

# David Menendez

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Pronouns: He/ Him/ Él

## **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** in Psychology, 2022

**Graduate minor** in Quantitative Methods in Education Sciences

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Thesis: Not only what you see but where and when you see it: Factors influencing learning with visualizations

Advisor: Martha W. Alibali

**M.S.** in Psychology, 2017

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Thesis: Effects of priming variability on children's biological reasoning

Advisors: Karl S. Rosengren & Martha W. Alibali

**B.A.** in Psychology, Honors in Psychology, Graduated with distinction 2016

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Thesis: Do details bug you? Effects of representational richness on learning about biological change

Advisors: Karl S. Rosengren & Martha W. Alibali

**A.A.** in Psychology, Highest honors 2014

Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Assistant Professor, 2023-current

Department of Psychology

University of California- Santa Cruz

Post-doctoral research fellow, 2022-2023

Department of Psychology

University of Michigan

Advisor: Susan A. Gelman

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

2021- 2022 *University Fellowship*

2016- 2017 A competitive fellowship award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Graduate School for incoming PhD. students and dissertators; fellows receive a 9-month stipend and tuition remission.

- 2021 *Marian Schwartz Fellowship* (\$5000)  
A research fellowship from the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to support graduate student research in cognitive and experimental psychology.
- 2017- 2021 *IES Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Entry Fellowship*  
A competitive fellowship as part of the interdisciplinary training program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This program aims to train social scientists to conduct experimental research on topics in education; fellows receive a yearly stipend, tuition remission, and research and travel support.

## **GRANTS**

- 2025 Collaborative Research: Ciencia en Relatos: Latine Families' Talk about Science in Stories with Young Children (National Science Foundation, Role: Co-PI, Total award: \$772,710). PI status transferred following Maureen Callanan's retirement
- 2025 How reasoning contributes to preschoolers' prosocial development (National Institutes of Health, Role: PI, Total award: \$134,845). PI status transferred following Maureen Callanan's retirement
- 2025 Safety Plans for Elementary-Aged Kids (SPEAK): A Feasibility Trial (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Early Career Researcher Innovation Grant, Role: Co-PI, Total award: \$140,000, Amount to UCSC: \$4,567)
- 2025 Dean's Undergraduate Research Award: Audrey Yu's senior thesis (\$2000)
- 2025 Koret scholarship: Audrey Yu's senior thesis (\$2000)
- 2025 Mamie Phipps Clark Diversity Research Grant: Audrey Yu's senior thesis (\$4000)

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2023 Jacobs Foundation Conference Young scholar
- 2021 UW-Madison Graduate School Graduate Student Service Scholarship (\$1000)
- 2019 UW Psychology Department Distinguished Service Award (\$1000)
- 2018 Peter Pufall Travel Award for Emerging Scholars (\$400)
- 2016 Undergraduate Research Scholar Award (\$1,000)
- 2015 Undergraduate Thesis Award (\$1,000)
- 2014 Peter Masiko Jr. Scholarship (\$1,000)

## **RESEARCH FOCUS**

I study children's and adults' learning of STEM concepts in both formal and informal learning environments. I do so by adopting a mixed methodology, which allows me to examine how children are able to learn through different lenses; for example, by conversing with knowledgeable others, consuming cultural products, and participating in cultural rituals. Additionally, I am interested in how adults and children make appropriate generalizations after learning STEM concepts, and how these generalizations can be scaffolded by the language or visuals in a lesson.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*\* Authors contributed equally to the work*

underline Undergraduate student mentee co-author

Mejia Gomez, L., **Menendez, D.**, Umscheid, V., & Gelman, S. A. (in press). Who gets sicher and why? Parents' perceptions of COVID-19 disparities and how they would explain them to their children. *PLOS ONE*.

