

HECTOR J. SOSA

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – AMHERST

MS in Social Psychology, Advisor: Dr. Nilanjana Dasgupta

PhD in Social Psychology, Advisor: Dr. Nilanjana Dasgupta

Amherst, MA

February 2025

Expected October 2026

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, GPA: 3.8

Amherst, NY

July 2017 – August 2021

Research Experience

Culture and Morality Lab – University of Massachusetts

Graduate Research Assistant

Amherst, MA

September 2023 – *Current*

- Supervised undergraduate research assistants annotating a large text corpus.
- Ran experiments on the relationship between moral diversity and censorship.
- Contributed to lab research papers.
- Compiled publicly available data (e.g. JSON files) using Python to run statistical analyses.
- Analyzed data using different statistical models (ANOVAs, Structural Equation Modeling, Negative Binomial Regressions).

Family Relationships, Affective Science & Morality Health Lab

Graduate Research Assistant

Amherst, MA

August 2022 – *Current*

- Created surveys for parents and students.
- Conducted focus groups centered around adverse experiences of youth and perceptions of role models.
- Presented research on role models to research assistants.

Implicit Social Cognition Lab – University of Massachusetts

Graduate Research Assistant

Amherst, MA

August 2021 – *Current*

- Manage undergraduate research assistants for multiple projects.
- Organize professional development workshops for undergraduate research assistants.
- Present research findings and proposals at a national conference.
- Supervised an honor's thesis.

McNair Scholars, Department of Computer Science – University at Buffalo

Summer Research Intern

Remote

May 2021 – July 2021

- Compiled publicly available data on NYC Public High Schools using Python under the guidance of Dr. Jing Gao.
- Calculated correlations between performance of high schools (i.e., graduation rates) and features of the schools (i.e., whether the high school offered computer science courses) for the 2015-16 academic year using Pandas and NumPy.
- Presented results at the UCLA McNair Scholars Conference.

Self and Motivation Lab, Psychology Honors Program – University at Buffalo

Honors Student

Amherst, NY

August 2020 – May 2021

- Completed honors thesis under the guidance of Dr. Lora Park to create an independent research project exploring the importance of identity matching and revealing successes and failures to optimize the effectiveness of role models.
- Orally defended honors thesis to a faculty committee May 2021.

McNair Scholars, Department of Psychology – University at Buffalo

Amherst, NY

Summer Research Intern

May 2020 – August 2020

- Met weekly with Dr. Park to prepare materials for study examining how different features of role models affect members of underrepresented groups.
- Conducted literature review on role models.
- Presented study design for honors thesis at 2020 UCLA's Virtual National McNair Conference.

Self and Motivation Lab – University at Buffalo

Amherst, MA

Undergraduate Research Assistant

August 2019 – May 2021

- Assisted in running studies, specifically with reading scripts and assigning participants to the correct condition.
- Participated in weekly lab meetings with principal investigator, graduate students, and other undergraduate students to discuss research methods and how to strengthen and develop upcoming studies.

Child Health and Behavior Lab (HABLAB) – University at Buffalo

Amherst, NY

Undergraduate Research Assistant

March 2019 – May 2019

- Recruited families at a local restaurant with Dr. Anzman-Frasca for a pilot study where young children tasted healthy food choices and rated their favorite meal.
- Coded findings from the pilot study using Microsoft Excel.
- Created and presented an infographic to make results from a previous study more consumable for a layperson.
- Conducted literature reviews using PsycINFO and Google Scholar.

Teaching Experience**Introductory Psychology – University of Massachusetts**

Amherst, MA

Graduate Instructor

May 2025 – July 2025

- Set up and managed an asynchronous course.
- Kept students engaged by having them introduce themselves and engage in weekly discussions.
- Graded students' assignment.

