

**Gerald D. Higginbotham, Ph.D.**

Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy  
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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

- 2023- **Assistant Professor**  
Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2021-2023 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**  
Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

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**EDUCATION**

- 2016-2021 **Ph.D., Psychology (Social)**  
University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Secondary specialization: Quantitative Psychology  
Primary Advisor: Kerri L. Johnson, Ph. D.  
Secondary Advisor: Sandra Graham, Ph. D.
- 2016-2017 **M.A., Psychology**  
University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Principal Investigator: Tiffany N. Brannon, Ph. D.
- 2010-2014 **B.A. with honors and distinction, Psychology**  
Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
Major Advisor: Jennifer L. Eberhardt, Ph. D.  
Minor: African & African-American Studies

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

***Culture, History & Identity in Policy***

Sociocultural Self and Identity, Representation, Stereotyping and Prejudice, Social Cognition, Intergroup Relations, Firearms, Media, Belonging

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**GRANTS (Total Awarded: \$202,450)**

- 2023 Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences Young Investigator Competition [Submitted, not awarded]

- 2018-2021 Predoctoral Fellowship, National Science Foundation GRFP (Awarded: \$102,000)
- 2016-2021 Eugene V. Cota-Robles Graduate Fellowship, University of California-Los Angeles GRFP (Awarded: \$50,000)
- 2020 Graduate Student Research Scholarship, American Psychological Foundation/Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (Awarded: \$2,000)
- 2019 Research grant (Fall), UCLA Political Psychology Fellowship (Awarded: \$1,000)
- 2019 Research grant (Spring), UCLA Political Psychology Fellowship (Awarded: \$1,000)
- 2018 Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (Awarded: \$500)
- 2018 Summer Fellowship, Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, University of California-Los Angeles (Awarded: \$6,000)
- 2017-2018 Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, University of California-Los Angeles (Awarded: \$20,000)
- 2017 Summer Fellowship, Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, University of California-Los Angeles (Awarded: \$6,000)
- 2017 Research grant, Institute of American Cultures, University of California-Los Angeles (Awarded: \$3,250)
- 2016 Competitive Edge Graduate Summer Research Program, University of California-Los Angeles (Awarded: \$6,000)
- 2013 Major Grant for Undergraduate Research, Stanford University (Awarded: \$4,500)
- 2012 Contemporary Issues in Psychology Grant, Stanford University (Awarded: \$200)

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## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Higginbotham, G. D.,** Sears, D. O., & Goldstein, L. (2023). When an irresistible prejudice meets immovable politics: Black legal gun ownership undermines racially resentful White Americans' gun rights advocacy. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 152(2), 410.

- Trawalter, S., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, & Henderson, K. (2022). Social psychological research on racism and the importance of historical context: Implications for policy. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 31(6), 493-499.
- Kerner, L., Losee, J. E., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, & Shepperd, J. A. (2022). Interest in purchasing firearms in the United States at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 9(1), 52.
- Higginbotham, G. D.**, Shropshire, J., & Johnson, K. L. (2021). You play a sport, right?: A persistent and pernicious intersectional bias in categorization of students vs. student-athletes. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 48(11), 1531-1547.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2021). Can I belong in school and sports? The intersectional value of athletic identity in high school and across the college transition. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology* 27(4), 613-629. [pdf](#)
- Brannon, T. N., Carter, E. R., Murdock-Perriera, L. A., **Higginbotham, G. D.** (2018). From backlash to inclusion for all: Instituting diversity efforts to maximize benefits across group lines. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 12(1), 57-90.
- Brannon, T. N., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, & Henderson, K. (2017). Class advantages and disadvantages are not so Black and White: Intersectionality impacts rank and selves. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 18, 117-122.
- Brannon, T. N., Taylor, V. J., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, & Henderson, K. (2017). Selves in contact: How integrating perspectives on sociocultural selves and intergroup contact can inform theory and application on reducing inequality. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 11(7).

