
Brooke G. McKenna, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

CURRENT POSITION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Massachusetts General Hospital | Harvard Medical School | Purdue University

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

2023 – present	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i> Center for Genomic Medicine, Department of Psychiatry Massachusetts General Hospital Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA Sociogenomics Center, Department of Sociology Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN Advisor: Erin C. Dunn, Sc.D., MPH
2017 – 2023	<i>Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2023</i> <i>M.A., Clinical Psychology, 2019</i> Department of Psychology Emory University, Atlanta, GA Advisor: Patricia A. Brennan, Ph.D.
2020 – 2022	<i>Predoctoral Clinical Intern</i> Emory Child and Adolescent Mood Program Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
2019 – 2020	<i>Clinical Practicum Student</i> Grady Trauma Project Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA Advisor: Abigail Powers Lott, Ph.D.
2015 – 2017	<i>Project Coordinator/Research Assistant</i> Department of Psychiatry University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA Advisor: Jacob J. Michaelson, Ph.D.
2011 – 2014	<i>B.S., Psychology; B.A., Biology</i> University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC Advisor: Mitchell Prinstein, Ph.D.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022	Publication Accelerator Grant (\$5,000), <i>Inst. for Humane Studies at George Mason University</i>
2022	Laney Graduate Student Council Travel Grant (\$250), <i>Emory University</i>
2022	Conference Travel Award (\$325), <i>Intl. Society for Developmental Psychobiology</i>
2022	NISS 2022 Dissertation Grant (\$2,500), <i>National Institute of Social Sciences</i>
2022	Graduate Scholar (\$500), <i>Empowering Interdisciplinary Teaching and Scholarship</i>
2021	Elizabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Child Psychology Graduate Student Fellowship (\$24,000), <i>American Psychological Foundation</i>
2019	Exceptional Research Award (\$5,000), <i>Charles and Marjorie Dobrovolsky Foundation</i>
2019	SSCP Student Poster Competition Winner (\$250), <i>31st APS Annual Convention</i>
2019	Graduate Research Fellowship (\$100,000), <i>National Science Foundation (NSF)</i>
2018	Conference Travel Award (\$385), <i>Intl. Society for Developmental Psychobiology</i>
2018	Flexibility Fund Award (\$1,000), <i>Academy of Psychological Clinical Science</i>
2018	Laney Graduate Student Council Travel Grant (\$250), <i>Emory University</i>
2017	Conference Travel Award (\$600), <i>Intl. Society for Developmental Psychobiology</i>
2015	Initiated into Phi Beta Kappa, <i>University of North Carolina</i>
2014	Graduated <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , <i>University of North Carolina</i>
2014	Selected for the Inaugural Class of Karen M. Gil Interns, <i>University of North Carolina</i>
2011-2014	Dean's List (7 out of 7 semesters), <i>University of North Carolina</i>

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

McKenna, B.G., Ander, I., Brown, A.J., Irish, J., Powers, A., & Kelly, U.A. (*in press*) Virtual Trauma Sensitive Yoga Intervention Reduces Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, and Anxiety Symptoms Among Women Survivors of Sexual Trauma: A Pilot Study. *International Journal of Yoga*.

McKenna, B.G., Lussier, A.A., Suderman, M.J., Walton, E., Simpkin, A.J., Hüls, A., & Dunn, E.C. (2025) Strengthening rigor and reproducibility in epigenome-wide association studies of social exposures and brain-based health outcomes. *Current Environmental Health Reports*.

McKenna, B.G. & Brennan, P. (2024) Association Between Racial Discrimination and CTRA Expression Following Trauma Exposure Provides Further Context for Health Inequities and the Weathering Hypothesis. *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*.

McKenna, B.G., Knight, A., Smith, A.K., Corwin, E., Carter, S.E., Palmer, R.H.C., Dunlop, A.L., & Brennan, P. (2023) Infant Epigenetic Aging Moderates the Link Between Maternal Childhood Trauma and Offspring Symptoms of Psychopathology. *Development and Psychopathology*.

McKenna, B.G., Dunlop, A.L., Corwin, E., Smith, A.K., Venkateswaran, S., & Brennan, P.A. (2023). Intergenerational and early life associations of the gut microbiome and stress-related symptomatology among Black American mothers and children. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity-Health*.

