

Megan Merrick, Ph.D.
Incoming Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology
Warren Wilson College

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EDUCATION & RESEARCH INTERESTS

- 2026 Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences, concentration in Developmental Sciences
Indiana University, Bloomington
Dissertation: “The Influence of Ego-Centric Features of Feedback on Key Achievement Outcomes during Mathematics Practice”
Advisor: Dr. Emily Fyfe
Committee: Dr. Amanda Diekman, Dr. Robert Goldstone, Dr. Elizabeth Gunderson
- 2018 Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies (Cognitive Development and Society)
University of California, Berkeley
Education and Music Minors
Honors Thesis: “Intelligence as a Virtue: Peer Judgments around Test Based Academic Performance,” Advisor: Dr. Brian Powers
GPA: 3.6 *cum laude*

I study how the learner and the learning environment interact and contribute to critical in-the-moment learning and motivational processes within early STEM domains.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2026 - Present *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of Psychology
Warren Wilson College

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2025 - 2026 College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship
The College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University [\$24000]
- 2025 Duolingo Dissertation Research Grant in Mathematics Learning
Duolingo, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [\$5000]
- 2025 Walling-Troxal Endowed Scholarship
First United Church of Bloomington, Indiana [\$1000]
- 2024 Grant-in-Aid of Doctoral Research Award
The University Graduate School, Indiana University [\$1000]
- 2024 Daniel J. Plebanek Memorial Research Fellowship
The Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, Indiana University [\$1400]
- 2023 High-Ranking Conference Abstract Honor
The Society for Affective Science

2023	College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award The College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University [\$400]
2023	Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University [\$250]
2020 - 2022	Predocotrual Trainee Position in the Multidisciplinary Program in Developmental Process Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University [Stipend]
2017	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow The College of Letters and Science, University of California, Berkeley [\$4000]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 - 2026	Doctoral Graduate Student Indiana University, Bloomington; Learning, Education, and Development Lab PI: Dr. Emily Fyfe
2018 - 2020	Research Coordinator Stanford University; Language and Cognition Lab & Social Learning Lab PIs: Dr. Michael Frank, Dr. Hyowon Gweon
2015 - 2018	Research Assistant University of California, Berkeley; Language and Cognitive Development Lab PI: Dr. Mahesh Srinivasan
Summer 2016	Research Assistant University of California, San Diego; Language and Development Lab PI: Dr. David Barner

PUBLICATIONS

Merrick, M., Borriello, G. A., Grenell, A., & Fyfe, E. R. (in press). What counts as mathematics? Adults weigh in. *Research in Mathematics Education*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14794802.2026.2696349>.

Merrick, M., White, A. D., Diekman, A. B., & Fyfe, E. R. (2026). Not All Math Activities Are Equal in Terms of Gender Stereotypes. *Sex Roles*, 92(2), 11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-026-01645-2>.

Motz, B. A., Murphy, M. C., Diekman, A. B., Fyfe, E. R., Goldstone, R. L., ... **Merrick, M.**, ... Yan, V., Zepeda, C., & Zhang, T. (2025). A Field-Initiated Vision of Research Infrastructure for STEM Education. *International Journal of STEM Education*, 12, 59. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40594-025-00581-z>.

Merrick, M., & Fyfe, E. R. (2025). Children's motivation in response to feedback and its association with math anxiety and math self-concept. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 102393. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2025.102393>.

Merrick, M., & Fyfe, E. R. (2024). Right or wrong? How feedback content and source influence children's mathematics performance and persistence. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 241, 105865. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2024.105865>.

Wu, Y., **Merrick, M.**, & Gweon, H. (2024). Expecting the Unexpected: Infants Use Others' Surprise to Revise Their Own Expectations. *Open Mind*, 8, 67-83. https://doi.org/10.1162/opmi_a_00117.

Merrick, M., & Fyfe, E. R. (2023). Feelings on feedback: Children's emotional responses during mathematics problem solving. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 74, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2023.102209>.

Fyfe, E. R., Borriello, G. A., & **Merrick, M.** (2022). A developmental perspective on feedback: How corrective feedback influences children's literacy, mathematics, and problem solving. *Educational Psychologist*, 1-16. doi: 10.1080/00461520.2022.2108426.

