

CURRICULUM VITAE

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CURRENT POSITION

University of Alabama at Birmingham – School of Public Health 2009-Present
Research Associate – Department of Health Behavior, Addictive Behavior and Health Studies

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

University of Alabama at Birmingham 2008-2009
Research Assistant, Psychology

Birmingham-Southern College 2006-2008
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Psychology
Director of Interim and Contract Learning

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 2004-2005
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Clinical Neuroscience
Project: *Male- and Female-Advantage Components of Spatial Cognition in Women with Androgenic Disorders*
Mentor: Mikael Landen, M.D., Ph.D.

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh. Ph.D., Anthropology. Advisor: Steven J.C. Gaulin, Ph.D. 2004
Dissertation: *Does natal territory quality predict human dispersal choices? A test of Emlen's model of family formation*

Sarah Lawrence College. B.A., Liberal Arts 1990
Concentration: Anthropology

School for International Training. 1988
Tibetan Studies: Semester in Nepal, India, and Tibet

RESEARCH INTERESTS & THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Autism, Theory of Mind, and social cognition, including functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)
Neurocognition of learning, memory and emotion, including fMRI
Behavioral economics of addiction and recovery
Endocrine and neurochemical influences on brain morphology and behavior
Sexual differentiation of the brain
Sex differences in cognition and other behavioral realms
Evolutionary models of behavior
Behavioral Ecology: human and non-human

PRESENTATIONS

Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable – Rotterdam, The Netherlands October, 2009
(Erasmus Institute for Philosophy of Economics)
Paper: 'Conceptual issues in psychiatric disorders: The curious case of autism'
*Blum, E.R. & Kana, R.K.

Society for Neuroscience – Chicago, IL	October, 2009
<i>Poster: ‘Learning-related changes in unconditioned response diminution in the prefrontal cortex during Pavlovian fear conditioning’</i>	
*Wood, K.H., King, M.K., Blum, E. Haritha, A.T., Knight, D.C.	
International Meeting for Autism Research – Chicago, IL	May, 2009
<i>Poster: ‘The role of temporoparietal junction in intentional causal attribution in autism’</i>	
*Kana, R.K., Blum, E. R., Klein, C.L., Klinger-L.G., Klinger, M.R.	
Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable – Atlanta, GA	March, 2009
<i>Paper: ‘Conceptual issues in psychiatric disorders: The curious case of autism’</i>	
*Blum, E.R. & Kana, R.K.	
Society for Personality and Social Psychology – Tampa, FL	February, 2009
<i>Evolutionary Psychology Pre-Conference</i>	
<i>Poster: ‘Why did Sally kiss Jack? The neural bases of attribution of intentional causality in autism’</i>	
*Blum, E.R. & Kana, R.K.	
Society for Neuroscience – Washington, D.C.	2008
<i>Paper: ‘Learning-related changes in unconditioned response diminution without contingency awareness’</i>	
*Knight, D.C., Shehi, J.A., Blum, E.R.	
Population Association of America – New York, NY	2007
<i>Poster: ‘Delayed dispersal in humans: Natal territory quality and dispersal timing’</i>	
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology – Pittsburgh, PA	2006
<i>Poster: ‘Performance of androgenic women on male and female advantage cognitive tasks’</i>	
Blum, E.R.*, Manson, M., Jagerfeld, T., Cars, I., Landen, M., Pound, N.	
Human Behavior and Evolution Society – Philadelphia, PA	2006
<i>Paper: ‘Performance of women with androgenic disorders on male and female advantage cognitive tasks’</i>	
*Blum, E.R., Manson, M., Jagerfeld, T., Cars, I., Landen, M., Pound, N.	
<i>(Chair, ‘Hormones and Physiology’ Session)</i>	
American Anthropological Association – Washington, D.C.	2005
<i>Poster: ‘Delayed dispersal in humans: Natal territory quality and dispersal timing’</i>	
Clinical Nutrition Research Center – University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL	2005
<i>Seminar: ‘Hormonal influences on male- and female-advantage components of spatial cognition’</i>	
Human Behavior and Evolution Society – Berlin, Germany	2004
<i>Paper: ‘Delayed dispersal in humans: Effects of family circumstances on dispersal timing’</i>	
*Blum, E.R. and Gaulin, S.J.C.	
Human Behavior and Evolution Society – Lincoln, NE	2003
<i>Paper: ‘Does natal territory quality predict human dispersal choices?’</i>	
International Society of Human Ethology – Montreal, Quebec	2002
<i>Poster: ‘Tests of a behavioral ecological model of human dispersal from the natal territory’</i>	
Human Behavior and Evolution Society – New Brunswick, NJ	2002
<i>Poster: ‘Tests of a behavioral ecological model of human dispersal from the natal territory’</i>	
* Presenting author	

