miami University, Oxford, OH

Lab Director: Joseph Johnson, Ph.D.

- The only undergraduate student in the lab selected to conduct an honors thesis in 2021
 - Designed the experiment, collected new data, analyzed results, wrote about findings in a research paper, created a poster, and presented results at an undergraduate forum.

Teaching Experience and Training

Fall 2024

Graduate Student Instructor, Human Neuropsychology (Psych 345)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lead Instructor: Patricia Reuter-Lorenz, Ph.D

- 60 students
- Assisted the primary instructor with course administration, including managing course materials, coordinating assignments and grading across sections, maintaining communication with peer graduate student instructors, and ensuring consistency in course procedures.
- Updated the discussion section slides for graduate instructors.

Winter 2023

Lead Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Psych 240)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lead Instructor: Madison Fansher, Ph.D.

- 50 students
- Assisted the primary instructor with course administration, including managing course materials, uploading relevant course files, creating weekly quizzes for sections, and assisting peer graduate student instructors with questions.
- Assisted in the updating of course lecture slides.

Fall 2023

Lab Section Instructor, Research Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience (Psych 302)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lead Instructor: Daniel Weissman, Ph.D.

- 40 students
- Assisted in updating key teaching materials (including research report rubrics, templates, lesson content, and grading tools) for use by future students and Graduate Student Instructors.

Fall 2023

Writing 993: Teaching Writing in the Disciplines

Sweetland Center for Writing, University of Michigan

- This writing course trains graduate students to learn the pedagogical skills necessary to teach a writing-intensive course.

Winter 2023

Lead Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Psych 240)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lead Instructor: Taraz Lee, Ph.D.

- 75 students
- Assisted the primary instructor with course administration, including managing course materials, uploading quizzes and exams, and assisting peer graduate student instructors.

Fall 2022

Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Psych 240)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lead Instructor: Thad Polk, Ph.D.

- 75 students

Winter 2022

Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Psych 240)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lead Instructor: Thad Polk, Ph.D.

- 25 students

Winter 2022

Teaching Academy

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Completed a course designed to prepare graduate students for teaching at the University of Michigan.

January 2022

Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Attended an orientation that provided new graduate student instructors with practice teaching in front of students and tips for how to build classroom engagement in an inclusive environment.

Field Experience

Jan 2021-May 2021

Intern

The Virtual Brain Health Center

Supervisor: Dr. Krystal Culler

- Presented at the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) Conference, co-authored a blog focused on video games and memory, and taught a class on the importance of keeping your brain active and using games as a method to stay sharp.

2020

Nurse's Aide

Golden Heights Personal Care, Harrison City, PA

- Assisted older adults with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) such as showering, eating, using the restroom, & keeping a clean environment.

OUTREACH AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

2024-2026

Psychology STAR Scholars Program Mentor

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Provide structured mentoring to students on how to be researchers, assist in increasing the number of students conducting advanced research, and academically support an inclusive community of students.
- In 2025, the STAR Program won the Claudia Joan Alexander Trailblazer Award. This award honors teams for the development or implementation of a program that supports success for all students in STEM at U-M.
- Prior to becoming a mentor, I engaged in a workshop panel titled "Life as a Graduate Student: Grad Life as an Underrepresented Student" to offer guidance on navigating higher education as a first-generation student.

2022-Present

Undergraduate Research Assistant Mentor

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Mentored Honors Thesis student in 2024-2025: *Working Memory for Emotion and Affective Forecasting Abilities Revisited Via the 2024 Presidential Election*
- Mentor and train multiple undergraduate students on an affective working memory project in my research lab
- Help the students understand the literature, coding, data collection, data cleaning, and interpreting key results.
- Host annual workshops for undergraduates on the graduate school application process, including guidance on preparation, resources, and pathways to admission.

2021-Present

Michigan Association of Psychological Scholars (MAPS) Mentor

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Mentor undergraduate students with personal and professional development
- Responsibilities include reviewing documents such as personal statements and curricula vitae, encouraging and helping with activities such as joining a research lab and presenting at conferences, and answering academic and research-related questions.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2025-2026

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Area Departmental Associate

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Support faculty and students by helping coordinate activities, attending faculty meetings, and facilitating communication in the program.

2024 & 2025

Psychology Commencement Coordinator

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Coordinated with faculty and staff, communicated with graduating students and their families, and ensured that the event ran smoothly.

Fall 2024

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Area Admissions Committee

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Collaborated with faculty and graduate students to review and evaluate graduate applications for the Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience area, assisting in the preliminary selection process

2024

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Area Recruitment Committee

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Involved in planning and organizing the recruitment weekend for the Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience area

2022-2024

Co-Chair for the Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Plan social events throughout the academic year to foster an environment of respect and support among graduate students

2022-2024

Graduate Student Leadership Council (GSLC)

- Served as a liaison between graduate students and administration by attending meetings and contributing to decision-making processes

2022-2023

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Area Social Committee

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Involved in planning and organizing social events for the CCN area in the Department of Psychology

2022

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience (CCN) Subcommittee

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Worked with a team of graduate students and faculty to address structural issues concerning the CCN graduate program, including training goals, curriculum, communication/mentoring, and student life.

AD-HOC REVIEWER

- Emotion
- Communications Psychology

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Psychonomic Society
- American Psychological Association

SOFTWARE SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

R, PsychoPy, Qualtrics, Pavlovia, Prolific, SONA, Canvas, Google Workspace, Microsoft Office

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

- Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) Graduate Certificate (2025) | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Cognitive Science Certificate (expected 2026) | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Training Course in fMRI | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- PEERS Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship Training | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- FERPA Training | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Teaching Academy | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation. Center for Research on Learning and Teaching | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.