

Jordan Legaspi, PhD

He/Him/His | Proud Son of Filipino American Immigrants | First – Generation Academic
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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst , Amherst, MA	2023 – 2025
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Doctor of Philosophy, Psychological and Brain Sciences

- Dissertation: *The Development and Consequences of Racialized Essentialist Beliefs Toward National Identity: A Cross-Cultural Comparison in Singapore and the United States*

Nanyang Technological University , Singapore, Singapore	2024
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Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Psychology

University of Massachusetts Amherst , Amherst, MA	2020 – 2023
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Master of Science, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Fulbright Taiwan , Taipei, Taiwan	2019 – 2020
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Fulbright ETA Fellowship

Wesleyan University , Middletown, CT	2017 – 2019
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Bachelor of Arts, Majors: (Double) Psychology and Music

Southwestern College , Chula Vista CA	2016 – 2017
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Associate of Arts with Honors; Majors: (Double) Psychology and Music

POSITIONS HELD

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, MA <i>Adjunct Instructor</i> Psychological and Brain Sciences Dept	2025 –
University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, MA <i>Graduate Researcher</i> Cognition Across Development Lab PI: Tara Mandalaywala, PhD	2020 – 2025
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore <i>Visiting Researcher</i> Early Learning and Cognition Lab PI: Setoh, Pei Pei, PhD	2024
Wesleyan University. Middletown, CT <i>Research Assistant</i> Cognitive Development “Blue” Lab PI: Anna Shusterman, PhD	2018 – 2019
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT <i>Research Assistant</i> Stemler Lab PI: Steven Stemler, PhD	2017 – 2019
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA <i>STARS Fellow</i> Mind and Development Lab PI: Adena Schachner, PhD	2018 Summer
Rhode Island Public Health Institute, Providence, RI <i>Statistical Consultant</i> Food on the Move PI: Jennifer Rose, PhD	2018 Spring

AWARDS, HONORS, AND DISTINCTIONS

APA Editorial Fellowship: Developmental Psychology	Under Review
University of Massachusetts Groundbreaking Graduate Student Award	Under Review
University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School Travel Grant (\$300)	2025
Society for Research in Child Development Travel Grant (\$300)	2025
University of Massachusetts Amherst Fieldwork Dissertation Grant (\$5000)	2024
Fulbright Singapore Research Fellowship (\$35,000)	2023 – 2024
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Fellowship (\$31,000)	2019 – 2020
McNair Scholars Program, Wesleyan University (\$5,000)	2017 – 2019
Abraham Adzenyah Endowed Wesleyan Scholarship (\$32,000)	2015 – 2019
University of Michigan Diversity in Psychology Attendee (\$500)	2018
University of Minnesota Diversity in Psychology Attendee (\$500)	2018
University of California San Diego Summer Training for Academic and Research Success (STARS) Fellowship (\$5,000)	2018
Charles A. Dana Foundation Summer Experience Grant (\$6,000)	2018
Wesleyan Student Leader of the Year (<i>Honorable Mention</i>)	2018
Dean's List, Wesleyan University	2018 Fall 2018 Spring 2017 Fall
Wesleyan Patricelli Fellowship Grant (\$5,000) (Advisor: Fredrick Corpuz)	2018
Wesleyan Career Development Grant (\$500)	2018

MANUSCRIPTS (*Co-First Author) (^Undergraduate Mentee)

1. **Legaspi, J***, Pareto, H*^., Tian, Y., Korroch^, S., & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2023). Do children spontaneously encode various cues to wealth? *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*
 2. Mandalaywala, T.M., & **Legaspi, J.** (2023). Spontaneous encoding across categories in children. *Journal of Developmental Psychology*
 3. **Legaspi, J.**, Rubin, J., & Mandalaywala, T.M. (Revised and Resubmitted). American enough? The consequences of essentializing the “American = white” stereotype in White and Latine Americans. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*
 4. **Legaspi, J.** & Mandalaywala, T.M. (Under Review). Essentialist Beliefs About Latine Americans Override the “American = White” Stereotype but Promotes Immigrant Prejudice. *Journal of Developmental Psychology*
 5. Ting, S., Tng G., Huang, P., **Legaspi, J.**, Chen, H., Eriksson, J., Chong, Y., Tiemeier, H., & Setoh, P. (Under Review) A Longitudinal Study of Self-Concept Dimensions as Mediators of Children’s Early Language Ability and Subsequent Depressive Symptoms. *Development and Psychopathology*
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MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP

1. **Legaspi, J.**, Low, P., Setoh, P. & Mandalaywala, T.M. (Pre-Registered, In Prep). Intersectional Racial Identities Impacts Children’s Essentialist Beliefs and Consequences of Singaporean National Identities
 2. **Legaspi, J.**, Setoh, P. & Mandalaywala, T.M. (Pre-Registered, In Prep). A Cross-Cultural Examination of Essentializing and Stereotyping Majority Groups Between Singaporean and American Children
 3. **Legaspi, J.** (In Prep). Are we Essentializing Essentialism? *Review paper on the mechanisms and internal and external validity of essentialism cognitive research. Successfully defended as part of UMass Amherst Qualifying Examinations*
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ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Development of Essentialist Beliefs About Sortal Kinds