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#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Martin, K., & **Higginbotham, G. D.** We've been here before: Reactions to the murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests for justice. [Conditionally Accepted]
- Allen, A. M., Brown, R. M., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, Martin, K., Hudson, S. T. J. Empirical investigation of the relationship between construals of structural racism and attitudes toward Critical Race Theory [Revision and Resubmission Requested]
- Higginbotham, G. D.** The dark side of safety: A call for a more thorough consideration of racism and collective power motivations in the social psychology of firearms. [Under review]
- Losee, J. E., Kerner, L. A., Pogge, G. C., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, & Shepperd, J. A. Examining the correspondence between political ideology and gun policy attitudes among Black and White people in the United States [Under review]

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#### SELECT MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

**Higginbotham, G. D., & Does, S.** The role of culture and identity in the perception of critical American histories of oppression. [In Prep: Theory paper]

**Higginbotham, G. D., Shih, M., & Johnson, K. L.** On our ancestors' shoulders? Race and the effect of ancestral interdependence on the subjective temporal distance of the Tulsa Race Massacre [In Prep: All data collected]

**Higginbotham, G. D., Bissainthe, R., & Brown-Iannuzzi, J. L.** Is voting a privilege or a right? Examining voting privilege perceptions and support for voter suppression [In Prep: All data collected]

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## WHITE PAPERS AND REPORTS

Lazar, L., **Higginbotham, G. D.**, Signorelli, J. Wang, C., Azar, J., & Uhls, Y. T. (2022). *Driving box office performance through authentically inclusive storytelling*. UCLA Center for Scholars and Storytellers. [https://www.fullstoryinitiative.com/Full\\_Story\\_Research.pdf](https://www.fullstoryinitiative.com/Full_Story_Research.pdf)

**Higginbotham, G. D., Zheng, Z., & Uhls, Y.** (2020). *Beyond checking a box: A lack of authentically inclusive representation has costs at the box office*. UCLA Center for Scholars and Storytellers. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c0da585da02bc56793a0b31/t/5f7bca957449dd1d4db316c0/1601948398047/CSS+AIR+Final+Research+Report.pdf>

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## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2021 | Shelley Taylor Dissertation Award, Psychology Department (Social Area), University of California-Los Angeles                            |
| 2021 | Dena Chertoff Graduate Student Service Award, Psychology Department, University of California-Los Angeles                               |
| 2020 | Bertram H. Raven Award for Best Social Issues Research Paper, Psychology Department (Social Area), University of California-Los Angeles |
| 2018 | Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention  |
| 2017 | Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention  |
| 2014 | Commencement Speaker, Psychology Department, Stanford University  |
| 2014 | Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, Psychology Department, Stanford University  |

- 2014 Trustee Leadership Award, Program in African & African-American Studies, Stanford University
- 2012-2014 MMUF Fellow, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Stanford University
- 2012 Psych Summer Research Program Best Presentation, Psychology Department, Stanford University
- 2011 PSYCH One Scholar Award, Psychology Department, Stanford University

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## TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2023, November). *“Voting is a privilege:” Racism, policy privilege perceptions, and U.S. voter suppression support today.* Talk presented at McGill University’s Social Psychology Colloquium Series. [Virtual]
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2023, August). *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives: A conversation about the science and the moment.* Expert panel at the Feature Stage Science Summit at the 2023 American Psychological Association annual conference. Washington, D.C.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2023, June). *Can you talk about race without talking about history?: A social and cultural psychological perspective.* Talk presented at the VU Amsterdam Critical Forum hosted by the Migration and Diversity Centre. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2023, April). *On our ancestors’ shoulders?: The role of ancestral interdependence in the subjective temporal distance of past anti-Black racism.* Talk presented at the University of Maryland Social, Decision, and Organizational Science Spring Colloquium Series. College Park, MD.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2023, April). *On our ancestors’ shoulders: The role of ancestral interdependence in the perceived temporal proximity of the Tulsa Race Massacre.* Talk presented at the University of Virginia’s Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference. Charlottesville, VA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2023, March). *Psychological science explains why some are threatened by equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.* Essential Science Conversation expert panel hosted by the American Psychological Association. [Virtual]
- Higginbotham, G. D., & Sears, D. O.** (2022, September). *The longstanding role of race, racism, and group power concerns in U.S. gun attitudes.* Talk presented at the annual Society for Experimental Social Psychology conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2022, August). *American histories of racism: An important social context and perceptual object.* Talk presented at the annual American Psychological Association conference. Minneapolis, MN.

- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2022, February). *On our ancestors' shoulders?: The role of ancestral interdependence in the perception of past anti-Black racism*. Talk presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. [Virtual]
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2021, August). *On our ancestors' shoulders?: Interdependence as mediating racial differences in perceptions of the Tulsa Race Massacre*. Talk presented at the annual Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues conference. [Virtual]
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2020, November). *American history: An important social context and perceptual object*. Talk presented at the California State University, Long Beach Psychology Department Colloquium Series on Anti-Racism. Long Beach, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.,** Sears, D. O., & Goldstein, L. (2020, February). *Pitting anti-Black attitudes against gun rights advocacy*. Talk presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, LA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2019, October). *Pitting anti-Black attitudes against gun rights advocacy amongst White Republicans*. Talk presented at Symbolic Politics: A Celebration of the Research of David O. Sears. Los Angeles, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.,** Shropshire, J., & Johnson, K. L. (2019, June). *Examining the consequences of racial bias in the categorization of students vs. athletes in college contexts*. Talk presented at the annual Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues conference. San Diego, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2019, February). *You play a sport, right? Race bias in student vs. student-athlete categorization*. Talk presented at the UCLA 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Grad Slam 2019. Los Angeles, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.,** Shropshire, J., & Johnson, K. L. (2019, February). *You play a sport, right? Race bias in student vs. student-athlete categorization*. Talk presented at 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Black Social and Personality Psychologists Retreat. Portland, OR.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2018, July). *Social and cultural psychology: Exploring how context and history influence how we see others*. Talk presented at the UCLA Vice Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars Program. Los Angeles, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2017, July). *The psychology of race and crime: Fighting history, media, and racial bias in pursuit of racial justice*. Talk presented at the UCLA Vice Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars Program. Los Angeles, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2016, August). *TV commercials as achievement scripts for women: Geis, Brown, Jennings, & Porter, 1984*. Talk presented at UCLA Competitive Edge Program Journal Club. Los Angeles, CA.

**Higginbotham, G. D.** (2014, June). *The influence of athletic media portrayals on young Black males' educational and career ambitions*. Talk presented at the Stanford Psychology Department Master's and Honors Research Symposium. Stanford, CA.

**Higginbotham, G. D.** (2014, June). *The influence of athletic media portrayals on young Black males' educational and career ambitions*. Talk presented at the Stanford Program in African & African-American Studies' Honors Presentations. Stanford, CA.

**Higginbotham, G. D.,** Hetey, R., & Eberhardt, J. L. (2014, May). *Athletic media portrayals' influence on young Black males' educational and career ambitions*. Talk presented at the 2014 Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference. Stanford, CA.

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## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Higginbotham, G. D.,** & Brown-Iannuzzi, J. (2023, February). *Voting is a privilege, not a right: Investigating how racism shapes support for voter suppression among White Americans*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Atlanta, GA.

**Higginbotham, G. D.,** & Sears, D. O. (2022, June). *The role of race and identification on U.S. gun attitudes and policy support*. Poster presented at the annual Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Kerner, L., Losee, J., **Higginbotham, G. D.,** Shepperd, J. (2021, February). *Using guns to cope with pandemic fears: Examining gun purchase interest during the U.S. COVID-19 lockdown*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. Virtual.

**Higginbotham, G. D.** (2020, March). *Examining the college adjustment benefits of valuing athletic identity in high school for Black male students*. Poster accepted at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Conference. San Diego, CA. [Conference cancelled due to 2020 Covid-19 pandemic]

**Higginbotham, G. D.** (2019, June). *Examining the consequences of racial bias in student vs. student-athlete categorization*. Poster presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Higginbotham, G. D.,** & Brannon, T. N. (2019, February). *More than a game: The sociocultural effects of athletic identity among Black male students in high school*. Poster presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. Portland, OR.

