**Kira Harris**

(404) 804-1970 • [kiraharr@usc.edu](mailto:kiraharr@usc.edu)

**EDUCATION**

2022 **B.A. Psychological & Brain Sciences,** *Summa Cum Laude*

Washington University in St. Louis

Concentration: Cognitive Neuroscience

Minor: Spanish

GPA: 4.0

Honors Thesis: Empathy and the Prevalence of Ostracism or Social Exclusion

Supervisor: Michael J Strube

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Social exclusion and ostracism • Impression formation and attitudes • Prosocial behavior • Empathy and compassion • Evolutionary origins of social behavior

**AWARDS & HONORS**

2022-present Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Member

2020-2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Award (SURA) recipient (2020, 2021)

2020-present Psi Chi Honor Society Member

2020 Burton M. Wheeler Sophomore Book Award

2018-2021 Dean’s List (FL2018, SP2019, FL2019, FL2020, FL2021)

2018 Paideia high school AJC (Atlanta Journal Constitution) cup award

2018 Atlanta INtown Paper 20 under 20 honoree for community service

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Research Technician (full-time)** (July 2022 - present)

Washington University in St. Louis, *Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences*

Memory & Cognition Lab, Primary Investigator: Dr. Kathleen McDermott

**Responsibilities**: I am working on a project on the effects of social retelling on accurate recall. I am also collecting data for a project on individual differences in memory and learning rates. I attend lab meetings and read and discuss papers in the field.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** (August 2019 - May 2022)

Washington University in St. Louis, *Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences*

Social Behavior Lab, Primary Investigator: Dr. Michael Strube

**Responsibilities:** I worked as a research assistant in Dr. Strube’s social behavior lab. I developed and executed an independent project exploring whether self-awareness affects impression formation. I also investigated the effect of empathy on likelihood of ostracizing or excluding others for my honors thesis and am continuing work on other factors that influence exclusion.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** (August 2020 – December 2021)

Washington University in St. Louis, *Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences*

Memory & Cognition Lab, Primary Investigator: Dr. Kathleen McDermott

**Responsibilities:** I learned about neuroimaging and memory and analyzed behavioral data from a continuous recognition fMRI study. I also wrote a paper on the reliability of the testing effect.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Undergraduate Assistant to Instructor**

Psych 300 Introductory Psychological Statistics, Professor: Dr. Emily Cohen-Shikora

Washington University in St. Louis

Fall 2021

**Responsibilities:** I graded exams and took notes to come up with consistent grading criteria.

**Undergraduate Assistant to Instructor**

Psych 395 Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination, Professor: Dr. Calvin Lai

Washington University in St. Louis

Spring 2022

**Responsibilities:** I held office hours, attended class, created multiple choice exam questions

based on the material that we covered, proctored exams, and graded homework assignments.

**ESL (English as a Second Language) Tutor**

Washington University in St. Louis

2018-2020

**Responsibilities:** I tutored a WashU economics graduate student once per week in English.

**PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS**

Harris, K. (May 2022). *Empathy and the prevalence of ostracism or social exclusion.* Presented poster at poster session for Psychological & Brain Sciences honors theses.

Harris, K. (April 2022). *Empathy and the prevalence of ostracism or social exclusion.* Created a poster for the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Harris, K. (September 2021). *Preliminary research on factors associated with ostracism and exclusion.*  Presented at the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Harris, K. (April 2021). *Self awareness and impression formation.* Presented at the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference.

Harris, K & Strube, M.J. (December 2020). *Self awareness and impression formation.* Created a poster for the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Jungle of the Apes Intern**

St. Louis Zoo

2022

**Responsibilities:** I worked with the zookeepers at the St. Louis zoo and observed and assisted in

tasks involved in caring for chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans in captivity. These tasks included preparing diet and enrichment materials and cleaning as well as observing animal behavior and learning about the individuals and species in general.

**Citizenship Tutor and Youth Mentor**

International Institute of St. Louis

2019 - present

**Responsibilities:** I tutored immigrants and refugees from many countries around the world to

help them prepare for their citizenship interview. I went to citizenship classes in person in 2019

and the beginning of 2020 and continued tutoring online during the pandemic. I also volunteered

as a youth mentor during the summer of 2020. I returned to citizenship tutoring in person in 2022.

**SKILLS**

Familiar with R, Python, and Java

Experience building studies with Qualtrics and PsychoPy

Proficient in Spanish