- Co-PI with Jenna Croteau, ABD | UMass Amherst

Connections Between Parental Lying and Children’s Outgroup Biases

- Co-PI with Petrina Low, PhD | Nanyang Technological University

PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (^Undergraduate Mentee)

1. **Legaspi, J.** & Mandalaywala, T.M. (Under Review) The development and consequences of racialized essentialist beliefs about national identity in American children. Oral Abstract Submission in *Cognitive Developmental Society 2026*, Montreal, Canada.
2. **Legaspi, J.**, Low, P., Setoh, P. & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2025 April). Intersectional Racial Identities Impacts Children's Essentialist Beliefs and Consequences of American and Singaporean National Identities. Oral Symposium Submission in **Legaspi, J (Chair)** *Expanding the Framework of Social Essentialism: Developmental Research from China, Lebanon, Singapore and United States*. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
3. **Legaspi, J.**, Rubin, J.^, & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2025 February). The consequences of essentializing the “American = white” stereotype in White and Latine Americans. Poster Submission in *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Denver, Colorado.
4. **Legaspi, J.**, Low, P., Setoh, P. & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2025 January). Singaporean children’s use of cognitive heuristics of the Singaporean Identity. Poster Submission in *Budapest Conference of Children’s Cognitive Development*, Budapest, Hungary.
5. **Legaspi, J.**, & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2024 June). American enough? White American children’s use of cognitive heuristics of the American identity. Poster Submission in *International Society for Social Behavioral Development*, Lisbon, Portugal.
6. **Legaspi, J.**, & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2024 June). American children's automatic encoding and social inferences of wealth and occupational status cues. Poster Submission in *International Society for Social Behavioral Development*, Lisbon, Portugal
7. **Legaspi, J.**, & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2024 March) Children’s endorsement of the myth of Meritocracy. Accepted Oral Symposium Submission In Ahl, R. (Chair) *Money talks, and children listen: Investigations into how developing minds think and talk about wealth, social status, and money*. *Cognitive Development Society* Pasadena, California
8. **Legaspi, J.**, & Mandalaywala, T.M. (2023 March) Automatic encoding of race, gender, and occupational status in American children and adults. Accepted Poster Submission in *Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Convention*, Salt Lake City, Utah.
9. **Legaspi, J.**, Rubin, J.^, & Mandalaywala, T.M. (Accepted, 2023 February). Exploring the intersectional role of racial phenotype on the expression and consequences of essentializing "Americanness". Accepted Poster Submission in *Social and Personality Psychology Annual Convention*, Atlanta, Georgia.
10. Mandalaywala, T.M., & **Legaspi, J.** (2022 May). Children’s representations of race and wealth in their communities. In L. Elenbaas & R.S. Mistry (Chairs), *Constructing & Deconstructing Inequality: Group, Family & Neighborhood Factors Inform Children's Thinking about Economic "Others"*. Symposium conducted at the *Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting: Construction of the ‘Other’: Development, Consequences, and Applied Implications of Prejudice and Discrimination*, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

