Amberley R. Stein Riverside, CA
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EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside Exp. Graduation:
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology, Developmental Area June 2030
Advisor: Rebekah Richert, Ph.D.

University of California, San Diego September 2022
Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with specialization in Clinical Psychology Cum. GPA: 3.96
Honors Thesis Title: *Children's Use of Causal Relevance as a Guide During Information Search*
Advisor: Caren M. Walker, Ph.D.

San Diego Miramar College June 2020
Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology Cum. GPA: 4.0

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dean's Distinguished Award | UC Riverside, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences September 2025
Diversity Travel Award | Society for Philosophy and Psychology June 2024
Norman Henry Anderson Honors Thesis Award | UC San Diego June 2022
Graduation with Highest Distinction | UC San Diego, Dept. of Psychology June 2022
Magna cum laude | UC San Diego June 2022
Undergraduate Research Conference Student Spotlight | UC San Diego Undergraduate Research Hub May 2022
Excellence in Child Development Research | UC San Diego, Dept. of Psychology April 2022
Graduation with High Honors | San Diego Miramar College June 2020

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lapidow, E., **Stein, A. R.**, Thomas, G., & Walker, C. M. (2026). Young children use causal knowledge to guide question asking. *Child Development*. https://doi.org/10.1093/chidev/aacag087

Lapidow, E., **Stein, A. R.**, & Walker, C. M. (2023). Children use causality to guide question asking. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society,* (Vol. 45, No. 45). https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7bw2c2c6

PRESENTATIONS

Stein, A. R., Nissel, J., O'Rourke, H., Richert, R. A. (under review). *Evaluating children's certainty about their beliefs in the context of theory of mind* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.

Stein, A. R., Lapidow, E., Thomas, G., Walker, C. M. (under review). *Causal knowledge as a top-down guide to early question asking* [Symposium presentation]. In *Searching from the Top-Down and Bottom-Up: Context Influences Children's Uncertainty-Based and Stimulus-Driven Information Search*. Symposium to be conducted at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.

Stein, A. R., Lapidow, E., Thomas, G., Walker, C. M. (2025, May 1-3). Children use causal knowledge to ask informative questions [Poster presentation]. *Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting,* Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Stein, A. R., Lapidow, E., Thomas, G., Walker, C. M. (2024, June 19-22). Causal knowledge as a guide to question asking in childhood [Poster presentation]. *50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, West Lafayette, IN, United States.

Lapidow, E., **Stein, A. R.,** Walker, C. M. (2024, March 21-23). Children use causal knowledge to identify better questions during information search [Poster presentation]. *Bi-Ennial Conference of the Cognitive Development Society*, Pasadena, CA, United States.

Lapidow, E., **Stein, A. R.**, Walker, C. M. (2023, July 24-27). Children use causality to guide question asking [Poster presentation]. *45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Lapidow, E., **Stein, A.**, Walker, C. (2023, March 23-25). Children use causality as a guide during question asking [Flash talk]. *Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.

Stein, A., Lapidow, E., Walker, C. (2022, March 14). Can children use causal relevance as a guide during information search? [Oral presentation]. *UC San Diego Undergraduate Research Conference*, San Diego, CA, United States.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher September 2025 – Present
Childhood Cognition Laboratory | Rebekah A. Richert, Ph.D.
UC Riverside Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

- Independently designed and conducted a secondary data analysis utilizing structural equation modeling (e.g., structural regression, confirmatory factor analysis).

Graduate Student Researcher April 2026 – Present
Developing Belief Network
UC Riverside Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences &
Boston University College of Education and Human Development

- Performed data collection interviews with children (ages 5-16 years).
- Consulted with fellow graduate, post-doctoral, and faculty researchers on interview protocol and study design.

Research Assistant
Early Learning and Cognition Laboratory | Caren M. Walker, Ph.D. March 2021 – May 2025
UC San Diego Department of Psychology

- Collaborated with graduate student mentor and primary investigator to design, propose, and conduct original research using developmental methods.
- Trained research assistants in data collection, data entry, participant recruitment, and communication with participants and families.
- Conducted virtual study sessions with children between the ages of 2.5- and 7-years-old.

Research Intern June 2021 – June 2022
Child and Adolescent Services Research Center | Lauren Brookman-Frazee, Ph.D.
UC San Diego School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry

- Conducted over 150 hours of observational coding of therapeutic sessions for NIMH-funded clinical trial (NIMH R01MH111950) with high inter-rater reliability across two complex coding systems
- Conducted phone-based consent/assent and baseline assessments with caregivers and youth participants using measures such as the Child Behavior Checklist for NIMH-funded community mental health research (NIMH R01MH100134).
- Transcribed and edited over 80 semi-structured therapist interviews for mixed-methods community-partnered research in San Diego and Los Angeles Counties.

Research Assistant October 2020 – May 2021
Empathy and Emotion Laboratory | Christopher Oveis, Ph.D.
UC San Diego Rady School of Management

- Piloted and provided feedback on stimulus design for a study investigating participant emotions in relation to daily social interactions.
- Performed behavioral coding of interactions between participants during conversation about distressing topics to investigate emotional regulation in social contexts.

LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant (TA) July 2026 – Present
UC Riverside, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Courses Instructed:

- Psychological Methods: Statistical Procedures (PSYC 011)
- Introductory Psychology (PSYC 001)

Interdepartmental Writing Group Convener September 2025 – June 2026
UC Riverside, Departments of Psych. & Brain Sciences, and English

- Collaborated with group members and departmental staff to organize weekly meetings and facilitate regular meeting room(s).
- Convened weekly meetings as group leader, took attendance, and helped individual group members set goals for each meeting.
- Coordinated Quarterly group applications and attendance reports, securing group funding through UC Riverside's *Center for Ideas and Society*.

Intern Coordinator January 2022 – June 2022
Black & Other Diverse Trainees Workgroup
UC San Diego Department of Psychiatry

- Conducted literature review and compiled findings into a list of action items to increase the UC San Diego Psychiatry Department's recruitment of trainees from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.
- Presented compiled documents to Psychiatry Department faculty and staff members and took notes on the discussion.
- Collaborated with staff, faculty, and post-doctoral fellows to create an action plan for increasing recruitment of trainees from underrepresented or minoritized groups.

Research Intern October 2021 – June 2022
Leadership in Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders
UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute

- Developed and maintained surveys, assessments, and LEND program application forms in REDCap for both internal and external use.
- Proofread and edited educational materials such as handbooks, presentations, and fliers.