Trujillo-Hernandez, G., **Menendez, D.**, Yoo, S. H., Klapper, R. E., Sowers, K. A., Schapfel, M. H., Welch, V. E., & Rosengren, K. S. (in press). "What happens when you get corona?": Parent-child conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic. *PLOS ONE*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0330506>

**Menendez, D.**, Richardson, E., McNeil, K. M., & Gelman, S. A., (2025). Discovering the world of viruses: Testing the influence of anthropomorphic representations on children's learning about COVID. *Developmental Psychology*, 61(3), 513–529.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001882>

Alibali, M. W., Matthews, P. G., Rodrigues, J., Meng, R., Vest, N. A., Jay, V., **Menendez, D.**, Murray, J. O., Donovan, A. M., Anthony, L. E., & McNeil, N. M. (2024). A Bird's-Eye View of Research Practices in Mathematical Cognition, Learning, and Instruction: Reimagining the Status Quo. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 248, 106056.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2024.106056>

Ünlütak, B., Trujillo Hernandez, G. Velioğlu, İ., **\*Menendez, D.**, & \*Rosengren, K. S. (2024). Children's questions and teachers' responses about COVID-19 in Turkey and the US. *PLOS ONE*, 19(7), e0307475. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0307475> [Pre-print](#)

**\*Menendez, D.**, \*Li, Z., Klapper, R. E., Sturge-Apple, M. L., & Rosengren, K. S. (2024). COVID-19 and child adjustment: The role of coparenting conflict and child temperament. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 33, 2251-2261. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-024-02841-y> [Pre-print](#)

**Menendez, D.**, & Gelman, S. A. (2024). Children's biological causal models of disability. *Cognitive Development*, 70, 101448. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2024.101448>

**\*Menendez, D.**, \*Labotka, D., Umscheid, V. A., & Gelman, S. A. (2024). The social aspects of illness: U.S. children's and parents' explanations of the relation between social categories and illness. *Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14110> [Pre-print](#)

**Menendez, D.**, Donovan, A. M., Mathiapparanam, O. N., Klapper, R. E., Yoo, S. H., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2024). The role of visualizations in adults' learning about genetic inheritance. *Education Sciences*, 14(3), 307.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14030307> [Pre-print](#)

**Menendez, D.**, Donovan, A. M., Mathiapparanam, O. N., Seitz, V., Sabbagh, N. F., Klapper, R. E., Kalish, C. W., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2024). Deterministic or probabilistic: U.S. children's beliefs about genetic inheritance. *Child Development*, 95(3), e186-e205. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14053> [Pre-print](#)

Yoo, S. H., Trujillo-Hernandez, G., **Menendez, D.**, Klapper, R. E., Nichols, K., Martin, S., Sumanthiran, D., & Rosengren, K. S. (2023). "Will I get sick?": Parents' explanations to

