

Meredith Pecukonis, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, Boston University 2019 - 2024

Mentor: Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg

Thesis Title: *The Developing Brain in a Digital Age – Understanding the Impact of Shared Book Reading on Language and Brain Development in Autistic and Neurotypical Preschoolers*

M.A. in Psychology, Boston University 2017 - 2019

B.S. in Psychology, University of Maryland 2013 - 2017
Minor in Neuroscience

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External Grants (Funded)

F31 DC019562 2021 - 2024

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Role: PI

Sponsors: Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg, Dr. David Boas, and Dr. Meryem Yücel

Project Title: *Investigating the Neural Bases of Language Processing during a Live Social Interaction: A fNIRS Study of Preschoolers with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Amount Awarded: \$106,738

Internal Grants (Funded)

Clara Mayo Award, Boston University 2022 - 2023

Role: PI

Amount Awarded: \$3,008

Clara Mayo Award, Boston University 2020

Role: PI

Amount Awarded: \$3,386

BSOS Summer Scholars Award, University of Maryland 2016

Role: Co-PI

Project Title: *Investigating Social Reward Circuitry During a Real-Time Social Interaction in Autism*

Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Silvio O. Conte Summer Scholars Award, Maryland Psychiatric Research Center 2015

Role: Co-PI

Project Title: *The Effects of Prenatal Kynurenine Exposure on Predictive Coding in Rats: A MMN Study*

Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Fellowships

- Robert and Donna Landreth Fellowship***, Lurie Center for Autism 2024 -
Neurophotonic Trainee Fellowship, National Science Foundation 2018 - 2020
Research Traineeship Program (NRT 1633516)
Dean's Fellowship, Boston University 2017 - 2018

AWARDS

- Professional Development Award**, Graduate Women in Science and Engineering 2022
Student Travel Award, International Society for Autism Research 2020
Mark S. Harper Award of Excellence in Psychology, University of Maryland 2017
Outstanding Team Leader Award, Gemstone Honors Program 2017
Undergraduate Researcher of the Year (nominee), University of Maryland 2017

RESEARCH

Positions Held

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow***, Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts 2024 -
General Hospital
Lurie Center for Autism
Mentors: Dr. Jacob Hooker, Dr. Christopher McDougale, and Dr. Robyn Thom
Graduate Research Fellow, Boston University 2017 - 2024
Center for Autism Research Excellence
Mentor: Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg
Visiting Graduate Research Fellow, Boston Children's Hospital 2017 - 2022
Laboratories of Cognitive Neuroscience
Mentors: Dr. Charles Nelson and Dr. Katherine Perdue
Visiting Graduate Research Fellow, Boston Medical Center 2019 - 2023
Feinberg Broder-Fingert Lab
Mentors: Dr. Sarabeth Broder-Fingert and Dr. Emily Feinberg
Clinical Trainee, Johns Hopkins University & Kennedy Krieger Institute 2016 - 2017
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Mentors: Dr. Roma Vasa and Dr. Amy Keefer
Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Maryland 2015 - 2017
Developmental Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab
Mentors: Dr. Elizabeth Redcay, Dr. Katherine Rice Warnell, and Dr. Laura Anderson Kirby
Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Maryland 2013 - 2017
Roesch Lab
Mentor: Dr. Matthew Roesch

