

Brittany Nielsen Avila, Ph.D.

1664 N. Virginia St. MSS 405

Reno, NV 89557

brittanyavila@unr.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology May 2018
University of Mississippi

Master of Arts, Research Psychology May 2014
California State University, Long Beach

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology May 2009
California State University, Fresno

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Nevada, Reno July 2018-Present
Teaching Assistant Professor & Academic Advisor

University of Mississippi August 2015-May 2018
Instructor of Record

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nevada, Reno
PSY 316: Cognitive Psychology: 4 sections, Fall 2020-Present
PSY 308: History of Psychology, 8 sections, Spring 2019-Present
PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology (online), 8 sections, Fall 2018-Present

University of Mississippi
PSY 320: Cognitive Psychology, 3 sections, Fall 2016 – Spring 2016
PSY 201: Introduction to Psychology 2 sections, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020 Gene LeMay Award for Excellence in Teaching – UNR College of Science (\$1,200)
2019 ACUE Certificate of Effective Instruction
2019 Psi Chi Model Chapter Award
2016 Graduate Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award (\$1,000)
2016 Teaching of Psychology Grant (\$2,000)
2008 Honors Program: California State University, Fresno

SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Publications

Avila, B.N. (2021). Teaching History of Psychology Online. In J.Cerniak, M.S. Wong, & L.H> Rosen (Eds.). *Teaching Psychology Online*. Retrieved from the Society for Teaching of Psychology: <https://teachpsych.org/ebooks/teachpsychonline>

Avila, B.N. (2019). Using history and choice to spark engagement in a capstone course assignment. In A. Schwartz & R.L. Miller (Eds.). *High impact educational practices: A review of best practices with illustrative examples*. Retrieved from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology web site: <http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/highimpacted>

Manuscripts under Review

Avila, B.N. (2020). I'll be there for You: Using Videoconference Technology during Online Office Hours to Increase Student Engagement and Academic Success. *Manuscript Under Review at Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

McDonald, M., Cornwell, S., & **Avila, B.N. (2020).** Effects of late policies on student work and rapport. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Presentations

Avila, B.N. (2020, October 8-10). *Critical Thinking Activities: Teaching Students to Ask the Right Questions* [Workshop session canceled]. Annual Conference on Teaching, Louisville, KY.

Avila, B.N. (2020, April). *Careers in Psychology: Teaching Often Neglected Disciplines of Psychology through Interactive Assignment*. Practical Pedagogy Presentation at TIP Northwest Conference, Highline College Des Moines, WA.

Avila, B.N. (2019, October). *I'll be there for You: Using Videoconference Technology during Online Office Hours to Increase Student Engagement and Academic Success*. Poster session presented at the Annual Conference on Teaching by the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. Denver, CO.

Avila, B.N. (2019, April). *Increasing student engagement in online office hours using video Technology*. Presentation at TIP Northwest Conference, Highline College Des Moines, WA.

Invited Presentations

Avila, B.N. (2019, September 9). *Myths (and facts) about the "Digital Native": What we need to know about Gen Z. Information Literacy Brownbag*. University of Nevada, Reno.

Workshops

Avila, B.N. (2020-Present). Study Habits Workshop.

Avila, B.N. (2018-Present). Graduate School Workshop: Personal Statement and CV.

RESEARCH

Publications

Miller, S.E., **Avila, B.N.**, & Reavis, R.D. (2020). Thoughtful friends: Executive function relates to social problem solving and friendship quality in middle childhood. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, doi: [10.1080/00221325.2020.1719024](https://doi.org/10.1080/00221325.2020.1719024)

Miller, S.E., Reavis, R.D., & **Avila, B.N.** (2018) Associations between theory of mind, executive function, and friendship quality in middle childhood. *Merrill Palmer Quarterly*, 64(3), 397-426. doi: [10.13110/merrpalmquar1982.64.3.0397](https://doi.org/10.13110/merrpalmquar1982.64.3.0397).

Manuscripts under Review

Frith, E., **Avila, B.N.**, Gerlinger, T., & Miller, S.E. (2020). The role of estimation in divergent thinking across the lifespan. *Under Review at Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*

Manuscripts in Preparation

Miller, S.E., **Avila, B.N.**, Florez, A., Hamer, J., Magness, J., & Vandenbrink, T. (2019). Associations between executive function and social development: Evidence for a representational framework. *Manuscript in Preparation*.

Avila, B.N., Hebert, E., Miller, S.E., & Wilson, K.G. (2019). How flexible are we? On the relationship between psychological and cognitive flexibility. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Presentations

*Indicates mentored student authorship

Frith, E., **Avila, B.N.**, & Miller, S.E. (2019, March). *An evaluation of age-associated trends in divergent thinking*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting for Society of Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Avila, B.N., & Miller, S.E. (2017, October). *Creative minds: Creativity and it's relation to cognitive flexibility and persistence*. Poster session presented at the biannual meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.

Avila, B.N., & Miller, S.E. (2017, April). *Examining children and adults' ability to forget distinctive information*. Poster session presented at the biannual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX. doi: [10.13140/RG.2.2.28285.46560](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28285.46560)

Avila, B.N., & Miller, S.E. (2016, April). *Friendship through the ages: Executive function, friendship quality, and responses to transgressions in childhood and adulthood*.

