

BRYNNA HOPE HEFLIN
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EDUCATION

- Anticipated
May 2023 **Ph.D., Clinical Science**
Florida International University, Miami, Florida
Major Professor: Daniel M. Bagner, Ph.D., ABPP
- 2019 **M.S. in Clinical Psychology**
Florida International University, Miami, Florida
Major Professor: Daniel M. Bagner, Ph.D., ABPP
Title: *Impact of parenting intervention on observed aggressive behaviors in at-risk infants*
- 2015 **B.A. in Psychology**
B.A. in Spanish
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
Distinguished Major in Psychology
- Honors Thesis: *Do Familial Characteristics and the Stability of Natural Mentoring Relationships Predict Mental Health and Academic Outcomes?*
Supervisors: Noelle Hurd, PhD., & Melvin Wilson, PhD.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 08/2017 – Present **Department of Psychology & Center for Children and Families**
Florida International University
Early Childhood Behavior Lab
Graduate Student in the Doctoral Clinical Science Program
Primary Supervisor: Dan Bagner, Ph.D.
- 06/2015 – 06/2017 **Psychiatric Hospital, Vanderbilt University Medical Center**
Laboratory of Affective Sensory Research (LASR): Focus on Autism
Research Analyst
Primary Supervisor: Carissa Cascio, Ph.D.
- 01/2013 – 05/2015 **Department of Psychology, University of Virginia**
Promoting Healthy Adolescent Development (PHAD) Lab
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Primary Supervisor: Noelle Hurd, Ph.D.
- 05/2012 – 08/2012 **George Mason University**
12/2012 – 01/2013 **Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media**
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Research Assistant, Research Intern
Supervisor: Kelly Schrum, Ph.D.

GRANTS

- 04/2020 ***Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Health (NICHD, NIH), F31 NRSA Submission, currently under review***
Title: *Bidirectional Associations between Parental Distress and Behavior Problems in Children with Developmental Delay*
Grant submitted to NICHD for an F31 NRSA training grant looking at longitudinal transactional processes between parental distress and behavior problems in early childhood for cultural minority children with developmental delay over the course of behavioral parent training
- 01/2017 **Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR) VICTR Voucher Grant, Funded - \$2,000.00**
Grant for pilot project looking at resting state EEG data for infants at risk for developing Autism Spectrum Disorders

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

1. **Heflin, B.H.**, Heymann, P., Coxe, S., & Bagner, D.M. (2020). Impact of parenting intervention on observed aggressive behaviors in At-Risk Infants. In press at *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.
2. Heymann, P., **Heflin, B.H.**, Baralt, M., & Bagner, D.M. (2020). Infant-Directed Language Following a Brief Behavioral Parenting Intervention: The Importance of Language Quality. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 58, 101419.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infbeh.2019.101419>
3. Griffith, S.F., Hagan, M.B., Heymann, P., **Heflin, B.H.**, & Bagner, D.M. (2020). Apps as learning tools: A systematic review. *Pediatrics*, 145(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-1579>
4. Williams, Z.J., Failla, M.D., Davis, S.L., **Heflin, B.H.**, Okintondo, C.D., Moore, D.L., & Cascio, C.J. (2019). Thermal Perceptual Thresholds are typical in Autism Spectrum Disorder but Strongly Related to Intra-individual Response Variability. *Scientific Reports*, 9; 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-49103-2>
5. Failla, M., Bryant, L., **Heflin, B.**, Mash, L., Schauder, K., Davis, S., Gerdes, M., Weitlauf, A., Rogers, B., & Cascio, C. (2020). Neural correlates of cardiac interoceptive accuracy across development: implications for social symptoms in autism spectrum disorders. *Autism Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1101/630343>
6. Failla, M., Peters, B., Karbasforoushan, H., Foss-Feig, J., Schauder, K., **Heflin, B.H.**, &

Cascio, C. (2017). Intra-insular connectivity and somatosensory responsiveness in young children with ASD. *Molecular Autism*, 8(25). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13229-017-0143-y>

Manuscripts Under Review

7. **Heflin, B.H.**, Comer, J.S., & Bagner, D.M. (2020). Predicting BMI in Young Cultural Minority Children at Elevated Risk for Obesity: Examining Links with Caregiver Depressive Symptoms and Acculturation. Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*.
8. Zlibut, J. M., Gerdes, M., Mash, L. E., **Heflin, B. H.**, Tracy, M., & Cascio, C. (2020). Valence-Specific Multifaceted Empathy Differences in Children and Adults with Autism. Under Review at *Emotion*.
9. Quinde, J. M., Okitondo, C. D., Williams, Z. J., Weitlauf, A., Mash, L., **Heflin, B. H.**, Woodward, N. D., & Cascio, C. J. (2020). Elevated thresholds for light touch in children with autism reflect more conservative perceptual decision-making rather than a sensory deficit. Under Review at *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience: Sensory Neuroscience*.