Publications

* Indicates completed with mentees

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

1. **Pecukonis, M.**, Butler, L.K., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (in press). What role does the environment play in language development? Exploring the associations among socioeconomic status, parent language input, and language skills in school-aged children with autism. *Autism Research*.
2. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Levinson, J., Chu, A., Cabral, H., Broder-Fingert, S., Feinberg, E., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024). Investigating the Associations Between Socioeconomic Status and Language Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Other Developmental Delays. *Infant and Child Development*, e2493.
3. Butler, L.K., **Pecukonis, M.**, Rogers, D., Boas, D.A., Tager-Flusberg, H., & Yücel, M.A. (2023). The role of dorsal prefrontal cortex in the production and comprehension of phonologically and semantically related words. *Brain Sciences*, 13(7), 1113.
4. **Pecukonis, M.**, Young, G.S., Brian, J., Charman, T., Chawarska, K., Elsabbagh, M., Iverson, J.M., Jeste, S., Landa, R., Messinger, D., Schwichtenberg, A.J., Webb, S.J., Zwaigenbaum, L., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2022). Early Predictors of Language Skills at 3 Years of Age Vary Based on Diagnostic Outcome: A Baby Siblings Research Consortium Study. *Autism Research*, 15(7), 1324-1335.
5. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Perdue, K.L., Wong, J., Tager-Flusberg, H., & Nelson, C.A. (2021). Exploring the relation between brain response to speech at 6-months and language outcomes at 24-months in infants at high and low risk for autism spectrum disorder: A preliminary functional near-infrared spectroscopy study. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 47, 100897.
6. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Skwerer, D.P., Eggleston, B., Meyer, S., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2019). Concurrent Social Communication Predictors of Expressive Language in Minimally Verbal Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 49(9), 1-19.
7. Warnell, K.R., **Pecukonis, M.**, & Redcay, E. (2018). Developmental relations between amygdala volume and anxiety traits: Effects of informant, sex, and age. *Development and Psychopathology*, 30(4), 1503-1515.
8. Lichtenberg, N.T., Lee, B., Kashtelyan, V., Chappa, B.S., Girma, H.T., Green, E.A., Kantor, S., Lagowala, D.A., Myers, M.A., Potemri, D., **Pecukonis, M.**, Tesfay, R.T., Walters, M.S., Zhao, A.C., Blair, J.R., Cheer, J.F., & Roesch, M.R. (2018). Rat behavior and dopamine release are modulated by conspecific distress. *Elife*, 7, e38090.

Book Chapters

9. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Gaynor, C., Butler, L.K., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (in press). Neural Foundations of Language in Autism Spectrum Disorder. In E. Andrews & S. Kiran (Eds.), *Cambridge Handbook of Language and the Brain*. Cambridge University Press.

Under Review (pre-prints available online)

10. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Lee, H., Knox, C., Yücel, M.A., Boas, D.A., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (revise & resubmit). Do children's brains function differently during book reading and screen time? A fNIRS study. *Developmental Science*.
11. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Gerson, J., Gustafson-Alm, H., Wood, M., Yücel, M.A., Boas, D.A., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (revise & resubmit). Investigating the neural bases of language processing during social and non-social contexts – A fNIRS study of preschoolers with and without autism. *Molecular Autism*.

12. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Cornwall, J., Shankar, P., Daesety, K., DeBoyes, L., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (revise & resubmit). Comparing shared book reading practices in preschoolers with and without autism. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*.
13. Thom, R., Renzi, D., **Pecukonis, M.**, Mullet, J., Ravichandran, C., & McDougale, C. (under review). An open-label study of buspirone for the treatment of anxiety in Williams Syndrome. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*.

In Preparation

14. **Pecukonis, M.**, Yücel, M.A., Boas, D.A., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (in prep). Functional connectivity during parent-child shared book reading.
15. *Geffin, A., & **Pecukonis, M.** (in prep). Associations between SES, shared book reading, screen time, and language in autism – A study of the National Survey of Children’s Health.
16. **Pecukonis, M.**, Townsend, P., Nowinski, L., Birtwell, K., Mody, M., & McDougale, C. (in prep). Predictors of expressive and receptive vocabulary abilities in minimally verbal autistic adults.
17. **Pecukonis, M.**, Ferre, C., Perkins, G., Zhang, F., Barreto, C., Wijekumar, S., Siddiqui, M., Highton, D., Varma, H., Durduran, T., & Hirsch, J. (in prep). Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Results from a diversity, equity, and inclusion survey of the SfNIRS community.

Conference Presentations

* Indicates completed with mentees

Oral Presentations

1. **Pecukonis, M.**, Yücel, M.A., Boas, D., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024, November). *Investigating the Neural Bases of Language Processing During Social and Non-Social Contexts in Neurotypical and Autistic Preschoolers*. Oral presentation given at the Yale fNIRS Workshop and Conference, New Haven, CT.
2. Butler, L.K., **Pecukonis, M.**, Rogers, D., Boas, D.A., Tager-Flusberg, H., & Yücel, M.A. (2023, September). *On the reverse interference effect in fNIRS flanker experiments*. Oral presentation given at the Yale fNIRS Workshop and Conference, New Haven, CT.
3. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Levinson, J., Chu, A., Broder-Fingert, S., Feinberg, E., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2023, March). *Does the “Language Gap” Exist in Children with Autism?* Oral presentation given at the Meeting on Language in Autism, Durham, NC.
4. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Lee, H., Knox, C., Cornwall, J., Shankar, P., DeBoyes, L., Yücel, M.A., Boas, D., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2022, October). *How do the brains of preschoolers process language that is presented during shared book reading and “screen time”?* Oral presentation given at the Society for fNIRS Meeting, Boston, MA.
5. **Pecukonis, M.**, Young, G.S., Brian, J., Charman, T., Chawarska, K., Elsabbagh, M., Iverson, J.M., Jeste, S., Landa, R., Messinger, D., Schwichtenberg, A.J., Webb, S.J., Zwaigenbaum, L., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2022, May). *Early Predictors of Language Outcomes at 36-Months in Infants Who Have an Older Sibling with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Baby Siblings Research Consortium Study*. Oral presentation given at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Austin, TX.
6. **Pecukonis, M.**, Butler, L.K., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2022, May). *What role does the environment play in language development? SES, parent language input, and language skills in children with autism*. Oral presentation given at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Austin, TX.
7. Tager-Flusberg, H., Chenausky, K., La Valle, C., **Pecukonis, M.**, & Skwerer, D. P. (2021, July). *Individual variation in expressive language and communication among*