11. **Legaspi, J.,** Pareto, H.^, Korroch, S.^, Mandalaywala, T. (2022, April). Children's spontaneous encoding of wealth cues. Poster Presentation. *Cognitive Developmental Society*. Madison, Wisconsin.
12. **Legaspi, J. &** Schachner, A. (2018, July). Hearing water temperature. Poster Presentation. *Ronald McNair National Symposium*. University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles California.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Children's conceptions of national identity in Singapore. <i>Presentation to the United States Embassy</i> , Singapore, SG	2024 Fulbright Singapore
A case for reframing a key cognitive heuristic: Essentialism. <i>Presentation to the Cognitive Development Lab</i> (Dr. Paul Muentener). Boston, MA	2023 Tufts Univ.
Malleability mechanisms of essentialism. <i>Presentation to BIAS Lab at the University of New Hampshire</i> . Via Zoom (Dr. April Bailey). Concord, NH	2023 Univ. of NH
The consequences of essentializing the "American = white" stereotype in white and Latine Americans. <i>Masters Oral Defense</i> .	2022 UMass Amherst
Should they be allowed to stay?: The development and consequences of essentializing the "American = White" stereotyping in White and Latine Americans. <i>Oral Presentation to the University of Massachusetts Developmental Seminar</i> . Amherst, MA	2022 UMass Amherst
Hearing water temperature. <i>Oral Presentation for Wesleyan McNair Seminar Series</i> . Middletown, CT	2019 Wesleyan Univ.
Hearing Water Temperature. <i>Oral Presentation at the University of California San Diego Summer Training Academy for Research Success</i> . La Jolla, CA	2018 UCSD
The purpose of school: A longitudinal assessment. <i>Poster Presentation at the Wesleyan Psychology Research Presentations</i> . Middletown, CT	2018 Wesleyan Univ.
Assessing time and location for maximum efficacy in food delivery. <i>Virtual Poster Presentation to Rhode Island Public Institute Food on the Move Department</i> . Providence, RI	2018 Food on the Move (RIPHI)
Links between political candidate preference and attractiveness <i>Oral Presentation at the Southwestern College Research Conference</i> . Chula Vista, California.	2016 Southwestern Community Coll.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Nanyang Technological University , Singapore	2024
Guest Lectures	
Course: Laboratory in Developmental Psychology (Dr. Setoh Pei Pei)	
University of Massachusetts Amherst , Amherst, MA	2020 –
Guest Lectures	
Course: Combating Bias with Developmental Psychology (Dr. Tara Mandalaywala)	
Course: Developmental Psychology (Dr. Charolette Wilinsky)	
Instructor of Record, University Without Walls	
Course: Cognitive Psychology	2025 Fall
Course: The Developmental Origins of Prejudice and Discrimination	2025 Summer
Course: Developmental Psychology	2025 Winter
Course: Foundations of Psychological Research	2024 Summer
Course: Foundations of Psychological Research	2022 Summer
Teaching Assistant, Psychological and Brain Sciences	
Course: <i>Developmental Psychology</i>	2023 Spring
Course: <i>Sensation and Perception</i>	2022 Fall
Course: <i>Introduction to Psychology</i>	2022 Spring
Course: <i>Developmental Psychology</i>	2021 Fall
Course: <i>Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood (remote)</i>	2021 Spring
Course: <i>Methods of Inquiry in Psychology (remote)</i>	2020 Fall
Workshop: <i>CAD Lab R Workshop</i>	2022 Summer
	2021 Summer
Workshop: High School Summer Research Intensive	2022 Summer
	2021 Summer
Fulbright Taiwan , Taipei, Taiwan	2019 – 2020
CLIL English Teacher, Dongxin Elementary School	
Subject: <i>First Grade Life Skills, Third Grade Art, Third Grade Science</i>	
Wesleyan University , Middletown, CT	2019
Teaching Apprentice, Psychology Department	
Course: <i>Statistics: An Activity Based Approach</i>	
YMCA of San Diego County , Chula Vista, CA	2016 – 2017
After-School Teacher, Palomar Elementary School	
Grade: 2 nd – 3 rd	2017 Spring
Grade: 5 th – 6 th	2016 Fall

SERVICE

Fulbright Taiwan , Taipei, Taiwan Alumni Board	2025 –
Education USA Singapore , Singapore Education USA Tutor	2024
Reach The World Cultural Ambassador	2024
Psychology NextGen Graduate Mentor	2023 –
Society for Research on Child Development Asian Caucus Steering Committee	2023 –
Cognitive Developmental Society CDS Mentor	2023 –
University of Massachusetts Amherst , Amherst, MA	
Bridge Speakers Series Committee	2023
Anderson-Myers Committee	2023
PBS Diversity Committee	2021 –
PBS Associate Chair for DEI Ad-Hoc Committee Member	2022 – 2023
Connecticut College McNair Visit Panel	2022
Fulbright Alumni Panel	2021
Education USA Taiwan , Taipei, Taiwan	
Education USA Tutor	2019 – 2020
Presentation at the American Institute of Taiwan	2020
Presentation at Education USA Taipei Center	2019
	2017 – 2019
Wesleyan University , Middletown, CT	
Office of Residential Life – Resident Advisor	
Education Studies Department – Peer Advisor	2018
Asian American Student Collective – Chair	2017 – 2019
UNIPRO San Diego , San Diego, CA	2016 – 2017
Youth Outreach Coordinator	

MENTORSHIP

**Honors Thesis Mentor; ^High School Intern; !University DEI Undergraduate Training Program; #Presented at Undergraduate Conferences*

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA	2020 –
<i>Cognition Across Development Lab Research Assistants</i>	Graduating Year
Waverly Leonard!#	2026
Mila Splawka*	2026
Katrina Chang!#	2026
Sarah Berliner!#	2026
Shivaangi Salhorta*!	2026
Advika Kamath!	2026
Kangyi Zhou^#	2024
Annabelle Wei^#	2024
Ziqi Ding*#	2024
Jayla Sanchez	2024
Mia Baskey!#	2024
Julia O'Donahue^	2023
Jodie Yan^	2023
Emily Adams#	2023
Madeline Kennedy	2023
Dagney Overbay	2023
Katie Murdoch	2023
Naomi Small	2023
Elizabeth Cho!	2023
Riley Zimmerman!	2023
Genesis Medina*#!	2023
Julia O'Donahue^#	2022
Jodie Yan^#	2022
Jenna Rubin*#	2022
Henry Pareto*#	2022
Seda Korroch*#	2022
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	2024
<i>Early Learning Cognition Lab Research Assistants</i>	
Nadya Suratee*#	
Jerron Joon*#	