Advancing Diversity in Research and Practice – University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA

Graduate Instructor

September 2024 – May 2025

- Delivered and created lectures on topics related to diversity (e.g., race, culture) for 28 students.
- Moderated smaller class discussions between students
- Graded students' assignments (weekly reflections, presentations, class participants)

Statistics in Psychology – University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA

Graduate Teaching Assistant

February 2024 – May 2024

- Led lab sections to assist students with their homework assignments.
- Helped debug R code/RStudio.
- Graded 71 students' R markdown files for every homework assignment.

Introductory Psychology – University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA

Graduate Teaching Assistant

September 2022 – December 2023

- Supervised undergraduate teaching assistants, specifically ensuring they attended class regularly, graded assignments in a timely manner, and answered any questions they had.
- Supported students by answering emails, reviewing grades and assignments, and holding office

hours.

- Assisted in proctoring exams, coordinated with Disability Services office to provide accommodations for disabled students, archived students' assignments, solving grade disputes from students.

Leadership and Service

Psychology Graduate Student Diversity Committee – University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Graduate Student Member September 2022 – *Current*

- Attend committee meetings with other graduate students to discuss issues and solutions in the department related to DEI.
- Communicate questions or concerns between the Department Diversity Committee and the Graduate Student Diversity Committee.
- Mentored two undergraduate psychology students.

Psychology Mentorship Assistant – University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Graduate Program Assistant September 2023 – May 2024

- Documented available mentoring opportunities in the Psychology department.
- Ran a usability test, where undergraduate students evaluate the Psychology's department website. The goal of this study is to better understand ways to represent opportunities for undergraduate in the PBS website.

Psychology Department Diversity Committee – University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Graduate Student Representative September 2022 – May 2024

- Attended committee meetings with faculty and staff to discuss issues and solutions in the department related to DEI.
- Gave feedback on documents that eventually get sent to department or administrators.
- Communicated questions or concerns between the Department Diversity Committee and the Graduate Student Diversity Committee.

Psychology BRiDGE Committee – University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Graduate Student Member September 2022 – May 2024

- BRiDGE aims to increase the visibility of early-career scholars from underrepresented groups to combat the attrition of underrepresented graduate students in STEM by highlighting exceptional broader impacts and facilitating mentorship with graduate students.
- Help organize visiting scholar's traditional technical talk, freeform event on broader impacts, and mentorship lunch with graduates.

Technical Experience

Center for Women's Welfare – University of Washington Remote
Database Consultant October 2022 – August 2023

- Transitioned previous analyses from SPSS and Excel to R.
- Created clear code and documentation that covers the needs of Self-Sufficiency Standard analysis, such as historical comparisons, comparing the Standard to other basic needs measures, and city specific analyses.
- Updated the Self-Sufficiency Standard database using Python and SQLAlchemy.
- Tested database functionality using Pytest.
- Generated R script that analyzes the American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files, publicly available data provided by the census.
- Trained research staff on running new R syntax.

Data Science for Social Good – University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Student Fellow

June 2022 – August 2022

- Worked on a team with three other fellows, a lead data scientist, two project leads to design and create the Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS) database, a relational database.
- Met with stakeholders to design database functionality to meet their needs.
- Used Python and SQLAlchemy to create the database.
- Used Git and GitKraken to collaborate with the fellows and lead data scientist
- Gave oral presentation at the end of the internship to an audience of graduate students, social scientists, data scientists, and community partners.

McNair Scholars, Department of Computer Science – University at Buffalo

Remote

Summer Research Intern

May 2021 – July 2021

- Compiled publicly available data on NYC Public High Schools using Python under the guidance of Dr Jing Gao.
- Calculated correlations between performance of high schools (i.e., graduation rates) and features of the schools (i.e., whether the high school offered computer science courses) for the 2015-16 academic year using Pandas and NumPy.
- Presented results at the UCLA McNair Scholars Conference

Conference Presentations

“When Do Personal Stories of Successful Individuals Inspire vs. Deflate Underrepresented Students in STEM?”, Poster Presentation, The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO, February 2025

“The Association Between Kinship Intensity and Women’s Education,” Data Presentation, The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA, February 2024