**Higginbotham, G. D.,** & Brannon, T. N. (2018, July). *Past inequality matters?: The role of culture and identity on dominant group members' perceptions of history and support for addressing racial inequality*. Poster presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology. Washington, D.C.



- Higginbotham, G. D., & Brannon, T. N.** (2018, February). *Can I belong on the court and in the classroom?: Examining the differential influence of race and gender on athletic identification and its associated classroom benefits*. Poster presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. Atlanta, GA.
- Higginbotham, G. D., & Brannon, T. N.** (2017, June). *Can I belong in school and sports?: The effect of integrating valued identities on academic belonging and motivation*. Poster presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology. Prairie View, Texas.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2017, January). *“Ball is life:” Athletic media representations, identity, and Black males’ academic ambitions*. Poster presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. San Antonio, Texas.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2013, October). *Athletic media’s influence on Black male adolescents’ aspirations*. Poster presented at the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship West Coast Regional Conference. Berkeley, CA.
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2012, August). *The dehumanization of cops and criminals*. Poster presented at the Stanford University Psych-Summer Program. Stanford, CA.

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## **MENTORSHIP, SERVICE, AND LEADERSHIP**

### **Graduate Student Mentoring**

Kyle Barrentine  
Leezet Matos  
Kyshia Henderson

### **Undergraduate Mentoring**

Thaddeus Demeke  
Marjorie Llanera  
Nia McClinton  
Dreama Rhodes (co-advised honors thesis)  
Zhangpeng Zheng  
Jose Cervantez  
Sofia Alemania  
Ariella Filishtiner  
Cassandra Bizicki

### **Service and Leadership**

2023- Co-Director, Black Social and Personality Psychologists’ Retreat

2023- Faculty Core Group Member, Gun Violence Faculty Working Group, University of Virginia



- 2023- Faculty Representative, Batten Space Committee, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
- 2023- Consulting Editor, Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology
- 2022- Council Member, Early Career Committee, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
- 2021-2022 Senior Fellow, UCLA Center for Scholars and Storytellers, University of California-Los Angeles
- 2019-2021 Graduate Writing Consultant, UCLA Graduate Writing Center, University of California-Los Angeles
- 2019-2021 Junior Fellow, Diversity, Inclusion & Equity Research Arm, UCLA Center for Scholars and Storytellers, University of California-Los Angeles
- 2017-2021 Financial Officer, Underrepresented Graduate Students in Psychology, University of California-Los Angeles
- 2017-2019 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Diversity Issues Committee, Psychology Department, University of California-Los Angeles
- *Implemented climate survey assessing graduate students' perceptions of the Psychology department's strengths and areas of opportunity*
  - *Collaborated to create event focused on increasing a sense of community between faculty and graduate students around issues of diversity*
  - *Workshopped and implemented concrete learning goals and experiential learning methods in the graduate student TA training curriculum related to handling issues of diversity in the classroom*
- 2018 Graduate Student Organizer, Success in the Life Sciences Workshop, Psychology Department, University of California-Los Angeles
- 2013-2014 President, Black Psychology Student Association, Stanford University
- 2013-2014 Advisor, PsychCONNECT, Stanford University
- 2013-2014 Mentor, Phoenix Scholars Program, Stanford University
- 2011-2012 Undergraduate Mentor, Ernest Houston Johnson Scholars Program, Stanford University

**Ad Hoc Reviewer**

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Social Cognition

Journal of Social and Political Psychology

Race and Social Problems

Law and Science Dissertation Grant (National Science Foundation Funded)

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Instructor of Record – Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, UVa**

Spring 2024	LPPS 6820: Identity Politics: A Psychological and Historical Perspective
Spring 2024	LPPP 4991: Identity Politics and Effective Policy Leadership
Spring 2023	LPPS 6820: Identity Politics: A Psychological and Historical Perspective
Spring 2022	LPPP 7559: Identity Politics: A Psychological and Historical Perspective