- children's questions about a novel illness. *Cognitive Development*, 68, 101383. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2023.101383>
- Menendez, D.** (2023). Cues to generality: Integrating linguistic and visual information when generalizing biological information. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 115(8), 1110–1124. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000812> Pre-print
- Menendez, D.**, Brown, S. A., & Alibali, M. W. (2023). Some correct strategies are better than others: Individual differences in strategy evaluations influence strategy adoption. *Cognitive Science*, 47(3), e13269. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13269> Pre-print
- Menendez, D.**, Sabbagh, N. F., Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (2023). Timelines or time cycles: Exposure to different spatial representations of time shapes sketching and diagram preferences. *Education Research for Policy and Practice*, 1-19. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10671-023-09331-w>
- Menendez, D.**, Mathiaparanam, O. N., Seitz, V., Liu, D., Donovan, A. M., Kalish, C. W., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2023). Like mother, like daughter: Adults' judgments about genetic inheritance. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 29(1), 63–77. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000436> Pre-print
- Menendez, D.**, Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2022). Detailed bugs or bugging details? Influence of perceptual richness on biological reasoning across elementary school. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 213, 105269. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2021.105269>
- Menendez, D.**, Klapper, R. E., \*Mandel, A. R., \*Nicholas, K. A., \*Schapfel, M. H., \*Silsby, O. O., \*Sowers, K. A., \*Sumanthiran, D., \*Welch, V. E., & Rosengren, K. S. (2021). "When will it be over?" U.S. children's questions and parents' responses about the COVID-19 pandemic. *PLOS ONE*, 16(8), e0256692. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0256692> Pre-print
- Bridgewater, E.**, **Menendez, D.**, & Rosengren, K. S. (2021). Capturing death in animated films: Can films stimulate parent-child conversations about death? *Cognitive Development*, 59, 101063. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2021.101063> Pre-print
- Menendez, D.**, Mathiaparanam, O. N., Liu, D., Seitz, V. C., Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Representing variability: The case of life cycle diagrams. *CBE-Life Science Education*, 19, ar49. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.19-11-0251>
- Peters, D.**, **Menendez, D.** & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Reframing mental illness: The role of essentialism on stigmatization and perceived treatment efficacy. *Memory & Cognition*, 48(8), 1317-1333. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-020-01061-1>
- Menendez, D.**, Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2020). Do details bug you? Effects of perceptual richness in biological reasoning. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 34, 1101–1117. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3698> Pre-print
- \***Menendez, D.**, \*Jiang, M. J., Edwards, K. M., Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (2020). Evaluating and communicating about the healthiness of foods: Predictors of parents' judgments and parent-child conversations. *Cognitive Development*, 55, 100913. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2020.100913>

- Menendez, D.**, Hernandez, I. G., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Children's emerging understanding of death. *Child Development Perspectives*, 14, 55-60. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12357>
- Gutiérrez, I. T., **Menendez, D.**, Jiang, M. J., Hernandez, I. G., Miller, P., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Embracing death: Mexican parent and child perspectives on death. *Child Development*, 91, e491-e511. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13263>
- Martinčėková, L., Jiang, M. J., Adams, J., **Menendez, D.**, Hernandez, I. G., Barber, G., & Rosengren, K. S. (2020). Do you remember being told what happened to grandma? The role of early socialization on coping and bereavement. *Death Studies*, 44, 78-88. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2018.1522386>
- Brown, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, & Alibali, M. W. (2019). Strategy adoption depends on characteristics of the instruction, learner, and strategy. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 4, 1-18. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-019-0158-3>
- Alibali, M. W., Brown, S. A., & **Menendez, D.** (2019). Understanding strategy change: Contextual, individual, and metacognitive factors. *Advances in Child Development and Behavior*, 56, 227-256. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.acdb.2018.11.004>
- French, J. A., **Menendez, D.**, Herrmann, P. A., Evans, E. M., & Rosengren, K. S. (2018). Cognitive constraints on understanding lifespan changes. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 173, 205-221. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2018.03.018>
- Rosengren, K. S., Jiang, M. J., Kalish, C. W., **Menendez, D.**, & Hernandez, I. G. (2018). Commentary: What heals and why? Children's understanding of medical treatments. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 83, 175-183. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/mono.12370>
- Benjet, C., **Menendez, D.**, Albor, Y., Borges, G., Orozco, R., & Medina-Mora, M. E. (2018). Adolescent predictors of incidence and persistence of suicide related outcomes in young adulthood: A longitudinal study of Mexican youth. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 48, 755-766. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12397>
- Borges, G., Benjet, C., Orozco, R., Medina-Mora, M. E., & **Menendez, D.** (2017). Alcohol, cannabis and other drugs and subsequent suicide ideation and attempt among young Mexicans. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 91, 74-82. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2017.02.025>

## **CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

- Menendez, D.**, Labotka, D., Umscheid, V. A., & Gelman, S. A. (2025). U.S. adults' beliefs regarding the role of social categories in contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and the common cold. In D. Barner, N.R. Bramley, A. Ruggeri and C.M. Walker (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp.4731-4737). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Menendez, D.**, Halama, S. R., Johnson, T. M., & Rosengren, K. S. (2025). Cognition in Action: The relation between physical and mental paper folding in young children. In D. Barner, N.R. Bramley, A. Ruggeri and C.M. Walker (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 47th Annual*

Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp.4738-4744). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

**Menendez, D.**, Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (2018). Effects of priming variability on adults learning about metamorphosis. In C. Kalish, M. Rau, T. Rogers, and J. Zhu (Eds.), Proceedings of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp.2102-2107). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Brown, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, & Alibali, M. W. (2018). How do people evaluate problem-solving strategies? Efficiency and intuitiveness matter. In C. Kalish, M. Rau, T. Rogers, and J. Zhu (Eds.), Proceedings of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 1414-1419). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

**Menendez, D.**, Dhaliwal, T., Umscheid, V., Labotka, D., & Gelman, S. A. (in preparation). Children's understanding of COVID-19 and the flu in three demographically distinct US communities.

**Menendez, D.** (under review). Not only what you see but where and when you see it: Factors influencing learning with visualizations. [Pre-print](#)

Yoo, S. H., Trujillo-Hernandez, G., **Menendez, D.**, Sowers, K. A., & Rosengren, K. S. (under review). Parent-child conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic at two-time points.

Brown, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, Rajan, N. D., & Alibali, M. W. (under review). Says who? Learners are more likely to adopt a new strategy when it is demonstrated by an expert.

Hernandez, I. G., **Menendez, D.**, Seitz, V., Pinto-Pro, I., Zeitler, M. H., & Rosengren, K. S. (under review). Parent-child conversations of germ and cold weather theories of the common cold in two cultures. [Pre-print](#)

Ünlütürk, B., Velioğlu, I., Trujillo-Hernandez, G., **Menendez, D.**, & Rosengren, K. S. (under review). What is coronavirus? Content analysis of children's books about COVID-19 in Türkiye and the United States. [Pre-print](#)

**Menendez, D.** (under review). From expert to learner metrics of transfer: Examination of how learner perceived similarity predicts transfer and moderates instructional practices. [Pre-print](#)

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

Drafts of these manuscripts will be made available upon request.

**Menendez, D.**, Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (in preparation). Effects of priming variability on children's biological reasoning.

**Menendez, D.**, Mejia Gomez, L. Dhaliwal, T., Umscheid, V., & Gelman, S. A. (in preparation). Children and parents understanding of health inequalities in three types of communities in the United States.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS**

### **Invited talks**

- 2025 *U.S. Children's explanations about health inequalities*  
Generics in Context workshop, University of California-Irvine
- 2024 *Children's understanding of death*  
Developmental Psychology Colloquium, University of California-Merced
- 2024 *Let's talk about death: Socio-cultural influences on children's understanding of death*  
Cognitive Science Seminar, Virtual talk, Yeditepe University
- 2023 *Children's and adults' understanding of and learning about genetic inheritance*  
Child Cognition Lab, Boston University
- 2023 *Cues to generality: Learning to generalize from scientific visualizations*  
Early Learning and Cognition Lab, University of California – San Diego
- 2023 *Sniffles, Coughs and COVID: U.S. children's understanding of viruses and viral illness*  
Infant and Child Development Center, Northwestern University
- 2022 *The circle of life: Perceptual features of diagrams influence people's understanding of lifespan changes*  
Center of Research on Cognitive Development, University of Alberta
- 2022 *Children's and adults' understanding of and learning about genetic inheritance*  
Developmental psychology brownbag, University of Michigan
- 2022 *Learning with and about visualizations of science concepts*  
Interdisciplinary Training Program, Wisconsin Center for Education Research
- 2022 *Learning with and about visualizations of science concepts*  
University of California-Santa Cruz
- 2021 *Learning with and about visualizations of science concepts*  
University of Utah
- 2021 *Learning with and about visualizations of science concepts*  
University of Chicago
- 2021 *Learning with and about visualizations of science concepts*  
Vanderbilt University
- 2021 *Showing the forest or the trees: The role of visualizations in learning and generalization*  
Developmental Psychology Brownbag, Stanford University
- 2021 *Children's and adults' beliefs about genetic inheritance*  
Developmental Psychology Brownbag, University of Chicago
- 2021 *Children's beliefs about genetic inheritance*  
Child Cognition Laboratory, Boston University
- 2020 *Let's talk about death: Socio-cultural influences on children's understanding of death*  
Department of Psychology, Northeastern Illinois University
- 2020 *Translating educational research into assessments*  
Interdisciplinary Training Program, Wisconsin Center for Education Research
- 2019 *Developmental changes in learning with visual representations*  
Department of Psychology, University of Rochester