Chapters in Edited Books

11. Heymann, P., **Heflin, B.**, & Bagner, D.M. (accepted for publication). Parent Child Interaction Therapy: Theory and Research to Practice.” Selected Topics in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. ISBN 978-1-78985-270-7.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral & Symposium Presentations

1. Failla, M., Bryant, L., **Heflin, B.**, Mash, L., Schauder, K., Davis, S., Weitlauf, A., Rogers, B., & Cascio., C. (May, 2019). *Developmental differences in neural responses to an interoception task: implications for autism symptoms*. Presentation on panel for interoception at the International Society for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.
2. **Heflin, B.** and Magariño, L. (November, 2018). *Understanding Early Child Development*. Presentation in the Parenting Workshop Series at the Center for Children and Families (CCF) at Florida International University, Miami, FL.
3. Bagner, D.M., **Heflin, B.**, & Heymann, P. (June, 2018). *Impact of a Brief and Home-Based Intervention on Aggressive Behaviors in High-Risk Infants*. Presentation at Biennial World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression, Paris, France.

Poster Presentations

4. Quinde, J., **Heflin, B.**, Mash, L. E., & Cascio, C. J. Multifaceted Empathy Differences in Autism: Negative but not positive emotion recognition impairment [Poster submitted for presentation]. International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), Seattle, WA, United States, May 2020.
5. Zoltowski, A. R., Failla, M. D., Okitondo, C., Weitlauf, A., Mash, L. E., Davis, S., **Heflin, B. H.**, Rogers, B., & Cascio, C. J. *Intrinsic network connectivity with interoceptive sensory*

- regions correlates with autism severity* [Poster submitted for presentation]. International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), Seattle, WA, United States, May, 2020.
6. Williams, Z. J., Feldman, J. I., Dunham, K., Suzman, E., Liu, Y., Davis, S. L., Mash, L. E., **Heflin, B. H.**, Schauder, K. B., Foss-Feig, J. H., Cascio, C. J., & Woynaroski, T. G. *The measurement and clinical correlates of decreased sound tolerance (hyperacusis) in autism spectrum disorder* [Poster submitted for presentation]. Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual Disabilities, San Diego, CA, United States, April, 2020.
 7. Zoltowski, A., Davis, S., Failla, M., Mash, L., **Heflin B.**, Schauder, K., & Cascio, C. (May, 2019). *Effects of sensory distractors on interoceptive processing in ASD*. Poster Presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.
 8. Williams, Z., Davis, S., Okitondo, C., Mash, L.M., **Heflin, B.**, Weitlauf, A., & Cascio, C. (May, 2019). *Thermal Detection Thresholds are not Elevated in Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.
 9. **Heflin, B.**, Heymann, P., Martinez Pedraza, F., & Bagner, D.M. (October, 2018). *Impact of Parenting Intervention on Observed Aggressive Behaviors in Infants at-risk for Disruptive Behavioral Disorders*. Poster presented at the National Conference in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Kansas City, KS.
 10. Heymann, P., **Heflin, B.**, & Bagner, D.M. (February, 2018). *The Role of Cumulative Risk on Intervention Outcomes for Infants at-risk for Behavioral Disorders*. Poster presented at the Miami International Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference (MICAMH), Miami, FL.
 11. Santapuram, P., Feldman, J. I., Bowman, S., **Heflin, B. H.**, Augustine, A., Golden, A., Keceli Kaysili, B., Suzman, E., Broderick, N., Cascio, C., J. & Woynaroski, T. G. (April, 2018). *Eye gaze patterns correlate with vocal complexity and language development in infants at high- and low risk for autism spectrum disorder*. Poster presented at the annual Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual Disabilities, San Diego, CA.
 12. Failla, M., Bryant, L., **Heflin, B.**, Tracy, J., Rogers, B., & Cascio, C. (June, 2017) *Neural correlates of interoception in autism spectrum disorder*. Poster presented at the Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) Conference, Vancouver, Canada.
 13. **Heflin, B.**, Tracy, J., Mash, L., Willer, H., Newsome, C., & Cascio, C. (May, 2017). *Increased tendency for proximal proprioceptive errors in limb bisection for individuals with autism spectrum disorder is not mitigated by tool use*. Poster presented at International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF) Conference, Nashville, TN.
 14. Santapuram, P., Feldman, J. I., Bowman, S. M., Morgan, A., **Heflin, B.**, Augustine, A. E,