- minimally verbal children and adolescents with autism.* Panel presented at the International Association for Study of Child Language (virtual conference).
8. **Pecukonis, M.,** Perdue, K., Tager-Flusberg, H., Nelson, C. A. (2019, May). *Investigating Brain Response to Speech in 6- and 7-Month-Old Infants: Evidence for Atypical Statistical Learning in Infants at High Risk for ASD.* Oral presentation given at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.

Poster Presentations

9. **Pecukonis, M.,** Yücel, M.A., Boas, D., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024, September). *Investigating the Neural Bases of Language Processing During a Live Social Interaction: A fNIRS Study of Neurotypical and Autistic Children.* Poster presented at the Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Congress, Baltimore, MD.
10. **Pecukonis, M.,** Yücel, M.A., Boas, D., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024, September). *Investigating the Neural Bases of Language Processing During a Live Social Interaction: A fNIRS Study of Neurotypical and Autistic Children.* Poster presented at the Society for fNIRS Meeting, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
11. *Wilson, J.S., Daniels, A., **Pecukonis, M.,** & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024, August). *Assessing whether affinities elicit different neural activation patterns in autistic and neurotypical young children.* Poster presented at the Neuroscience of the Everyday World Conference, Boston, MA.
12. *Geffin, A., & **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, August). *Environmental Influences on Language Development in Children with ASD: SES, Shared Book Reading, and Screen Time.* Poster presented at the Lurie Center for Autism Undergraduate Summer Internship Program Symposium, Lexington, MA.
13. *Wilson, J., Daniels, A., & **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, May). *Assessing Whether Personally Motivated Interests Elicit Different Neural Activation Patterns in Autistic and Neurotypical Young Children.* Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Conference, Melbourne, Australia.
14. **Pecukonis, M.,** Yücel, M.A., Boas, D., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2024, March). *The Neural Bases of Language Processing During Shared Book Reading in Autistic and Neurotypical Preschoolers.* Poster presented at the Meeting on Language in Autism, Durham, NC.
15. **Pecukonis, M.,** Yücel, M.A., Boas, D., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2023, September). *The neural correlates of language processing during shared book reading.* Poster presented at the Fetal, Infant, & Toddler Neuroimaging Group Conference, Santa Rosa, CA.
16. ***Pecukonis, M.,** Gerson, J., Gustafson-Alm, H., Wood, M., Yücel, M.A., Boas, D.A., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2023, September). *The neural correlates of language processing during everyday social interactions – a story of developmental change during the preschool years.* Poster presented at the Yale fNIRS Workshop and Conference, New Haven, CT.
17. ***Pecukonis, M.,** Gerson, J., Gustafson-Alm, H., Wood, M., Yücel, M.A., Boas, D.A., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2023, August). *The neural correlates of language processing during everyday social interactions – a story of developmental change during the preschool years.* Poster presented at the Neuroscience of the Everyday World Conference, Boston, MA.
18. ***Pecukonis, M.,** Hantman, R., Eckelman, B., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2023, May). *Parents' Perceptions of Service Needs and Expectations for Their Autistic Children during the Transition to Adulthood.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Stockholm, Sweden.
19. **Pecukonis, M.,** Ferre, C., Perkins, G., Zhang, F., Barreto, C., Wijekumar, S., Siddiqui, M., Highton, D., Varma, H., Durduran, T., & Hirsch, J. (2022, October). *Diversity,*