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Carnegie Symposium on Cognition: Development and Brain Systems in Autism	2008
<i>– Travel Fellowship</i>	
Evolutionary Anthropology Society (EAS), American Anthropological Association	2005
<i>– Best New Investigator Award (EAS section)</i>	
American Scandinavian Foundation – Fellowship for Post-Doctoral Research in Sweden	2004-2005
University of Pittsburgh – Provost’s Development Fund	2002-2003
University of Pittsburgh – Andrew Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship	1997-1998

DATA ANALYSIS/COMPUTER PROFICIENCY

Data analysis

fMRI analysis using Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM2); behavioral data analysis (including physiological data) using SPSS, SAS, Excel, and Matlab; some experience with Stata.

Experimental paradigm software

fMRI experimental programming and stimulus presentation using E-Prime 1.2 and IFIS; physiological recording using AcqKnowledge software and BIOPAC system; stimulus presentation and behavioral recording using Presentation software

Data management

Experience with large, public, panel survey database (*Panel Study of Income Dynamics*). Created data files tailored to my research by downloading, merging, and transforming variables, using Microsoft Excel and SPSS; extensive experience using Excel for complex behavioral and physiological data management.

Document management

Experience with Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and WordPerfect

RESEARCH AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Department of Health Behavior, School of Public Health (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

- In conjunction with research group, participate in research design, data collection, and grant and manuscript preparation for longitudinal NIH/NIDA/NIAAA-funded studies of risk behavior and recovery in substance abusers and HIV+ populations using behavioral economics theory.
- Manage and analyze data using SAS, SPSS, Sigma Plot and MS Excel
- Coordinate and oversee research staff
- Coordinate and oversee data coding and entry
- Maintain IRB protocols and manage grants and budgets

Research Assistant: Psychology (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

- Coordinate activities for two separate labs (Dr. Rajesh Kana and Dr. David Knight)
- Recruit and schedule participants for fMRI and behavioral research for both labs
- Analyze and manage fMRI, behavioral, and physiological data
- Conduct experiments using classical conditioning paradigm, measuring autonomic response (heart rate, respiration, and galvanic skin response), with and without concurrent fMRI
- Conduct fMRI experiments measuring various aspects of social cognition in people with autism spectrum disorder and typically-developing controls
- Administer and score neuropsychological tests including WASI; KBIT; Stanford-Binet verbal absurdities; WRAT; Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test (Baron-Cohen et al., 2001); Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ) (Baron-Cohen et al., 2001); Systemising Quotient and Empathy Quotient (Baron-Cohen et al., 2003; Baron-Cohen & Wheelwright, 2004)
- Assist in creation of experiments for fMRI studies of social cognition and other aspects of cognition in people with autism disorders and typically-developing controls
- Observation of and training in evaluation of ASD patients using ADOS

Laboratory Instruction: Learning and Motivation (Psychology, University of Pittsburgh)

- Course development (including syllabus and lab materials) for two different versions of Learning and Motivation courses, one using live rats and the other using computer-animated “virtual” rats
- Instruction of students in handling live laboratory rats
- Instruction of students in training live and “virtual” rats in the following paradigms: basic operant conditioning; discrimination and generalization; reinforcement schedules; classical conditioning
- Training of students in behavioral research methodology
- Training of students in writing lab reports and research papers

Laboratory Maintenance: Animal care (35 rats per term) (Psychology, University of Pittsburgh)

- Feeding and watering rats
- Handling rats for habituation