Keceli-Kaysili, B., Cascio, C. J., & Wynoroski, T. G. (May, 2017) *Looking as a predictor of vocal complexity and language in infants at low and high risk for autism* [Poster presentation]. Annual International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF), Nashville, TN, United States. *Also presented at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day, Nashville, TN, United States (2018, January).*

15. **Heflin, B.**, Hussain, S. & Hurd, N. (April, 2016). *Natural mentoring relationships among underrepresented college students: An examination of predictors and associated outcomes.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2018 **Finalist for Student Poster Award, 10/150**
National Conference in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology
- 2018 **Student Travel Award**
Florida International University
- 2015 **Award for Excellence in Research**
UVA Psychology Department
- 2015 **Distinguished Major in Psychology**
UVA Psychology Department
- 2015, 2013,
2012 **Dean's List**
University of Virginia
- 2011 **Virginia High School (VHSL) "Student Journalist of the Year"**
Award for the state of Virginia
- 2011 **Corrine Louise Wilke Scholarship for Excellence in Spanish**

CLINICAL PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

- 08/2019 – **Clinician, Mental Health Interventions & Technology, Center for Children
Present and Families, Florida International University**
Conduct ADIS and PARS assessments in English and in Spanish for children with a variety of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders (GAD, Social, Separation, SM, OCD, Panic, PTSD). Subsequently gained experience providing weekly individual treatment using the CoolKids, Coping Cat and UP-C/A protocols in English and in Spanish for children ranging ages 4 – 17 years with comorbid diagnoses. Additionally, led weekly group treatments for children ages 8 – 12 with anxiety disorders in a CBT group and for teens 13-17 with Selective Mutism (and co-morbid diagnoses). Participated in weekly supervision regarding treatment cases, as well as weekly supervision for group treatment and ADIS case conceptualization review meetings.

Supervisor: Ashley Shaw, PhD.

11/2018 – **Assessor, Early Childhood Neurodevelopmental Program, Center for**
Present **Children and Families, Florida International University**
Conduct assessments in English and in Spanish for children (ages 2-5) with early childhood developmental delays and disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, Learning Delays, Speech Delays and Global developmental delays. Assessments include conducting a semi-structured developmental background interview, a structured diagnostic interview (K-SADS) when applicable, as well as administering the ADOS-2 (Modules T-2), Bayley-III, K-SADS, PLS-5, WPPSI-IV, WIAT-III, WJ-IV. Scored assessments and wrote comprehensive integrated assessment reports.

Supervisor: Daniel M. Bagner, PhD.

11/2017 – **Clinician, ACCESS for Families Program, Center for Children and Families**
01/2020 **Florida International University**
Provide evidence-based treatment in English and in Spanish for externalizing behavior problems in children exiting the early intervention system for intellectual disability. Treatment includes weekly sessions via tele-health for children starting at age 3. Additionally, provided clinical feedback to families regarding their child's overall behavior and development. Participated in weekly supervision focused on advanced issues in parenting-based treatments, parent-training methods, and innovations in tele-health formats for the delivery of care.

Supervisor: Daniel M. Bagner, PhD. and Jon S. Comer, PhD

05/2018 – **Examiner and Clinician, Brave Bunch Program for Selective Mutism**
07/2018; **Center for Children and Families, Florida International University**
06/2019 – Provided evidence-based treatment for children with selective mutism.
07/2019; Conducted group programs with children ages 3-12 who were diagnosed with selective mutism. Treatment includes lead-in sessions via tele-health and in-person with family prior to intensive week-long treatment. Participated in weekly supervision focused on treatment of selective mutism.

