

**Naomi Gancz**

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## EDUCATION

- 2021 – Present     **University of California, Los Angeles**  
*Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology*  
*Minor in Quantitative Methods*  
 Advisor: Bridget Callaghan, Ph.D.
- 2015 – 2019     **University of Chicago**  
*B.A. in Psychology with Honors*  
*Minor in Statistics*  
 Advisor: Greg Norman, Ph.D.  
 Honors Thesis: *Peer Ratings Predict Behavior Changes in Children Exposed to Early-Life Stress*

## FUNDING, HONORS & AWARDS

- 2024     UCLA Summer Mentored Research Fellowship (\$6000)
- 2023     Goodman-Luskin Microbiome Center Seed Fellowship Award (\$30,000), Co-Recipient
- 2023     UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship (\$6,000)
- 2023     Wisconsin Symposium on Emotions Travel Award
- 2023     National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program, Honorable Mention
- 2022 – 2023     UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship (\$37,756)
- 2022     International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Student Abstract Award
- 2022     UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship (\$6,000)
- 2021     National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program, Honorable Mention
- 2020     International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Student Abstract Award
- 2019     Liew Family College Research Fellows Grant (\$1000)
- 2018     National Institute of Health Intramural Research Training Grant
- 2018     Liew Family College Research Fellows Grant (\$1000)
- 2015 – 2019     Dean's List, University of Chicago

## RESEARCH & TRAINING

- 2019 – 2021     **VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System**  
*Research Coordinator | PI: Sarah Forster, Ph.D.*
- Coordinated a substance use treatment trial and managed EEG, data analysis, protocol writeup, and administration
  - Conducted and presented a coordinate-based meta-analysis of fMRI studies of executive function in early stress-exposed individuals
  - Conducted a review of external validity in substance use relapse neuroprediction studies
- 2018     **National Institute of Health – Emotion & Development Branch**  
*Summer Intern | PI: Ellen Leibenluft, M.D.*
- Conducted and presented an independent research project investigating the validity of a multidimensional childhood disruptive behavior scale

2017 – 2019

**Social Psychology & Neuroendocrinology Laboratory***Research Assistant | PI: Greg Norman, Ph.D.*

- Conducted an honors thesis project investigating the association between peer relationships and self-regulation in preschool students over multiple time-points
- Analyzed data on the relationship between trait disgust sensitivity and judgements of accented speakers

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**PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS**

Esfand, S.M., Querdasi, F.R., **Gancz, N.N.**, Savoca, P.W., Nussabaum, S., Somers, J.A., Ditzer, J., Figueroa, Chu, K., Towner, E., & Callaghan, B.L. (in press). The Mind, Brain, and Body Study: A protocol for examining the effects of the gut-brain-immune axis on internalizing symptoms in youth exposed to caregiving-related early adversity. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity - Health*

**Gancz, N. N.**, Chu, K., Towner, E., Taylor, E., & Callaghan, B. L. Characteristics of the Oral Microbiome in Youth Exposed to Early Adversity. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity – Health*. 41.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbih.2024.100850>.

**Gancz, N.N.**, Levinson, J.A., Callaghan, B.L. (2023). Sex and gender as critical and distinct contributors to the human brain-gut-microbiome axis. *Brain Research Bulletin*. 199:110665. PMID: 37192716.

**Gancz, N. N.** & Forster, S. E. (2023). Threats to external validity in the neuroprediction of substance use treatment outcomes. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*. 49(1):5-20. PMID: 36099534.

Forster, S.E., Forman, S.D., **Gancz, N.N.**, Siegle, G., Dickey, M.W., Steinhauer, S.R. (2020). *Electrophysiological Predictors and Indicators of Contingency Management Treatment Response: Rationale and Design for the Ways of Rewarding Abstinence Project (WRAP)*. Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications. 23: 100796. PMID 234278041.

