

Nhi K. Thai

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EDUCATION

2012- Department of Psychology, Pennsylvania State University
PhD, Developmental Psychology
Advisor: Dr. Koralý Pérez-Edgar

2004-2009 College of Liberal Arts & College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota
BA, Child Psychology
BS, Biology

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Program research tasks with ePrime, OpenSesame, and JavaScript
- Process neural data, including fMRI and ERP, with BVA, ERPLAB, FSL, SPM, and MATLAB
- Perform statistical analyses using SPSS, SAS, R, LISREL, and Mplus
- Administration of neuropsychological indices including, but not limited to, WASI, PPVT, IBAM, RAVLT, WMLS, WCST, D-KEFS, BVMT, WRAT, WPPSI, Wechsler, and NEPSY

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Cognition, Affect, and Temperament Laboratory

Department of Psychology, Pennsylvania State University Lab Director: Dr. Koralý Perez-Edgar
Graduate Research Assistant August 2012 – Present

- Examine the impact of attention training on neural functioning in children at risk for anxiety, particularly through ERP analyses
- Train research assistants in extracting ERP components
- Collect behavioral, EEG/ERP, and fMRI data in children ages 9-12

Processing the Emotional Environment Project

Department of Psychology, Pennsylvania State University *Lab Director: Dr. Pamela Cole*
Graduate Research Assistant *July 2013 – Present*

- Process and analyze fMRI data to investigate the effects of affective prosody, i.e. hearing parental anger, on children's neural activity
- Collect fMRI data in children ages 5-8
- Assess children temperament and its correlation to motion artifact in fMRI scans

Developmental Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory

Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota
Lab Manager/Junior Scientist

Lab Director: Dr. Philip D. Zelazo
July 2009 – May 2012

- Coordinated, developed, analyzed and conducted research projects related to executive function

- Conducted EEG studies on reflection training in Dimensional Change Card Sort task performance with children ages 3-5
- Investigated the development of self-understanding in adults ages 18-64 by developing two new research measures, collecting and analyzing behavioral and physiological data
- Provided research support for an fMRI study on the development of executive function across the lifespan using the Dimensional Change Card Sort task through administering neuropsychological indices measures, operating the fMRI 3T scanner, and pre-processing neuroimaging data
- Provided research support and collected data for a Toolbox study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, that investigated cognitive development over the lifespan in typically developing individuals
- Supervised and trained research assistants to recruit participants, run studies, and enter data
- Mentored research assistants in developing and writing senior theses
- Edited manuscripts and grant proposals

Early Learning & Experience Laboratory

Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota

Research Assistant

Lab Director: Dr. Melissa A. Koenig

March 2009 – July 2009

- Recruited participants; administered cognitive and behavioral tasks relating to selective trust and executive function to preschoolers
- Analyzed data with Excel and SPSS

Developmental Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory

Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota

Research Assistant

Lab Director: Dr. Philip D. Zelazo

January 2008 – May 2009

- Composed a literature review on executive function deficits in individuals with autism
- Helped design a battery of executive function tasks for children and adults ages 3-85, as part of the NIH Toolbox project

Applied Optimization & Networking Laboratory

Computer & Information Science & Engineering, University of Florida

Lab Director: Dr. My T. Thai

Research Assistant

Summers 2007 – 2011

- Studied community structures for large scale dynamic and complex networks such as metabolic networks, protein-protein interaction networks, and regulatory networks
- Analyzed the relationship between communities and functional groups in biological networks in order to identify groups of biological entities, i.e., genes with similar functionality

Human Developmental Psychobiology Laboratory

Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota

Laboratory Assistant

Lab Director: Dr. Megan Gunnar

September 2005 – June 2006

- Coded parent-child interactions for incidents and types of joint attention
- Transcribed natural speech in 3- to 5-year-old children
- Collected cortisol samples in 3- to 5-year-old children

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Teaching Assistant

August 2012 - Present

- Prepared and delivered lectures on biological bases in psychology, temperament, emotions, peers, moral development, research methods, and psychopathology
- Graded exams and papers

Long Tieng Academy, Minneapolis, MN

Lead Youth Tutor

January 2008 – May 2009

- Taught, prepared exams, and graded assignments for 9th to 11th grade students in Algebra, Geometry, and Biology
- Organized afterschool activities
- Trained and delegated tasks to tutors and volunteers

English Learning Center, Minneapolis, MN

English Teacher

January 2007 – August 2007

- Designed weekly lesson plans and taught adult ELL students of grade levels 3-5
- Developed two computer programs to aid students with listening and reading comprehension

Private Residences, Twin Cities, MN

Tutor

September 2000 – May 2006

- Prepared High School students for college Pre-Calculus, bypassing Algebra
- Helped Junior High students enroll into accelerated Mathematics programs
- Tutored school subjects for disadvantaged children to pass standardized tests

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dinh, T., Shin, I., **Thai, N.**, Thai, M. T., & Znati, T. (2010). A general approach for modules identification in evolving networks, *Dynamics of Information Systems: Theory and Applications*, (M. Hirsch, P. Pardalos, and R. Murphey eds), *Springer Publisher*, ISBN: 978-1-4419-5688-0.

Fu, X., Auday, E., Taber-Thomas, B.C., Morales, S., Allen, E.A., **Thai, N.**, Pfeifer, C., Danilo, C., Pérez -Edgar, K. (2013, April). The role of attention bias in the link between temperament and socio-emotional maladjustment. Poster presentation at the *Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Seattle, WA.

Grunnagle, M., **Thai, N.**, & Pérez-Edgar, K. (2014, April). *Neural correlates in attention processing among children at risk for anxiety: An ERP study*. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of *Psi Chi Research Conference*, University Park, PA.

Hongwanishkul, D., Cowell, J.M., **Thai, N.**, & Zelazo, P.D. (2012, May). *The development and neural basis of rule-guided behavior*. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of *Jean Piaget Society*, Toronto, Canada.

Pérez-Edgar, K., Taber-Thomas, B. C., **Thai, N.**, Morales, S., & Danilo, C. (2013, May). *Electrophysiological and Neural Correlates of Attention Bias Modification in Behaviorally Inhibited Children*. Paper presentation at the 25th Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Washington, D. C.

Taber-Thomas, B.C., Morales, S., **Thai, N.**, Danilo, C., & Pérez-Edgar, K. (2013, April). Right frontal EEG asymmetry and the disengagement of attention from negative stimuli in children at risk for anxiety. Poster presentation at the *Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Seattle, WA.

Thai, N., & Pérez -Edgar, K. (2014, September). Temperamental behavioral inhibition modulates N1 and N2 to emotion faces. Poster presentation at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Atlanta, GA.

Thai, N., Taber-Thomas, B.C., Danilo, C., Morales, S., & Pérez -Edgar, K. (2013, May). Right frontal EEG asymmetry is associated with attention bias toward threat in children at risk for anxiety. Poster presentation at the 25th Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Washington, D. C.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2014	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship – Honorable Mention
2013	University of Maryland’s Summer Institute on Developmental Neuroscience Fellowship
2009	Community Engagement Scholars
2008-2009	National SMART Grant
2004-2008	President’s Distinguished Student Scholar