- McKenna, B.G.**, Choi, J., Brennan, P., Knight, A., Smith, A., Pilkay, S., Corwin, E., & Dunlop, A. (2022) Maternal adversity and epigenetic age acceleration predict emotional reactivity in offspring: Implications for intergenerational transmission of risk. *Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology*.
- Hendrix, C., Brown, A., **McKenna, B.G.**, Dunlop, A., Corwin, E., & Brennan, P. (2022) Prenatal distress links maternal early life adversity to infant stress functioning in the next generation. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.
- Kaslow, N. J., Farber, E. W., Ammons, C. J., Graves, C. C., Hampton-Anderson, J. N., Lewis, D. E., Lim, N., **McKenna, B.G.**, Penna, S., & Cattie, J. E. (2022). Capability-informed competency approach to lifelong professional development. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 16(2), 182.
- McKenna, B.G.**, Mekawi, Y., Katrinli, S., Carter, S., Stevens, J., Powers, A., Smith, A., & Michopoulos, V. (2021) When anger remains unspoken: Lifetime stress exposure predicts accelerated epigenetic aging among Black adults via internalized anger. *Psychosomatic Medicine*.
- McKenna, B.G.**, Hammen, C., & Brennan, P. (2021). HPA-axis multilocus genetic profile score moderates the association between maternal prenatal perceived stress and offspring depression in early adulthood. *Development and Psychopathology*, 33(1), 122-134.
- McKenna, B.G.**, Hendrix, C. L., Brennan, P. A., Smith, A. K., Stowe, Z. N., Newport, D. J., & Knight, A. K. (2021). Maternal prenatal depression and epigenetic age deceleration: testing potentially confounding effects of prenatal stress and SSRI use. *Epigenetics*, 16(3), 327-337.
- McKenna, B.G.**, Huang, Y., Vervier, K., Hofmann, D., Cafferata, M., Al-Momani, S., ... & Michaelson, J. J. (2021). Genetic and morphological estimates of androgen exposure predict social deficits in multiple neurodevelopmental disorder cohorts. *Molecular Autism*, 12(1), 1-18.
- Hendrix, C. L., Dilks, D. D., **McKenna, B.G.**, Dunlop, A. L., Corwin, E. J., & Brennan, P. A. (2021). Maternal childhood adversity associates with frontoamygdala connectivity in neonates. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*, 6(4), 470-478.
- Mekawi, Y., Kuzyk, E., Dixon, D.H., **McKenna, B.G.**, Camacho, L., Martinez de Andino, A., Stevens, J., Michopolous, V., & Powers, A. (2021) Characterizing typologies of polytraumatization: A replication and extension study examining internalizing and externalizing psychopathology in an urban population. *Clinical Psychological Science*, 21677026211000723.
- Wang, T., Hoekzema, K., Vecchio, D., Wu, H., Sulovari, A., Coe, B. P., ... **McKenna, B.G.**, ... & Eichler, E. E. (2020). Large-scale targeted sequencing identifies risk genes for neurodevelopmental disorders. *Nature Communications*, 11(1), 1-13.
- Thomas, T.R., Hofmann, D., **McKenna, B.G.**, van der Miesen, A., Stokes, M.A., Daniolos, P., & Michaelson, J.J. (2020). Community attitudes on genetic research of gender identity, sexual orientation, and mental health. *Plos One*, 15(7), e0235608.

McKenna, B.G., Koomar, T., Vervier, K., Kremsreiter, J., & Michaelson, J.J. (2018). Whole-genome sequencing in a family with twin boys with autism and intellectual disability suggests multimodal polygenic risk. *Molecular Case Studies*, 4(6), a003285.

Brown, A., **McKenna, B.G.**, Cohen, M., Dunlop, A., Corwin, E. & Brennan, P. (2018) Maternal childhood adversity and early parenting: Implications for infant neurodevelopment. *International Public Health Journal*, 10(4), 445-454.