Supervisor: Jami M. Furr, PhD

06/2018 – **Assessor, Mental Health Interventions & Technology, Selective Mutism,**
Present **Center for Children and Families, Florida International University**
Conduct assessments in English and in Spanish for children with selective mutism and other anxiety disorders. Assessments include the WISC or WPPSI cognitive assessments and the PPVT or TVIP (Spanish version) vocabulary assessments.

Supervisor: Jami M. Furr, PhD

03/2019 – **Assessor, Summer Treatment Program, Center for**

Present **Children and Families, Florida International University**
Conduct assessments in English and Spanish to determine the eligibility of children (ages 5-12) displaying disruptive behavior problems (e.g., ADHD, ODD) to receive the Summer Treatment Program (STP). Assessments included a semi-structured developmental background interview, a structured diagnostic interview (K-SADS), as well as administering the WISC-V, WPPSI-IV, WIAT-III. Scored assessments and wrote integrated assessment reports.

Supervisor: Erika Coles, PhD

08/2018 – **Clinician, School Readiness Program, Center for Children and Families**
12/2018 **Florida International University**
Provide evidence-based treatment for children ages 3-6 with externalizing behavior problems (ADHD, ODD, CD). Treatment was an eight-week, school-readiness skills-training group focused on behavior management with a focus on positive reinforcement, effective commands and immediate consequences. Weekly sessions promoted children’s social-emotional and self-regulatory functioning through the use of social skills, self-regulation training and emotional awareness activities. Participated in weekly supervision focused on issues in group treatment, case conceptualization, and treatment planning. Wrote comprehensive treatment summary reports.

Supervisor: Katie Hart, PhD

OTHER CLINICALLY RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

08/2015 – 06/2017	Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN Families First Program, Child Counselor
09/2015 – 06/2017	Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Children’s Hospital Family Room in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Nashville, TN Volunteer
08/2014 – 05/2015	Community Attention Home, Residential Treatment Center Charlottesville, VA Tutor/Mentor
05/2014 – 08/2014	Judge Baker Children’s Center: Harvard Medical School Affiliate Summer Treatment Program (STP), Boston, MA Behavioral Counselor

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

01/2018 – 05/2018	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Florida International University Intro to Psychology, Instructor: Arlene Garcia, Ph.D. Cog Neuro in the Media, Instructor: Aaron Mattfeld, Ph.D.
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- 11/2017 Guest Lecturer, Florida International University
Undergraduate course: Abnormal Psychology
Lecture: *Effective Praises and Commands*
- 08/2017 – 12/2017 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Florida International University
Abnormal Psychology, Instructor: Erica Musser, Ph.D.
Abnormal Psychology, Instructor: Annie Morrow, M.S.
- 04/2016 Guest Lecturer, Vanderbilt University
Graduate course: Clinical Assessments, Speech Pathology
Master's Program
Lecture: *Administration of the Communication and Symbolic
Behavior Scales (CSBS)*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer

Journal of Family Psychology

Mentored Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer

Infancy

Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology

Journal of Child and Family Studies

Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology

Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology

Journal of Family Psychology

Journal of Pediatric Psychology

Professional Affiliations

Society for Research in Child Development

American Psychological Association:

 Society of Clinical Child Psychology (Division 53)

 Society of Pediatric Psychology (Division 54)

ASSESSMENT TRAINING

Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule (ADIS-C/P)

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2), Modules T, 1, 2, 3, 4

Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R)

Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, Third Edition (Bayley-III)

Bracken School Readiness Assessment (BSRA)

Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales (CSBS)

The Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (K-SADS)

Mullen Scales of Early Learning (MSEL)

Peabody Picture and Vocabulary Test (PPVT)

Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale (PARS)

Preschool Language Scales, Fifth Edition (PLS-5)

Sensory Processing Assessment for Young Children (SPA)

Selective Mutism Interaction Coding Scheme (SMICS)
Test of Sensory Functions in Infants (TSFI)
Test de Vocabulario y Imágenes Peabody (TVIP)
Weschler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence – Second Edition (WASI-II)
Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V)
Weschler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI)
Weschler Individual Achievement Test-Third Edition (WIAT-III)
Woodcock Johnson IV Tests of Achievement (WJ-IV)

TREATMENT TRAININGS

“Cool Kids” Anxiety Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
Unified Protocol for Children (UP-C), Unified Protocol for Adolescents (UP-A)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent in Spanish: conduct assessments and provide treatment