### **Organized symposia**



**Menendez, D.** (March, 2021). The role of experience and beliefs in children's biological reasoning. Symposium presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Research in Child Development, Virtual Meeting.

### Conference talks

Trujillo-Hernandez, G., **Menendez, D.**, Klapper, R. E., Yoo, S. H., & Rosengren, K. S. (March, 2025). *"What happens when you get corona?": Children's Questions and Parental Responses about the COVID-19 Pandemic.* In A. Bodas (Chair) "Contextual factors influencing children's questions and explanations" Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.

Trujillo-Hernandez, G., Ünlütürk, B., Velioğlu, I., **Menendez, D.**, & Rosengren, K. S. (March, 2025). *Children's questions and teachers' responses about COVID-19 in Türkiye and the U.S.* In I. K. Adler (Chair) "Making sense of the microcosm: Perspectives of educators and learners on immunobiology" Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Research in Science Teaching, Washington, DC.

**Menendez, D.**, Dhaliwal, T., Labotka, D., & Gelman, S. A. (March, 2025). *U.S. children's understanding of viral transmission.* In I. K. Adler (Chair) "Making sense of the microcosm: Perspectives of educators and learners on immunobiology" Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Research in Science Teaching, Washington, DC.

**Menendez, D.** (April, 2024). *Ed-Talk: Do the details of diagrams influence how far students generalize?* Flask talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

**Menendez, D.** (May, 2023). *Developmental differences in learning from scientific diagrams.* Talk presented at the Jacobs Foundation conference, Cascais, Portugal.

**Menendez, D.** (April, 2023). *Learning evolution at home: Virtual intervention for elementary school students and their parents.* In D. Fiedler (Chair) "It's never too early: Insights from empirical studies concerning evolution in kindergarten and elementary school" Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Research in Science Teaching, Chicago, IL.

**Menendez, D.**, Dhaliwal, T., Labotka, D., Scavnick, M. K., & Gelman, S. A. (April, 2023). *Children's understanding of viruses and viral transmission.* Round table presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, Chicago, IL.

Ünlütürk, B., Trujillo-Hernandez, G., **Menendez, D.**, Velioğlu, I., Rosengren, K. (January, 2023). *Comparison of Children's Questions and Teachers' Responses about COVID-19 in Turkey and the U.S.* Online paper presented at the virtual Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD23).

**Menendez, D.** (June, 2022). Discussant in G. Panagiotaki (Chair) "Children's understanding of death: Parental, media and cultural influences." Presented at the 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece.

**Menendez, D.**, Bridgewater, E., & Rosengren, K. S. (June, 2022). *Death in Films: Parents' attitudes and children's questions.* In G. Panagiotaki (Chair) "Children's understanding of death: Parental, media and cultural influences." Talk presented at the 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece.