Bohn, M., Tessler, M. H., **Merrick, M.**, & Frank, M. C. (2022). Predicting pragmatic cue integration in adults' and children's inferences about novel word meanings. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(11), 2927–2942. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001216>.

Chuey, A., Asaba, M., Bridgers, S., Carrillo, B., Dietz, G., Garcia, T., Leonard, J. A., Liu, S., **Merrick, M.**, Radwan, S., Stegall, J., Velez, N., Woo, B., Wu, Y., Zhou, X. J., Frank, M. C., & Gweon, H. (2021). Moderated online data-collection for developmental research: methods and replications. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 12:734398. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2021.734398.

Bohn, M., Tessler, M. H., **Merrick, M.**, & Frank, M. C. (2021). How young children integrate information sources to infer the meaning of words. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 5(8), 1046-1054. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01145-1>.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Merrick, M., & Fyfe, E. R. Saving face: Children's response to feedback from a person versus computer during mathematics problem solving. [Revise & Resubmit, *Instructional Science*]

Grenell, A., **Merrick, M.**, & Fyfe, E. R. Benefits of correct worked examples for children's math equivalence knowledge. [Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Educational Psychology*]

Merrick, M., Lenzini, M., & Fyfe, E. R. Discrete emotional reactions to feedback and relations with task persistence. [Under review, *Contemporary Educational Psychology*]

He, C., **Merrick, M.**, & Fyfe, E. R. The relationship between children's math anxiety and strategy use in math problem-solving. [Under review, *Indiana University Journal of Undergraduate Research*]

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP

Merrick, M. & Fyfe, E. R. Children's visual attention towards ego-centric features of feedback.

Fyfe, E. R., **Merrick, M.**, Xiao, Y., Zhang, T., & Cecil-Xavier, A. Children's learning engagement during pattern instruction.

Merrick, M., Refka, A., & Fyfe, E. R. The reciprocal relationship between parents' math motivation beliefs and children's motivational outcomes during math practice.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2024). The benefits of live in person feedback on children's mathematics performance. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Rotterdam, Netherlands: Cognitive Science Society. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/91s7c76s>

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2023). Negative affect in response to feedback relates to lower mathematics performance. *Abstracts from the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society for Affective Science: Emotions and Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-023-00232-y>

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2022). The source and type of feedback influence children's mathematics performance. *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Toronto, Canada: Cognitive Science Society. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1rq363f8>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Merrick, M., White, A. D., Diekman, A. B., & Fyfe, E. R. (2026, June). Differing gender stereotypes in adults' perceptions of toys supporting numeracy, spatial reasoning, and patterning skills. Talk presented at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society (MCLS), Padua, Italy.

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2026, April). The influence of feedback verification and feedback personalization on children's accuracy & resilience during mathematics problem solving. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Montreal, Canada.

Fyfe, E. R. & **Merrick, M.** (2026, April). Children's Emotions and Motivation During Mathematics Practice. In, *Shaping Effort and Emotion: Adult Contributions to Children's Achievement Behavior*. Symposium presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Montreal, Canada.

Merrick, M. & Fyfe, E. R. (2025, May). Children's motivation in response to feedback and its association with math attitudes. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Minneapolis, MN.

Merrick, M. & Fyfe, E. R. (2025, April). Using Facial Expressions, Vocalizations, and Postures to Characterize Children's Emotional Responses to Corrective Feedback. In L. Kuklick (chair), *Beyond Self-Report Measures: Unlocking Insights Into Cognitive and Affective Feedback Processes With Multimodal Data Sources*. Symposium presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Denver, CO.

Lenzini, M., **Merrick, M.**, & Fyfe, E. R. (2025, April). Discrete emotional reactions to feedback and relations with task persistence. Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA), Chicago, IL.

Wilson, C., **Merrick, M.**, & Fyfe, E. R. (2025, April). The relationship between attributions and achievement outcome during a math task with children. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA), Chicago, IL.

