

DoSC Lab Newsletter



Our Research Updates

Our research looks at how children understand the social world around them; this year we've been focusing on child-parent interactions, children's emotional experiences, and how children's experiences with disadvantage affect their ideas and fairness behavior.

Previous findings from our lab revealed children's numerical competencies predict their ideas about fairness. We are currently exploring this relationship in adults.

What have we found so far?

Parent-child interactions when reading and talking about chores:

- When reading math storybooks, both parents and children produce a greater proportion of number words.
- Parents and children generally agree about the types of tasks each parent takes on in the house.
- Children perceive the distribution of household labor as fairer than parents.

Relationship between adult's fraction knowledge and merit-based rewards:

- Adults who take more time to complete fraction tasks are more likely to reward based on proportional work done.
- Adults living in countries with greater Covid exposure are more likely to reward a proportionally harder worker or a disadvantaged worker.

Thank you to all who participated in our research!

A Brief Introduction

The Development of Social Cognition Lab at UC-Irvine investigates how children learn to think and reason about the social world around them and the cognitive competencies underlying these skills.

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!

The DoSC Lab is open and working to adapt our studies to the current situation. Like everyone else around the world, we find ourselves living and functioning during an unprecedented global event that has changed the way we socialize with each other, as well as how we think about inequality.

While these topics intersect with the lab's existing research interests, they have suddenly become more relevant in this time of dramatic change. In the past few months, our work has continued to focus on exploring these issues online, in both children and adults.

It has also been an eventful year for our lab members. Our undergraduate

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 i.e. to investigate the developmental trajectory of their acquired skills, behaviors and reasoning about the world.

research assistants have received multiple UCI research grants for their projects. This year also saw our lab manager, Sifana Sohail, submit her first manuscript for publication on a collaborative DoSC Lab project. Sifana has also been accepted to Yale University's Psychology PhD program!

This summer, we are looking forward to our new lab manager, Lucy Stowe, joining us!

Finally, the DoSC Lab is now open online. We are excited to announce that **we now have openings for children and parents to participate in our studies online!** [www.dosclab.com/online-studies]

By signing up on our website, or sending us an email, parents can schedule a short video call to play some of our games.

Development of Social
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**Child Scientists
Sign up online!**



Monthly Feature:

Person, Picture & Project

This month's featured lab member is:



Katherine Brogan

Katherine Brogan is a fourth-year Cognitive Science undergraduate and a research assistant in the DoSC Lab at UCI. She plans to graduate in Spring 2021 and pursue a PhD in Neuropsychology.

Katherine is working this summer on a project for her honors thesis. During her research experience thus far, she has worked on studies linking children's counting skills to their sharing and fairness behaviors.

Her current study investigates how religiosity impacts children's thinking about fairness. Since religion can be such a fundamental part of people's daily lives and even their moral judgments, she wants to see how early these religious moral compasses are internalized. To do so, children will be playing games where they judge another person's sharing behaviors and parents will complete a survey on their child's exposure to religion.

Katherine is currently working on the tasks so she can start collecting data soon via Zoom!



What games are we playing?

*Want to know more about our
games? Find a list of our
current studies on our website
at [www.dosclab.com/online-
studies](http://www.dosclab.com/online-studies)*

Where to find us!

Interesting in participating?

We are currently only running studies online. In order to participate, please sign up on our website at:

www.dosclab.com/contact-us/

Or send us an email at:

dosclab@uci.edu

Find studies from other labs at:

<https://childrenhelpingscience.com/>

DoSC Games: Parent Play!

Looking for fun social-cognitive development games to play with your child? Try this one!

Mood Meter

Who can play: **4 – 7 years old**

What concept it helps develop:
Emotional Intelligence

You need:

1. Mood Meter (paper or app)

How to play:

1. Get the Mood Meter:

- Make your own mood meter by printing or following a blueprint of the Yale Mood Meter (link at the bottom).
- Download the mood meter app at <https://moodmeterapp.com/>

2. The Mood Meter can help children recognize, understand, label, express and regulate their emotions. Practice labeling and talking about emotions with your child during emotional moments or perspective taking.

Note: For more detailed instructions, look up the manual at: <https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Hinsdale-Introducing-Staff->