Symposia Session Talk presented at the Annual Conference on Psychological Science: University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.

Avila, B.N. (2015, October). *Thoughtful Friends*. Talk presented at the University of Mississippi Annual 3 Minute Thesis Competition, Oxford, MS.

*Robinson, V.D., **Avila, B.N.**, Hebert, E.R., & Miller, S.E. (2015, April). *Cognitive fusion as a predictor of friendship quality and responses to transgressions*. Poster session presented at the Annual Conference on Psychological Science, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.

Nielsen, B., Miller, S.E., & Reavis, R. (2015, October). *Thoughtful Friends: The Relationship between friendship quality, executive function and responses to friendship transgressions*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.

Nielsen, B., Welch, C., Miller, S.E., & Reavis, R. (2015, March). *The relationship between executive function, friendship quality, and responses to friendship transgressions*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.

Galperin, O. Reavis, R.D., Miller, S.E., Lewis, G., Tierney, M., & **Nielsen, B.** (2015, March). *Gender differences in theory of mind and peer relationships*. Poster session presented at The annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Philadelphia, PA

*Banos, N., **Nielsen, B.**, & Miller, S.E. (2014, April). *Relationship between children with higher levels of aggression and the use of different goals and strategies when friendship transgressions occur*. Poster session presented at the Annual Conference on Psychological Science, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.

Nielsen, B., Pedersen, W.C., Arriago, S., Barragan, D., Jamison, E., Northover, S., & Vaughn, E. (2013, January). *The effects of value dissimilarity and ingroup identification on vicarious retribution*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Hahm, A., Pedersen, W. C., Denson, T. F., Chu, K., Kirby, S., Machado, E., **Nielsen, B.**, Nieva, J., Rodriguez, M., Sorauf, R., & Vaughn, E. (2011, April). *The impact of provocation-focused rumination on self-restraint, negative affect and aggression*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Nielsen, B. & Edmondson, C. (2009, April). *Facial expressions of emotion in counseling clients with mood and anger problems*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships

American Psychological Association
Division 1: General Psychology
Division 2: Teaching of Psychology
Division 7: Developmental Psychology
Cognitive Development Society
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Psi Chi Honor Society
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising

University Service

College of Science Faculty Advisor Search Committee, University of Nevada, Reno, 2021-2022
Gene LeMay Excellence in Teaching Committee Chair, University of Nevada, Reno, 2021
Early Career Academic Faculty Committee, University of Nevada, Reno, 2020-2023
Honors Program, Mentorship and Coaching Program, University of Nevada, Reno, 2020-2021
Advisor, NevadaBound Sessions, College of Science, University of Nevada, Reno, 2020-Present
Teaching Excellence Working Group, Provosts Office, University of Nevada, Reno, 2019-Present.
Student Success Workshop, study strategies, beneficial personal habits, structure of University.
Fall 2020-Present
Freshman Orientation Advisor, University of Nevada Reno, 2018-2019
Advisor, College of Liberal Arts Fit, University of Nevada, Reno, 2019
Advisor, College of Liberal Arts, Student Welcome Orientation, University of Nevada, Reno, 2019
Information Literacy Committee, Member, University of Mississippi, 2015-2016
Graduate Student Council, Secretary, University of Mississippi, 2014-2015
Graduate Student Council, Senator, University of Mississippi, 2013-2014

Departmental Service

Psi Chi Faculty Mentor, University of Nevada, Reno, 2018-Present
Graduate School Application Preparation Workshop covering personal statement, CV and GRE,
Fall 2018-Present
Coordinator of Creation of Course, created Cognitive Psychology course and put through
University to have accepted into catalog, University of Nevada, Reno, 2019

Professional Service

WPA Conference Steering Committee for Psi Chi International Honors Society, 2021-2023
ACT Conference Steering Committee for Society for Teaching of Psychology, 2021-2023
Ad-hoc reviewer for American Psychological Association conference presentations, 2021
Ad-hoc reviewer for Psi Chi Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grants, 2021
Ad-hoc reviewer for Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology, 2020
Ad-hoc reviewer for Psi Chi Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grants, 2020
APA 2020 Conference Reviewer for Division 2: STP, 2019
PsychShorts Video Contest Reviewer, 2019
Ad-hoc reviewer for American Psychological Association conference presentations, 2017
Ad-hoc reviewer for Journal of Cognition and Development, 2014

Ad-hoc reviewer for Society for Personality and Social Psychology symposia presentations, 2013

Community Service

Scholarmatch Coach, mentored high school students through college admissions process, 2019-Present

Student Interview, Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology, Reno, NV 2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 2021 | Founded The Helpful Prof YouTube Series advising college students |
| 2020 | Podcast Host: Career Journey Podcast |
| 2020 | Co-host of Networking Group, Gather |
| 2019 | NACADA Writing Group |
| 2019 | Seminar: The Cognitive Impact of Poverty: Implications for Teaching |
| 2019 | Managing Disruption in the Classroom Workshop, University of Nevada, Reno |
| 2018-2019 | ACUE Certificate Program in Teaching Excellence |
| 2018 | NACADA seminar: Academic Advising in their Language: Communicating with Today's Students |
| 2018 | Diversity and Inclusion Workshop, University of Nevada, Reno |