Merrick, M., Borriello, G. A, Grenell, A., & Fyfe, E. R. (2024, June). Adults' views on key academic domains: when is literacy more important than math? Lighting talk presented at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society (MCLS), Washington D.C.

Fyfe, E. R., Borriello, G. A, & **Merrick, M.** (2024, April). A systematic review of children's learning from feedback: The role of individual learner characteristics. In J. Meyer and M. Daumiller (chairs), *Beyond one-size-fits-all: Individual differences in feedback perceptions, use, and effectiveness*. Symposium presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.

He, C., & **Merrick, M.** (2024, April). The relationship Between Children's Math Anxiety and Strategy Use in Math Problem-Solving. Poster presented at the Hutton Honors College Research Symposium, Bloomington, IN.

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2024, March). Saving face when faced with feedback - In-person feedback reduces children's persistence and negative affect during mathematics practice. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Pasadena, CA.

Merrick, M., Borriello, G. A, & Fyfe, E. R. (2023, June). What counts as math? How adults view the importance of children's everyday activities. Poster presented at the 6th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society (MCLS), Loughborough, England.

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2023, April). Negative affect in response to feedback relates to lower mathematics performance. Flash talk presented at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Affective Science (SAS), Long Beach, CA.

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2023, March). Emotional reactions to feedback relate to mathematics performance and motivation. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Salt Lake City, UT.

Merrick, M & Fyfe, E. R. (2022, March). The effects of person vs. computer feedback on children's motivation in mathematics. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Madison, WI.

Merrick, M (2017, August). Intelligence as a Virtue: Peer Judgments Around Test Based Academic Performance. Talk presented at the 2017 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Conference (SURF), Berkeley, CA.

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Fall 2026	Duolingo Inc., Research Day, Pittsburg PA (November)
Spring 2026	Kid Lab (PI: Eddie Brummelman), University of Amsterdam (June)
	Emotion Recognition in Education Contexts Community (Organizer: Livia Kuklick), Online (March)
	Early Social Thinkers (EAST) Lab, (PI: Lin Bian), University of Chicago (February)
Fall 2025	The College Classroom, Micro-Teaching Presentation, CIRTL Network (December)
Spring 2025	Language and Cognition Lab (PI: Michael Frank), Stanford University (February)
Fall 2024	Discussion Leader for the Math Cognition Reading Group (November)
Spring 2024	Discussion Leader for the Math Cognition Reading Group (April)

GRADUATE SCHOOL TALKS - INTERNAL INSTITUTION (Indiana University)

Spring 2026	LEAD Lab (PI: Emily Fyfe), Indiana University (March)
	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (January)
Fall 2025	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (October & December)
Spring 2025	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (April)
	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (January & April)
	Meso-Lab, Indiana University, (February)
	LEAD Lab (PI: Emily Fyfe), Indiana University (February)
Fall 2024	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (October)
	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (September)
Spring 2024	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (March)
	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (January & February)
Fall 2023	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (November)
	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (August & September)
Spring 2023	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (March)
	Meso-Lab, Indiana University, (February)
	LEAD Lab (PI: Emily Fyfe), Indiana University (February)
Fall 2022	Social Roles Lab (PI: Amanda Diekman), Indiana University (September)
Spring 2022	LEAD Lab (PI: Emily Fyfe), Indiana University (March)
	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (February)
Fall 2021	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (November)
	LEAD Lab (PI: Emily Fyfe), Indiana University (September)
	Meso-Lab, Indiana University, (September)
Spring 2021	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (April)
	LEAD Lab (PI: Emily Fyfe), Indiana University (April)
Fall 2020	Developmental Area Seminar, Indiana University (November)

POST-BAC TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Spring 2020	Video-Chat Studies for Developmental Research, Webinar (June) Early Childhood and Cognition Lab (PI: Laura Shultz), MIT (April) Developmental Area Brownbag, Stanford University (April)
Fall 2019	Social Learning Lab (PI: Hyo Gweon), Stanford University (November)

