

DoSC Lab Summer Newsletter



A Brief Introduction

The Development of Social Cognition Lab at UC-Irvine investigates how children learn to think and reason about their social worlds.

We look at how children learn about fairness and equality, choice, thinking about the future, and prosocial behaviors such as sharing and helping.

Lab Updates: What we've been up to!

Happy Summer! We hope this summer brings about relaxation and fun with family and friends. We are excited to share that we have even more in-person opportunities to participate in our research and would love to have your child scientists help us with our research! We still offer compensated online studies for families not local to Orange County.

We are eager to announce that we have **successfully completed two studies online**. Across all our online studies we have worked with over 500 child scientists! A special thanks to all our child scientists from across the United States and China for

What do we do?

Our studies take the form of short games: puzzle games, number games, interactive computer games, storytelling games, etc. We look at children's responses on these games to study how they think and behave at different stages of their lives.

participating! We couldn't complete our research without you.

Members of our lab presented our work at the Cognitive Development Society conference in Madison, Wisconsin in March!

- Principal Investigator, **Dr. Nadia Chernyak**, presented work on children's acceptances and rejection of different levels of inequality.
- Lab manager, **Lucy Stowe** presented cross-cultural work in collaboration with **Dr. Allegra Midgette**, **Dr. Nadia Chernyak** and Ph.D. student and former lab member **Danyang Ma** on US and Chinese children and parent's perceptions of inequality within the household.

Our Research Updates

Our 1st year graduate students, Cassidy and Jacky, have started some new research investigating how children think about social groups, and concepts like social mobility, wealth bias, and morality!

Big Dreams & Build-a-Biped studies:

- These studies are interested in how kids think about social groups.
- Investigating how children utilize social group markers (i.e. gender, religion) will help us understand how children make decisions and evaluations.
- We anticipate that the role of social group markers will vary for children. These studies are exploratory and additional research will be done to better understand how children utilize social groups.

Social Mobility study:

- This study explores children's social mobility beliefs, specifically whether children think people can change their social groups and classes.
- Investigating children's conception of social status would help us understand how their beliefs influence their decision making, such as when planning career goals.
- We anticipate that providing different examples of success could change how they think about social mobility.

Congratulations to our graduating research assistants!

Development of Social
Cognition Lab at UCI

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We are so
proud of you
& so excited
to watch
your
amazing
journeys
begin!



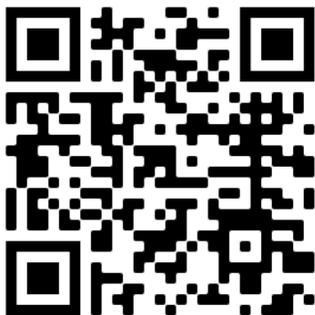
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"Development of Social
Cognition Lab at UC Irvine"



Scan the QR code
above to learn more
about our studies!

Meet our summer 2022 interns!



Tenzing Choeying is pursuing a B.S. in Psychology at Fordham University. She has volunteered for the Himalayan youth since highschool and tutored them during her college career. She is interested in children's cognitive development such as how they develop societal biases. She is particularly interested in how to make young children become aware of their biases. After graduation, Tenzing plans to continue her education in counseling psychology. During her free time, she enjoys baking, reading, jamming to music, doing skincare, and being with friends and family.



Habiba Amir is a third-year undergraduate student pursuing a B.A. in psychology at UCLA, with a planned minor in brain and behavioral health. She is interested in the prevention and treatment of mental disorders and abnormal behavior, as well as mind-body interactions as they relate to mental wellbeing. After graduation, Habiba plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and eventually work as a clinical psychologist. In her free time, she enjoys making ceramics, reading fantasy novels, and spending time with friends & family :)



Jennifer Hodel is an undergraduate Psychology major at Wheaton College, Massachusetts and pursuing minors in both Education and Women and Gender Studies. Jennifer plans on obtaining graduate degrees in School Counseling and Clinical Psychology. She also later intends to conduct research focused on children's perceptions of gender. In her free time she enjoys playing tennis, baking, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family.