

NICOLE SAHRLING

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Education

University of California, San Diego

B.S. Psychology (Honors Program) | Summa Cum Laude

Las Positas College

AA-T Psychology | GPA: 4.0

Graduated with distinction

San Diego, CA

September 2024 - June 2026

Livermore, CA

January 2023 - August 2024

Research Experience

Scaffolding of Cognition Team

June 2026 - Present

Team Manager | PI: Dr. Cameron Ellis, Stanford University

- Investigating conceptual development in infancy through dense longitudinal sampling of a single infant's language acquisition in the first two years of life, and managing infant fMRI data collection operations.

Visual Learning Lab

March 2025 - June 2026

Honors Thesis Student | PI: Dr. Bria Long, UC San Diego

- Lead a year-long honors thesis involving in-person data collection from 120+ children (ages 2–11), including participant recruitment, scheduling, parent communication, and family-facing interactions at a local aquarium to investigate multimodal conceptual development through drawing and language.
- Developing data analysis pipelines in Python/R (PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, CLIP) to extract representation embeddings from 1300+ drawings/transcripts and investigate statistical techniques for high-dimensional data.

Social Cognition and Learning Lab

September 2024 - March 2025

Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lindsey Powell, UC San Diego

- Ran online behavioral experiments with infants through early childhood (8 mos–7 yrs), managed participant data collection via Qualtrics and Excel, gaze coding using Datavyu, and recruited participants via email.

BRAIN Lab

June 2024 - August 2024

Summer Research Assistant | PI: Dr. Lisa Eyler, UC San Diego

- Conducted interviews and qualitative coding for projects investigating measures of empathy and compassion.

Presentations

Sahriling, N., Haskins, A.J., Sepuri, T., Du, H., Long, B. (2026, April). *Relating changes in children's descriptions and line drawings of visual concepts across childhood*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Montreal, Canada.

Sahriling, N., Haskins, A.J., Sepuri, T., Long, B. (2025, August). *Tracing Children's Multimodal Production of Visual Concepts Across Development*. Talk presented at the Summer Undergraduate Research Conference, UC San Diego.

Sahriling, N., Keller, I. (2024, May). *Brainspotting: A Way Through the Silent Epidemic*. Talk presented at the Bay Honors Consortium Research Symposium, Stanford University.

Honors & Awards

Regents Scholarship (UCSD)

2024 - 2026

Undergraduate Research Fellowship (UCSD, Department of Psychology)

2025

Leadership & Service

Scholars Society (UCSD)

November 2024 - Present

Co-President

- Managing a 1700+ member scholar organization and 20-person board by coordinating meetings, calendars, workflows, and quarterly programming.
- Providing mentorship and organizational leadership to undergraduate board members through delegation, milestone tracking, and communication oversight; formerly served as Social Co-Chair leading event planning, outreach, and community engagement.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, PSYC 101 – Developmental Psychology (Dr. Gail Heyman)

Fall 2025

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, PSYC 193 – Learning in Humans & Machines (Dr. Bria Long)

Spring 2026

Work Experience

Tutu School Union City

January 2023 - August 2024

Ballet Teacher

- Taught children ages 18 months–8 years, developing expertise interacting with infants and families, facilitating warm, developmentally sensitive learning environments for diverse communities.

State Opera Stara Zagora

August 2021 - October 2022

Professional Ballerina

- Performed internationally, strengthening cross-cultural communication, teamwork, and adaptability in demanding environments.

Skills & Interests

Technical Skills: Python, R, Bash | CLIP, BERT | head-mounted eye tracking | PyTorch, TensorFlow, NumPy, pandas | experiment design, online data collection platforms (Qualtrics, Datavyu), lab operations and scheduling tools (e.g. Asana, Google Calendar, Slack)

Research Interests: Cognitive & developmental psychology, neuroimaging, visual attention, eye tracking, neural & behavioral bases of concepts, drawing, language acquisition, naturalistic paradigms, high-dimensional data analysis

Creative Interests: Science communication, cross-disciplinary collaboration, ballet