- Menendez, D.** (April, 2022). *Is it possible or just similar? Children's judgements about possibility in the biological domain.* In A. Payir, P. L. Harris, & K. Corriveau (Chairs) "Developing Judgments of Possibility: What have we learnt and what have we yet to discover?" Talk presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Madison, WI.
- Menendez, D.,** Mathiaparanam, O. N., Donovan, A. M., Seitz, V., Liu, D., Rosengren, K. S., Alibali, M. W., & Kalish, C. W. (March, 2021). *Not Exactly like your Mother: Children's Understanding of Genetic Inheritance for Familiar and Unfamiliar Animals.* In D. Menendez (Chair) "The role of experience and beliefs in children's biological reasoning." Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Research in Child Development, Virtual Meeting.
- Menendez, D.,** Bridgewater, E., & Rosengren, K. S. (June, 2020). *Death in Films: Parents' attitudes and children's questions.* In G. Panagiotaki (Chair) "Children's understanding of death: Parental, media and cultural influences." Talk presented at the 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- Menendez, D.,** & Rosengren, K. S. (April, 2019). *Visual Representations in Children and Adults' Understanding of Metamorphosis.* In A. N. Bartel (Chair) "Probing Students' Understanding with Differing External Representations." Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Menendez, D.,** Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (April, 2019). *Effects of Priming Variability on Children's Endorsement of Metamorphosis and Evolution.* In S. Ronfard (Chair) "The Essence of Biological Categories: Factors Influencing Children's Sensitivity to Variability and Change." Talk presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.
- Rosengren, K. S., **Menendez, D.,** & Alibali, M. W. (May, 2018). *Effects of variability primes on learning about biological change.* In C. W. Kalish (Chair) "Learning with Variability." Talk presented at the Annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Rosengren, K. S., & **Menendez, D.** (January, 2017). *Looking for Essences: The Influence of Essentialist Beliefs on Real World Reasoning.* Invited symposium discussion at the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial conference of Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Sydney, Australia.

### **Poster presentations**

- Santos, H., & **Menendez, D.** (2025). *Once Upon a Goodbye: Exploring How Animated Films Spark Child-Caregiver Conversations About Death.* Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society in San Francisco, CA.
- Menendez, D.,** Labotka, D., Umscheid, V. A., & Gelman, S. A. (2025). *U.S. adults' beliefs regarding the role of social categories in contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and the common cold.* Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society in San Francisco, CA.
- Menendez, D.,** Halama, S. R., Johnson, T. M., & Rosengren, K. S. (2025). *Cognition in Action: The relation between physical and mental paper folding in young children.* Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society in San Francisco, CA.

- Mejia Gomez, L., **Menendez, D.**, & Gelman, S. A. (May, 2025). *Parents' COVID-19 Disparity Beliefs and Likelihood of Discussing with their Children*. Poster presented at the Bi-Ennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development in Minneapolis, MN.
- Yu, A. K., Lee, C. H., Tjoa, A. D., Gelman, S. A., & **Menendez, D.** (June, 2024). *Anthropomorphism versus realistic language: Effects on children's learning towards illnesses*. Poster presented at the UCSC Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium, Santa Cruz, CA.
- Boren, K., Schoenfeld, L., & **Menendez, D.** (June, 2024). *Teaching children evolution through storybooks*. Poster presented at the UCSC Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium, Santa Cruz, CA.
- Menendez, D.** (April, 2024). *Do the details of diagrams influence how far students generalize?*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Menendez, D.**, Richardson, E., McNeil, K. N., & Gelman, S. A. (March, 2024). *Learning about viruses at home: The effect of anthropomorphic representations on children's thinking about viruses*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Pasadena, CA.
- Mejia Gomez, L., **Menendez, D.**, & Gelman, S. A. (March, 2024). *They are more likely to get sick: Examining how children from three community contexts reason about COVID-19 contraction risk across social groups*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Pasadena, CA.
- Dhaliwal, T., Gelman, S. A., **Menendez, D.**, & Labotka, D. (March, 2024). *Beliefs about masks and vaccines for COVID-19 across three U.S. communities*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Pasadena, CA.
- Mathiapparanam, O. N., Donovan A.M., **Menendez, D.**, Jones, C., Yoo, S. H., Alibali, M.W, Kalish, C. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2023). *Teacher's attitudes on inheritance diagram perceptual features*. Poster presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Sydney, Australia.
- Chan, K., **Menendez, D.**, Labotka, D., & Gelman, S. A. (May, 2023). *Children's use of social categories when thinking of viral transmission*. Poster presented at the UCLA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- Menendez, D.** (April, 2023). *The role of perceptual richness of e-books on informal evolution learning*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Trujillo-Hernandez, G., Yoo, S. H., **Menendez, D.**, Klapper, R., Rosengren, K. S. (March, 2023). *LCA of parent-child conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Alcaraz-Carrión, D., **Menendez, D.**, Valenzuela, J., & Alibali, M.W, (July, 2022). *When cycles are lines: Time gesture in naturalistic and laboratory settings*. Poster presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Chicago, IL.
- Mathiapparanam, O. N., Donovan A.M., **Menendez, D.**, Jones, C., Yoo, S. H., Alibali, M.W, Kalish, C. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2022). *Perceptual features in visual representations: A content analysis of inheritance diagrams*. Poster presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada.