- Equity, and Inclusion: Preliminary Results from a Survey of the SfNIRS Community.* Poster presented at the Society for fNIRS Meeting, Boston, MA.
20. Butler, L.K., **Pecukonis, M.**, Tager-Flusberg, H., Boas, D., & Yücel, M.A. (2022, October). *Hemodynamic correlates of spoken word production and auditory word comprehension using fNIRS.* Poster presented at the Society for fNIRS Meeting, Boston, MA.
 21. *Wagner, J., **Pecukonis, M.**, Samuel, S., Martinez, C., Tager-Flusberg, H., & Nelson, C.A. (2022, May). *Eye-Tracking and NIRS Measures of Familiar Face Processing in Infants With and Without an Older Sibling with Autism.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Austin, TX.
 22. Butler, L.K., **Pecukonis, M.**, Tager-Flusberg, H., Boas, D., & Yücel, M.A. (2021, October). *Left dorsolateral PFC activation during inhibitory control for phonologically but not semantically related words.* Poster presented at the Society for fNIRS Meeting (virtual conference).
 23. ***Pecukonis, M.**, La Valle, C., Leano, J., Johnston, E., Stewart, D., Shen, L., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2021, May). *Predictors of Discourse and Pragmatic Language Use in Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (virtual conference).
 24. **Pecukonis, M.**, Barokova, M., La Valle, C., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2020, May). *Frequency of Household Book Reading May Explain SES Disparities in Expressive Language – Findings from a Nationally Representative Sample of Children with ASD.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (virtual conference).
 25. ***Pecukonis, M.**, Levinson, J., Chu, A., Broder-Fingert, S., & Feinberg, E. (2020, May). *Maternal Education Level is Related to Expressive Language Abilities in Children with ASD.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (virtual conference).
 26. **Pecukonis, M.**, & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2019, May). *Prevalence and Prediction of ASD in Non-Hispanic White and Non-Hispanic Black Children: Results from the 2017 National Survey of Children’s Health.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Montreal, Canada.
 27. **Pecukonis, M.**, Skwerer, D.P., & Tager-Flusberg, H. (2018, May). *Joint Attention Skills Concurrently Predict Receptive Vocabulary in Minimally and Low Verbal Youth With ASD.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
 28. **Pecukonis, M.**, Anderson, L.C., Sadikova, E., & Redcay, E. (2017, May). *Exclusion bias in ASD fMRI studies: the effect of participant anxiety on scan motion artifact.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
 29. Anderson, L.C., Sadikova, E., Warnell, K.R., **Pecukonis, M.**, Moraczewski, D. & Redcay, E. (2017, May). *The Neural Bases of Social Motivation in Autism Spectrum Disorder during a Real-Time Peer Interaction.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
 30. Sadikova, E., Anderson, L.C., **Pecukonis, M.**, Warnell, K.R., & Redcay, E. (2017, May). *Investigating Developmental Relations Between Social Reward, Social Cognition, and Symptom Severity in ASD.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
 31. Warnell, K.R., Maniscalco, S., Hotz, L., Baker, S., Anderson, L.C., Milhorn, H., **Pecukonis, M.**, Sadikova, E., Yi, R., & Redcay, E. (2017, May). *Social Discounting in Autism Spectrum Disorder.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
 32. Keefer, A., Singh, V., **Pecukonis, M.**, Gauthier, G., Mostofsky, S.H., & Vasa, R.A. (2017, May). *Preservation of Emotional Awareness in ASD: A Preliminary Exploration*

- Using the LEAS-C.* Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
33. Rice, K., **Pecukonis, M.**, & Redcay, E. (2017, April). *Effects of age, sex, and informant on the relation between amygdala volume and anxiety in childhood.* Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.
34. **Pecukonis, M.**, Myers, M.A., Chappa, B.S., Lagowala, D.A., Tesfay, R.T., Girma, H.T., Green, E.A., Kantor, S., Potemri, D., Walters, M.S., & Roesch, M.R. (2016, November). *Subsecond dopamine signaling of reward and punishment is modulated by social context.* Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Conference, San Diego, CA.