### **Instructor of Record – UCLA Vice Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars Program**

Summer 2021	HONORS 19: Social Justice and Social Psychology: Revisiting the Roots and Reimagining the Future of Social Psychology
Summer 2020	HONORS 19: Social Justice and Social Psychology: Revisiting the Roots and Reimagining the Future of Social Psychology
Summer 2019	HONORS 19: Social Justice and Social Psychology: Revisiting the Roots and Reimagining the Future of Social Psychology

### **Teaching Assistant – UCLA Psychology Department**

Spring 2020	PSYCH 137J: Self and Identity
Spring 2019	PSYCH 100A: Psychological Statistics
Spring 2018	PSYCH 188: Introduction to Cultural Psychology

### **Teaching Assistant – UCLA Anderson School of Management**

Spring 2021	MGMT 252: Persuasion and Influence
Summer 2019	MGMT 414A: Leadership Foundations
Summer 2018	MGMT 414A: Leadership Foundations

### **Teaching Fellow – Stanford University Psychology Department**

Spring 2013	PSYCH 1: Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2012	PSYCH 1: Introduction to Psychology

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## PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP & MEDIA

- Smith-Bynum, M., Higginbotham, G. D., Salter, P., Sellers, R. M. (2023, August 3). *Equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives: A conversation about the science and the moment* [Expert Panelist]. American Psychological Association Science Summit, Washington D.C.
- Selterman, D., & Galvan, M. (2022, November). Learning from history (with psychology!) with Dr. Gerald Higginbotham (No. 15) [Audio podcast episode]. In *A bit more complicated*.
- Fisher, B., & Ma de Sousa, A. (2022, September). Your mind on history, guns, and racism, with Dr. Gerald Higginbotham. [Audio podcast episode]. In *Minds matter podcast*.  
<https://www.mindsmatterpodcast.com/podcast/episode/285b61cd/your-mind-on-history-guns-and-racism-with-dr-gerald-higginbotham>
- Srikrishnan, M. (2022, September 9). *What slavery and racism have to do with American gun ownership*. The center for public integrity. <https://publicintegrity.org/inside-publici/newsletters/watchdog-newsletter/slavery-racism-have-to-do-with-american-gun-ownership/>
- Bensten, T. (2022, August 19). *Anti-Black racism linked to lower support for some gun rights*. American psychological association.  
<https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2022/08/racism-gun-rights>
- Horn, J. (2020, October 8). *Study says diversity in movie casting and plot can mean bigger profits*. LAist.  
[https://laist.com/latest/post/20201008/ucla\\_study\\_hollywood\\_diversity\\_casting\\_plot\\_profits](https://laist.com/latest/post/20201008/ucla_study_hollywood_diversity_casting_plot_profits)
- Ramos, D. (2020, October 6). *New study finds Hollywood studios could lose money from movies that lack diversity*. Deadline. <https://deadline.com/2020/10/study-hollywood-studios-lose-money-movies-lack-diversity-inclusion-representation-1234591521/>
- Edoimioya, N. (Host). (2020, August). Addressing systemic racism through research – Gerald Higginbotham (Stanford, UCLA). [Audio podcast episode]. In *How to do grad school*.  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/07-addressing-systemic-racism-through-research-gerald/id1521767027?i=1000489302533>
- Higginbotham, G. D.** (2019, September 22). *Reparations?: A case study of White Americans' psychology toward past racial wrong-doing*. Psychology in action. <https://psychology-inaction.squarespace.com/psychology-in-action-1/2019/9/22/reparations-a-case-study-of-white-americans-psychology-toward-past-racial-wrong-doing>

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## SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Proficiency in R, Microsoft Excel, SPSS, SAS, HLM  
Intermediate Spanish speaking, writing, and reading ability

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**PRE-GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2012-2014 **Honors Thesis in Psychology**

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Thesis advisors: Dr. Jennifer L. Eberhardt, Dr. Rebecca Hetey

Thesis title: *What They See Is What They'll Be: Athletic Media's Influence on Black Male Adolescents' Career and Educational Ambitions*

2012-2013 **Research Assistant**

Mind, Culture, and Society Psychology Lab, Stanford University, Stanford, CA