- Menendez, D.,** Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (April, 2022). *Bland images, rich talk: The role of perceptual richness in informal science learning*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Madison, WI.
- Trujillo-Hernández, G., Ünlütürk, B., Velioglu, I., **Menendez, D.,** & Rosengren, K. S. (April, 2022). *What is Coronavirus? Content analysis of children's books about COVID-19 in Turkey and the US*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Madison, WI.
- Menendez, D.,** Johnson, T. M., Hassett, R., Haut, A., Mathiapparanam, O. N., Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2020). *Characteristics of visualizations and texts in elementary school biology books*. Poster presented to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Virtual Meeting.
- Menendez, D.,** Meredith, L., & Alibali, M. W. (June, 2020). *Needing some space: Perceptual support influences encoding of the equal sign*. Presentation presented to the annual meeting of the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society in Dublin, Ireland. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- Menendez, D.,** Ou, L., Yudelson, M. V., & Simmering, V. R. (October, 2019). *Inter-relatedness of pre-algebraic knowledge among middle school children*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Louisville, KY.
- Menendez, D.,** Ou, L., Yudelson, M. V., & Simmering, V. R. (October, 2019). *Inter-relatedness of pre-algebraic knowledge among middle school children*. Poster presented at ETCPS in Iowa City, IA.
- Bartel, A.N., Donovan A.M., **Menendez, D.,** Brown, S.B., Hogseth, T., & Alibali, M.W. (June, 2019). *Investigating the Influence of Textual and Graphical Framing on Problem Solving Accuracy and Strategy Use*. Poster presented at the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society, Ottawa, Canada.
- Menendez, D.,** Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (July, 2018). Effects of priming variability on adults learning about metamorphosis. Poster presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, WI.
- Menendez, D.,** Brown, S. A., & Alibali, M. W. (May, 2018). *Effects of exposure, feedback and need for cognition on strategy change*. Poster presented at the Annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Menendez, D.,** Alibali, M. W., & Rosengren, K. S. (October, 2017). *Effects of priming variability on biological reasoning*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Bi-Ennial Conference in Portland, OR.
- Menendez, D.,** Brown, S. A., & Alibali, M. W. (July, 2017). *I'll do what she is doing: Promoting the adoption of new problem-solving strategies in undergraduates*. Poster presented at the 5th Annual Midwest Meeting on Mathematical Thinking, Minneapolis, MN.
- Menendez, D.,** Benjet, C., Borges, G., Albor, Y., Orozco, R., Medina-Mora, M. E. (May, 2017). *Adolescent Predictors of the Incidence of Suicide Related Outcomes in Young Adulthood*. Poster presented at the 28th APS Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Menendez, D.,** Rosengren, K. S., & Alibali, M. W. (April, 2017). *Do details bug you? Effects of Perceptual Richness in Biological Reasoning*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

**Menendez, D.,** Gutierrez, I. T., Jiang, M. J., & Rosengren, K. S. (May, 2016). *Embracing Death: Mexican Parent and Child Perspectives on Death*. Poster presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> APS Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Ad hoc journal reviewer:**