**Gancz, N.N.**, Smith, K.E., Norman, G.J. (2019). *Peer Ratings Predict Behavioral Changes in Children Exposed to Early Life Stress*. (University of Chicago honors thesis - unpublished)

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**PRESENTATIONS**

**Gancz, N.N.**, Querdasi, F.R., Enders C, Karnani N, Broekman B, Yap Seng C, Gluckman PD, Mary Daniel L, Yap F, Eriksson JG, Cai S, Chong MF, Toh JY, Godfrey K, Meaney MJ, Callaghan BL. (2024) Maternal Preconception and Prenatal Stress Impact Children's Gut-Microbiome-Brain Axis. *Symposium talk at the International Congress for Infant Studies in Glasgow, Scotland*.

**Gancz, N.N.**, Silvers, J.A., Choy, T., VanTieghem, M., Tottenham, N., Callaghan, B.L. (2023). Gut microbiome dysregulation as a mechanism of reward circuitry differences in youth exposed to early adversity. *Poster presented at the Flux Society meeting in Santa Rosa, CA*.

**Gancz, N.N.**, Savoca, P.W., Callaghan, B.L. (2023). A Gut Feeling: Examining Electrogastrography as a Biomarker of Affective Responses. *Poster Presented at the Society for Affective Science Meeting in Long Beach, CA*.

Somers, J., Chu, K., Querdasi, F.R., **Gancz, N.N.**, Towner, E., Callaghan, B.L. (2023). A novel bidirectional test of emotion socialization among high-risk families. *Talk Presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT*.

**Gancz, N.N.,** Silvers, J.A., Choy, T., VanTieghem, M., Tottenham, N., Callaghan, B.L. (2022). Oral Microbiome and Cortisol in a Community Sample of Youth. *Poster Presented at International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Meeting in San Diego, CA.*

Querdasi, F.R., Chu, K., Flores, G., **Gancz, N.N.,** Towner, E., Taylor, E., Nussbaum, S., Callaghan, B.L. (2022). Alexithymia Mediates the Relation Between Caregiving Adversity and Health Symptoms in Childhood and Young Adulthood. *Poster Presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Meeting in San Diego, CA.*

**Gancz, N.N.,** Forster, S.E. (2020). Neurofunctional Consequences of Early-Life Stress on Executive Functioning: A Coordinate-Based Quantitative Meta-Analysis. *Poster Presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Virtual Meeting.*

**Gancz, N.N.,** Smith, K.E., Norman, G.J. (2019). Peer Ratings Predict Behavior Changes in Children Exposed to Early-Life Stress. *Poster Presented at the University of Chicago Psychology Honors Poster Day in Chicago, Illinois.*

**Gancz, N.N.,** Cardinale, E., Perlstein, S., Wakschlag, L., Briggs-Gowan, M.J., Towbin, K., Pine, D.S., Brotman, M.A., Leibenluft, E. (2018). Exploring the Validity of the MAP-DB Temper Loss Scale through Associations with Irritability in a Clinical Sample of Youth. *Poster Presented at the National Institute of Health Summer Intern Poster Day in Bethesda, Maryland.*

Perlstein, S., Cardinale, E., **Gancz, N.N.,** Wakschlag, L., Briggs-Gowan, M.J., Towbin, K., Pine, D.S., Brotman, M.A., Leibenluft, E. (2018). Exploring Dimensions of Low Concern for Others in a Clinical Sample of Youth with varying levels of Disruptive Behavior and Irritability. *Poster Presented at the National Institute of Health Research Fair in Bethesda, Maryland.*

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## SERVICE

2023 – 2024	Brown Bag Forum Organizer, UCLA Developmental Psychology Area
2023	Affinity Group Leader, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology
2021 – 2022	Volunteer, UCLA Underrepresented Graduate Students in Psychology
2022	Symposium Organizer & Volunteer Coordinator, UCLA Psychology in Action
2022	New Student Recruitment Event Organizer, UCLA Developmental Psychology Area