

Christian M. Jerry

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 2026 M.A.**, Behavioral & Brain Sciences, University of Georgia - Athens
Advisor: Dr. Drew Abney (PI)
Thesis: Examining how parental language that supports children's autonomy influences their self-regulatory abilities (in progress).
- 2022 ICIS Founding Generation Summer Fellowship**, University of Miami (FL)
Advisors: Dr. Daniel Messinger (PI) and Dr. Sam Mitsven
Project: Preschool Interactions during COVID-19 - Effects of Safety Regulations on Vocalizations and Proximity in the Classroom.
- 2021 B.A.**, Psychology, Indiana University - Bloomington
Advisors: Dr. Chen Yu (PI), Dr. Sara Schroer, and Dr. Drew Abney

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Development and learning; language and cognitive development; perception and action; visual attention.
- Social interaction and dyadic processes; computer vision and machine learning applications for developmental science.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, MATLAB, HTML

SELECTED AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- **Richard L. Marsh Mentoring Award** (2023): Recognizes exceptional commitment to mentoring students.
- **Presidential Graduate Fellow Award** (2022-2026): University of Georgia fellowship providing annual stipend and travel support in addition to assistantships and tuition waivers (\$7,000 per year).
- **ICIS Undergraduate Fellowship** (2021): Eight-week intensive research fellowship pairing students with international mentors (\$4,000).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Jerry, C. M.**, Kolberg, A., Mazzella, S., Lee, S., Suveg, C., and Abney, D. (2024). Physiological responses to the onset of mother and child utterances in a stress-inducing dyadic task [Poster presentation]. IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning (ICDL), Austin, TX.
- **Jerry, C. M.**, Steffen, G., Bell, C., Kolberg, A., Patel, B., and Abney, D. (2024). The operationalization of coordinated attention and its relation to language development: A meta-analysis [Poster presentation]. International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS), Glasgow, Scotland.

PUBLICATIONS

- Steffen, G., Lindig, K., Howard, C. J., **Jerry, C. M.**, Bell, C., Morrow, K. E., Gallegos, D., Oshri, A., Suveg, C., Kello, C., & Abney, D. H. (in press). Coupling of rhythms in prefrontal cortex and autonomic nervous system in school-age children. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*.
- Morrow, K., Hale, M., Gallegos, D., **Jerry, C. M.**, Abney, D., & Suveg, C. (2026). Maternal coping and emotion regulation processes are differentially associated with dynamic mother-child affect expression [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *Emotion*.
- Hale, M. E., Morrow, K. E., Steffen, G., Wang, H., **Jerry, C. M.**, Xu, J., ... & Suveg, C. (2025). Mother-Child Neurophysiological Synchrony Moderates the Relation Between Maternal Affect Experiences and Child Emotion Dysregulation. *Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology*, 1-16.
- Steffen, G. M., **Jerry, C. M.**, Bell, C., Kolberg, A. R., Patel, B., and Abney, D. H. (2024). The operationalization of coordinated attention and the relations to language development: A meta-analysis. *Advances in Child Development and Behavior*, 66, 81-107. [OSF]
- Abney, D. H., **Jerry, C. M.**, Smith, L. B., and Yu, C. (2024). Look before you reach: Fixation-reach latencies predict reaching kinematics in toddlers. *Infancy*, 29(1), 6-21.
- Mitsven, S. G., Perry, L. K., **Jerry, C. M.**, and Messinger, D. S. (2022). Classroom language during COVID-19: Associations between mask-wearing and objectively measured teacher and preschooler vocalizations. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 874293.
- Messinger, D. S., Perry, L. K., Mitsven, S. G., Tao, Y., Moffitt, J., Fasano, R. M., ... and **Jerry, C. M.** (2022). Computational approaches to understanding interaction and development. In *Advances in Child Development and Behavior* (Vol. 62, pp. 191-230). JAI.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Indiana University, Department of Psychology - Computational Cognition and Learning Laboratory (Chen Yu Lab)

2018-2021 Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Attended weekly lab and project meetings to discuss research articles and ongoing work.
- Behaviorally coded infant behaviors (e.g., arm movements, vocalizations).
- Organized and maintained study space, assessment tools, and materials.

Selected projects

- Distance and Motion Between Dyads (2019-2020): Categorized dyad distance during free play and joint attention (Advisor: Dr. Sara Schroer).
- Sensorimotor integration in more naturalistic contexts (2018): Examined whether fixation-reach latencies predicted reaching kinematics toward objects (Advisor: Dr. Drew Abney).

2021-2022 Lab Coordinator

- Trained research assistants in in-house behavioral coding systems.
- Supported eye-tracking calibration and pre-processing.
- Assisted in development of coding schemes.
- Contributed to data collection for The Play and Learning Across a Year (PLAY) project.

University of Miami, Department of Psychology - Early Play and Development Laboratory (Daniel Messinger Lab)

2021-2022 Research Intern (ICIS Undergraduate Fellowship / REU / SURF)

- Completed training in Python, R, GitHub, and command-line tools.

- Attended project meetings and contributed analyses and visualizations for group discussions.

Final project

- Preschool Interactions during COVID-19 - Effects of Safety Regulations on Vocalizations and Proximity in the Classroom (2021). Longitudinal study examining whether mask wearing influenced language input and use in an oral language inclusion classroom for children with and without hearing loss, including measures of social contact (Advisors: Dr. Daniel Messinger and Dr. Sam Mitsven).

TEACHING & INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 5 semesters** **Teaching Assistant**, PSYC 3990 - Research Analysis in Psychology (University of Georgia)
- Supported instruction in quantitative methods and data analysis using R/RStudio, including data management, visualization, and statistical inference.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS)
- IEEE Computational Intelligence Society

MENTORSHIP

- Sophie Mazzella (2022-2024)
- Sabina Lee (2023-2024)
- Amanda Kolberg (2022-2025)
- Sarah Jane Ellington (2023-2025)
- Kaitlyn Meland (2023-2025)
- Samira Butts (2023-2025)
- Delaney Mendoza (2024-2025)
- Shreya Lakshmisha (High School Student, Summer 2022)
- Sabrina Golden (2023-present)
- Avery Criss (2024-present)

REFERENCES

Chen Yu

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