TEACHING

Fall 2026	Instructor of Record, Warren Wilson College <i>Introduction to Psychology</i> <i>Infant and Child Development</i> <i>Mental Health and Distress</i>
Fall 2024	Instructor of Record, Indiana University <i>Lab in Developmental Psychology</i>
Spring 2024	Instructor of Record, Indiana University <i>Developmental Psychology</i>
Spring 2026	Guest Lecturer, Point Loma Nazarene University <i>Psychology Research Methods</i>
2022 - 2023	Guest Lecturer, Indiana University <i>Introduction to Psychological and Brain Sciences</i> <i>Developmental Psychological</i> <i>Lab in Developmental Psychology</i>
2022 - 2025	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Indiana University <i>Introduction to Psychological and Brain Sciences</i> <i>Introduction to Bayesian Data Analysis</i> <i>Developmental Psychology</i> <i>Lab in Developmental Psychology</i> <i>Experimental Methods in Psychology</i> <i>Cognitive Development</i> <i>Psychology in the Business Environment</i>

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

Avery Refka; Spring 2026 - Summer 2026 ***
Vigna Inturi; Spring 2025 - Summer 2026
Ameer Abu-Salih; Fall 2025 - Spring 2026
Chloe Spires; Spring 2025 - Summer 2025
Chet Wilson; Fall 2023 - Summer 2025 **
Madeline Lenzini; Spring 2022 - Summer 2025 ***
Veronica Naumov; Fall 2024 - Spring 2025
Yumna Nasar; Fall 2024 - Spring 2025
Ava Risse; Spring 2024 - Fall 2024
Calina He; Fall 2022 - Summer 2024 ***
Carter Stevens; Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
Juan Sarria; Fall 2022 - Summer 2023 *
Jessica Ousterhout; Spring 2022 - Summer 2022
Alex Bondi; Fall 2021 - Summer 2022
Elsie Gasaway; Fall 2020 - Summer 2022 *
Olivia Weed; Fall 2020 - Fall 2021
Summer Smith; Summer 2021 & Summer 2022

* Capstone project student

** Honors thesis student

*** Student coauthor

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025 - Present Communications Chair
Mathematics Cognition and Learning Society (MCLS) Trainee Board
- 2023 - 2025 Speaker on a Graduate Student Panel about Research
Undergraduate Research Day, Indiana University
- 2021 - 2024 Developmental Psychology Area Representative on Graduate Student Council
Psychological and Brain Sciences Department, Indiana University
- 2021 - 2022 Graduate Student Representative on Developmental Area Faculty Search
Psychological and Brain Sciences Department, Indiana University

Ad-hoc Manuscript Reviewer

Applied Cognitive Psychology
Contemporary Educational Psychology
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
Journal of Cognition and Development
Sex Roles, with Dr. Amanda Dikeman

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2020 - 2025 Active member of the mathematics cognitive reading group
- 2023 - 2025 Active member of the INfrasTructure for lEarning ReseArCh on equity (INTERACT) Incubator
- 2023 & 2025 Attendee of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Teaching Pre-Conference
- 2025 Completed the CIRTL course "The College Classroom"
- 2024 Attendee of Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Orientation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association
Cognitive Development Society
Cognitive Science Society
Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society
Society for Affective Science
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2024 - 2026 Head of the Board of Faith Formation
First United Church, Bloomington Indiana
- 2022 - 2026 Volunteer at the Annual Grandview STEM Night
Grandview Elementary, Bloomington Indiana
- 2024 - 2025 Volunteer at Bloomington Community Kitchen
Bloomington Community Kitchen, Bloomington Indiana
- 2022 - 2025 Volunteer at the Annual Girls in STEM Event
WonderLab Science Museum, Bloomington Indiana
- 2021 - 2025 Volunteer and Student Researcher at C-Saw Camp
Psychological and Brain Sciences Department, Indiana University
- 2024 Volunteer at the Indiana University Science Fest
Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana

REFERENCES

Dr. Emily Fyfe
Associate Professor
Research and teaching
Indiana University, Bloomington
efyfe@iu.edu

Dr. Amanda Diekman
Provost Professor
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Indiana University, Bloomington
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Dr. Lisa Thomassen
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Project management and research
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mcfrank@stanford.edu

Dr. Linda Smith
Distinguished Professor and Chancellor's Professor
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