Skills

Human Neuroimaging and Psychophysiology – Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS), Structural Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Heart Rate Variability (HRV), Electrodermal Activity (EDA)

Neuropsychological Assessment – Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Mullen Scales of Early Learning, Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales, Preschool Language Scales, Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, Expressive Vocabulary Test, Early Social Communication Scales, Structured Play Assessment, Rogers Imitation Battery

Data Processing and Analysis Software – Homer3, AtlasViewer, FreeSurfer, ELAN and Praat Linguistic Annotators, Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts (SALT), NOLDUS Observer XT, Kubios

Programming Languages – MATLAB, R, SPSS, MPlus

Professional Memberships

International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)
 Society for Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (SfNIRS)
 Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
 Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience (FLUX)
 Fetal, Infant, and Toddler Neuroimaging Group (FIT'NG)

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Courses Taught

Instructor (Developmental Psychology), Boston University	2021
Teaching Fellow (Developmental Psychology), Boston University	2021
Teaching Fellow (Social Psychology), Boston University	2020
Teaching Fellow (Disability: From Stigma and Sideshow to Mainstream and Mainstreet), University of Maryland	2016

Trainings & Certifications

Crisis Prevention Intervention Training, Crisis Prevention Institute	2024
Teaching Institute: Theory & Practice for the STEM Professions, Simmons University & Harvard Medical School Office for Postdoctoral Fellows	2024
Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor, Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship	2013

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

1. **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, November). *Studying Cognition in Autism*. Guest Lecture for Human Neuroscience (Smith College), Northampton, MA.
2. **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, November). *Identifying the Predictors and Correlates of Language Skills in Children with Autism*. Invited Talk for the Yale Child Study Center, New Haven, CT.
3. **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, July). *Using fNIRS to Study the Brain*. Invited Talk for the Research Seminar Series (Lurie Center for Autism Undergraduate Summer Internship Program), Lexington, MA.
4. **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, July). *The Environmental Predictors of Language in Autism*. Invited Talk for the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS) Network. (online).
5. **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, April). *The Neural Bases of Language Processing During a Live Social Context – A fNIRS Study of Neurotypical and Autistic Preschoolers*. Invited Talk for the Boston University Neurophotonics Center, Boston, MA.
6. **Pecukonis, M.** (2024, April). *Identifying the Predictors and Correlates of Language Skills in Children with Autism*. Invited Talk for the Lurie Center for Autism, Lexington, MA. (online).
7. **Pecukonis, M.** (2023, October). *Studying Cognition in Autism*. Guest Lecture for Human Neuroscience (Smith College), Northampton, MA.
8. **Pecukonis, M.** (2023, April). *The Neural Bases of Language Processing During Shared Book Reading*. Invited Talk for the Communication and Neurodevelopment Lab, Boston, MA.
9. **Pecukonis, M.** (2022, July). *Understanding Autism From Different Perspectives*. Guest Lecture for Introduction to Experimental Psychology (Boston University Summer Program for High Schoolers), Boston, MA.
10. **Pecukonis, M.** (2022, July). *Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS): Imaging the Brain in Real-World Social Environments*. Invited Talk for International Summer School in Cognitive Science, Sofia, Bulgaria. (online).
11. **Pecukonis, M.** (2022, January). *Peer Relationships and Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Guest Lecture for Emerging Research in Developmental Psychopathology (Colby College), Waterville, ME. (online).
12. **Pecukonis, M.** (2021, December). *Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS): Imaging the Brain in Real-World Social Environments*. Invited Talk for Psychophysiological Methods in Psychology and Neuroscience (New Bulgarian University), Sofia, Bulgaria. (online).
13. **Pecukonis, M.** (2021, October). *Social Development in Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Guest Lecture for Social Psychology (Boston University), Boston, MA.
14. **Pecukonis, M.** (2021, April). *Predictors of Language in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Guest Lecture for Developmental Psychology (Boston University), Boston, MA.
15. **Pecukonis, M.** (2021, March). *Investigating the Neural Bases of Language Processing During a Live Social Interaction: A Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Study of Preschoolers With and Without Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Invited Talk for the Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston, MA.
16. **Pecukonis, M.** (2021, January). *Does the “Language Gap” Exist in Children with Autism?* Invited Talk for the Developmental Science Prospective Students Day, Boston, MA.
17. **Pecukonis, M.** (2020, November). *Aggression and Social Learning Theory*. Guest Lecture for Social Psychology (Boston University), Boston, MA.
18. **Pecukonis, M., Hung, I., & Lopera-Perez, D.** (2020, January). *An Introduction to Autism*. Invited Talk for the ABCD Foster Grandparents Program, Boston, MA.

