

ALEJANDRO CARRANZA

Contact: a3carranza@ucsd.edu

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

Ph.D. Experimental Psychology Expected 2028

M.A. Experimental Psychology Expected 2025

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

BA Psychology June 2023
Summa Cum Laude

College of the Canyons

AA-T Psychology June 2021
Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I'm interested in the cognitive mechanisms that underlie learning, memory consolidation, and retrieval. My current research focuses on cued recall and the factors that can disrupt or aid this cognitive process. I intend for my research to be applied to the classroom to help students learn more efficiently.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dean's Honors 2021 - 2023

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Dean's List and Semester Honors 2019 - 2021

College of the Canyons

Phi Rho Pi Bronze Medalist 2021

National Speech Tournament, Informative and Impromptu speaking

Cougar Classic Gold Medalist 2020

Informative Speaking

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Learning and Instruction in Multimedia Environments Lab, UCSD 2023 - Current

Principle Investigator: Dr. Emma Geller

Role: Graduate Student Researcher

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, UCSD

2023 – Current

Principle Investigator: Dr. Timothy Rickard*Role:* Graduate Student Researcher**Memory and Lifespan Cognition Lab, UCLA**

2022 - 2023

Principle Investigator: Dr. Alan Castel*Role:* Research Assistant

The Memory and Lifespan Cognition Lab seeks to study human memory, attention, metacognition, and cognitive aging. This includes how value influences memory and metamemory, expertise, visual attention, memory for numerical information. Project examined the effects of age and familiarity on memory of information associated with medical eponyms.

- Cleaned and Managed participant data using Excel and R in preparation for analysis
- Assisted in collecting participant data by aiding in Qualtrics survey construction

TRUST Lab, UCLA

2022 - 2023

Principle Investigator: Dr. Lauren Ng*Role:* Research Assistant

The TRUST lab uses research to improve access to, and quality of, care for diverse, low-resource, and underserved populations affected by trauma. Current project aims to assess how emotional abuse and neglect in childhood have been defined by literature in the past 30 years.

- Trained extensively on data entry, extraction, and analysis using Google Workspace
- Worked with team to establish inter-rater reliability of coded manuscripts in data extraction for a comprehensive Systematic Review
- Conducted a comprehensive literature review which included coding several hundred articles for information
- Developed and implemented categorization of emotional abuse and emotional neglect definitions for data extraction
- Performed data base searching to find and catalog standardized measures of emotional abuse and neglect

PRESENTATIONS

Carranza, A., & Silaj, K. (2023, May). Revisiting Recall in Relation to Reward-Based Learning: An Investigation of the Testing Effect in Value-Directed Learning. Poster presented at the 32nd Annual UCLA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC); May 12, 2023; Los Angeles, CA.

HONORS THESIS

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

June 2023

Advisor: Dr. Alan Castel, Katie Silaj

This thesis sought to explore how student study strategies and classroom performance are associated with performance in a memory selectivity task. The task involved having students memorize a thematic word list and their association with either high or low values. Students were then asked to either restudy the list or recall the words from memory, followed by a final test where they were asked to assign a value to novel words from the studied categories.

- Aided in developing research methodology and design
- Conducted literature review on reward-based learning and instruction strategy
- Assisted in creating and coding survey for data collection procedures for students in Research Methods in Psychology using Collector
- Data coding and analysis using R

SPECIALIZED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Languages: Fluent in English and Spanish

Computer Skills: jsPsych, R, Qualtrics, Collector, Google Workspace, MS Office

Certifications: Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, Good Clinical Practices, & HIPAA certified,