- *CBE-Life Science Education*
- *Child Development*
- *Child Development Perspectives*
- *Cognitive Development*
- *Cognitive Science*
- *Contemporary Educational Psychology*
- *Current Psychology*
- *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences*
- *Death Studies*
- *Developmental Psychology*
- *Early Education & Development*
- *Early Years*
- *Eurasia Journal of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education*
- *Frontiers in Psychology*
- *Human Behavior and Emergent Technologies*
- *International Journal of Behavioural Development*
- *Journal of Adolescent Health*
- *Journal of Cognition and Development*
- *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*
- *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*
- *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*
- *Journal of Genetic Psychology*
- *Journal for the Study of Education and Development*
- *Mind, Brain, and Education*
- *Monographs for the Society of Research in Child Development*
- *PlosOne*
- *Translational Issues in Psychological Sciences*

### **Ad hoc conference reviewer:**

- *National Association of Research in Science Teaching*

### **Editorial board member:**

- *Early Education & Development*

### **Grant reviewer:**

- *NSF Developmental Science review panel (2022, 2023, 2024)*
- *NSF EHR Core Research review panel (2022)*

### **Departmental service:**

2024 *Junior faculty representative*

### **Service-related events:**

2025 Langhout, R.D. & Menendez, D. (2025, April). Limited Access Workshop. Ninety-minute workshop given to the UC Santa Cruz Psychology Department. Santa Cruz, CA

2025 *Transfer students and research opportunities*  
Kresge 25

2023 *Graduate practice interview workshop*  
hosted by Margaret Echelbarger

- 2023 *Postdoctoral panel*  
University of Michigan
- 2022 *Let's talk grad school* (group of students historically excluded from the academy),  
hosted by Margaret Echelbarger
- 2021 *Let's talk grad school* (group of students historically excluded from the academy),  
hosted by Margaret Echelbarger
- 2021 *Diverse graduate student panel*,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2020 *Career pathways in educational research for policy, practice and advocacy*,  
University of Texas- San Antonio
- 2020 *Psi Chi student hour*,  
Northeastern Illinois University
- 2020 *Let's talk grad school* (group of students historically excluded from the academy),  
hosted by Margaret Echelbarger
- 2017 *"Why should I do undergraduate research" panel*,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Instructor**

Introduction to Psychological Statistics: Fall 2023, Winter 2025

Conceptual development (graduate course): Winter 2024

Culture & Cognition: Spring 2024, Fall 2024

Children's thinking: Spring 2025

### **Guest lectures**

#### **University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**

Fall 2023: Children's understanding of death

Spring 2024: Children's understanding of death

#### **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**

Fall 2022: Word learning (part of an advanced course in language development)

Spring 2023: Word learning (part of advanced course in language development)

#### **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Spring 2020: Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (part of graduate-level statistics course)

Conceptual Development (part of advanced course in cognitive development)

Spring 2021: Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (part of graduate-level statistics course)

Spring 2022: Conceptual Development (part of advanced course in cognitive development)

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (part of graduate-level statistics course)

## **MENTORSHIP**

### **Graduate students**

Henrique Pereira Santos

## **Undergraduate Theses**

Audrey Yu (recipient of the Mamie Phipps Clark Diversity Research Grant, the Koret Scholarship from Psi Chi, and the Dean's research award)

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

The Forward (August, 2024). <https://forward.com/culture/film-tv/643266/five-childrens-films-about-grief-and-sadness-to-watch-on-tisha-bav/>

Child and family blog (March, 2020). <https://www.childandfamilyblog.com/child-development/how-do-young-children-make-sense-of-death/>

Learning & the brain (October, 2020). <https://www.learningandthebrain.com/blog/rich-or-bland-which-diagrams-helps-students-learn-deeply/>

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Co-created the “Visualizing Viruses” exhibit at the Museum of Natural History, University of Michigan.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Research in Child Development  
American Education Research Association  
Cognitive Science Society  
Cognitive Development Society  
Spark Society