19. **Pecukonis, M.** (2019, October). *The neural bases of shared book reading*. Invited Talk for the Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston, MA.
20. **Pecukonis, M.** (2019, September). *Reconsidering the False Belief Tasks*. Guest Lecture for Understanding Someone's Point of View: Theory of Mind Reconsidered (Boston University), Boston, MA.
21. **Pecukonis, M.** (2019, February). *Concurrent Social Communication Predictors of Expressive Language in Minimally Verbal Adolescents and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Invited Talk for the Developmental Science Prospective Students Day, Boston, MA.
22. **Pecukonis, M.** (2018, October). *Investigating Brain Response to Patterned and Non-Patterned Speech in 6- and 7-month-old Infants: Evidence for Atypical Statistical Learning in Infants at High Risk for Autism*. Invited Talk for the Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston, MA.
23. **Pecukonis, M.** (2017, October). *Joint Attention Skills Concurrently Predict Receptive Vocabulary in Minimally and Low Verbal Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Invited Talk for the Developmental Science Colloquium, Boston, MA.

Mentorship

Mentoring Programs

FLUX Mentor/Mentee Program	2024 -
Women in Neuroscience Peer Mentor, Boston University	2021 - 2022
Graduate Women in Science and Engineering Peer Mentor, Boston University	2017 - 2019
Honors College Peer Mentor Network, University of Maryland	2015 - 2017

Honors Theses Supervised

Izabella Rogers, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Thesis Title: <i>Challenges for Autistic Middle Schoolers Post-Pandemic: A Qualitative Study</i>	2022 - 2023
Julia Levy, Master's Thesis Thesis Title: <i>Correlations Between Parental Language Behaviors During Shared Book Reading & Language Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder</i>	2021 - 2022
Pooja Sonikar, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Thesis Title: <i>Comparing Fine Motor Behaviors of Toddlers with and without Autism Spectrum Disorders: Development and Implementation of a New Coding Scheme</i>	2020 - 2021

Research Interns Supervised

Ariana Geffin, Undergraduate Student	2024 -
Keerti Daesety, Undergraduate Student	2023 - 2024
Javier Gerson, Undergraduate Student	2023 - 2024
Maegan Wood, Undergraduate Student	2023 - 2024
Hailey Gustafson-Alm, Undergraduate Student	2023 -
Brian Eckelman, Undergraduate Student	2023 - 2024
Prerna Shankar, Undergraduate Student	2022 - 2024
Lauren DeBoyes, Undergraduate Student	2022 - 2023
Henry Lee, Undergraduate Student	2022 - 2023
Cory Knox, Undergraduate Student	2022 - 2023
Julia Cornwall, Undergraduate Student	2021 - 2024
Neshat Darvishi, Master's Student	2021 - 2022
Jillian Wong, Undergraduate Student	2019 - 2021
Tina Xiao Wang, Undergraduate Student	2018 - 2019

SERVICE

University-Level

<i>Member</i> , Boston University Graduate Student Advisory Council	2022 - 2023
<i>Member</i> , Boston University Academic Policy Committee	2022 - 2023
<i>Planning Committee</i> , Emerging Scholars Symposium, Boston University Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences	2021 - 2023
<i>Applicant Reviewer</i> , Boston University Underrepresented Students Visit Day	2021 - 2022
<i>Member</i> , Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee, Boston University Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences	2020 - 2024
<i>Member</i> , Boston University Graduate Academic Affairs Committee	2020 - 2021
<i>Leader</i> , Professional Development Workshop Series for Undergraduate Students in Psychology	2019 - 2022
<i>Co-Chair</i> , Neurophotonics Technology Training Seminar Planning Committee	2019 - 2021
<i>Co-Chair</i> , Neurophotonics Center Symposium Planning Committee	2019 - 2020
<i>Co-Chair</i> , Developmental Science Colloquium Planning Committee	2018 - 2020

Professional-Level

<i>Co-Chair</i> , INSAR Student & Trainee Committee	2024 -
<i>Committee Liaison</i> , INSAR	2023 -
<i>Founding Member</i> , SfNIRS Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee	2022 - 2024
<i>Secretary</i> , INSAR Student & Trainee Committee	2022 - 2024
<i>Preconference Initiative Co-Leader</i> , INSAR Student & Trainee Committee	2022 - 2023
<i>Student Networking Initiative Leader</i> , INSAR Student & Trainee Committee	2021 - 2023
<i>Ad hoc Reviewer</i> : Developmental Science, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Infant and Child Development, Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research (Guest Editor)	

Community-Level

<i>Volunteer & Therapeutic Riding Instructor</i> , BINA Farm Center	2022 -
<i>Behavioral Technician</i> , State Self-Directed Services	2017 - 2021
<i>Volunteer & Therapeutic Riding Instructor</i> , LeCheval Stable	2011 - 2017