Feliciano, P., Daniels, A., Green Synder, L., Beaumont, A... **McKenna, B.G.**, ... Chung, W.K. (2018) SPARK: A US Cohort of 50,000 Families to Accelerate Autism Research. *Neuron*, 97(3): 488-493.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Eldeeb, S.Y., **McKenna, B.G.**, Lake, M. T., Hoffman, N., Lussier, A.A., Walton, E., Simpkin, A.J., Smith, A.D.A.C., Zar, H., Stein, D., & Dunn, E.C. (*under review*) Type and developmental timing of childhood adversity predicts psychopathology symptoms in a South African birth cohort.

Ahmad, S.I., Sullivan, A., Churchill, M.L., Crum., R.M., ... **McKenna, B.G.**,... LeWinn, K.Z., & Bush, N.R. (*under revision*) Maternal adverse childhood experiences and prenatal stress: Associations with offspring mental health in the NIH ECHO Study.

McGowan, J.C., Dahlgren, K.M., Shea, L.M., Tucker, P., **McKenna, B.G.**, Clancy, K.J., Trambaiolli, L., ... Pizzagalli, D., Ressler, K.J., Carlezon, W.A., Chartoff, E.H., Folorunso, O.O. (*under review*) Enhancing retention of diverse undergraduate trainees in the mental health research field: Lessons learned from the McLean Mental Health Research Summer Program.

Ander, I., Irish, J., **McKenna, B.G.**, Brown, A.J., Jhunhunwala, R., Nair, S. Kelly, U.A., & Powers, A. (*under review*) Trauma Sensitive Yoga to treat PTSD in minoritized women in a safety net hospital: A pilot mixed-methods feasibility study.

INVITED TALKS

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| 2025 | 16 th Annual Integrating Genetics and Social Sciences (IGSS) Conference
Stanford University Stanford, CA
<i>Childhood Exposure to Violence: Associations with DNA Methylation in a South African Birth Cohort</i> |
| 2022 | Dissertation Grant Awards Ceremony
National Institute of Social Sciences New York, NY
<i>Risk and Resilience in the Intergenerational Effects of Trauma Among Black Americans: Moderating Roles of Polygenic Risk and the Gut Microbiome</i> |

- 2020 Inaugural Research Symposium on Racial & Social Disparities, Inequities, & Injustice
Emory University | Atlanta, GA
Childhood trauma, racial discrimination, and epigenetic aging in African American mothers: Implications for intergenerational transmission of psychopathology
- 2019 Department of Psychology 12th Annual Research Festival
Emory University | Atlanta, GA
Influence of the Prenatal Environment on Offspring Biology and Psychopathology
- 2019 Clinical Psychology Research Symposium
Emory University | Atlanta, GA
HPA-Axis Multilocus Genetic Profile Score Moderates the Association Between Maternal Prenatal Stress and Offspring Depressive Symptoms in Early Adulthood
- 2018 Clinical Psychology Research Symposium
Emory University | Atlanta, GA
Prenatal Stress Interacts with HPA-Axis MGPS to Predict Internalizing Behaviors
- 2017 Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry
University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA
Autism Spectrum Disorder: Clinical Presentation and Genetic Research
- 2015 Grand Rounds, Center for Disabilities and Development
University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA
Genetic Research of Neurodevelopmental Conditions

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

McKenna, B.G., Lussier, A.A., Großbach, A., Simpkin, A.J., Smith, A.D.A.C., Eldeeb, S.Y., Hoffman, N., Zar, H.J., Stein, D.J., & Dunn, E.C. (2025, October). *Timing of Childhood Adversity and Epigenetic Patterns Across the First Five Years: Findings from a South African Birth Cohort*. Abstract accepted for presentation at the 2025 World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG), Cancun, Mexico.

Ander, I., Irish, J., Brown, A., **McKenna, B.**, Kelly, U., & Powers, A. (2024, June). *Feasibility and Acceptability of Trauma Sensitive Yoga to Treat PTSD in Minoritized Women in a Safety Net Hospital: A Mixed-Methods Study*. Poster presented at the Society for Digital Mental Health 2024 Conference.

McKenna, B., Dunlop, A., Corwin, E., Smith, A., Venkateswaran, S., & Brennan, P. (2024, April). *Sex Differences in the Influence of Intergenerational Trauma and the Infant Gut Microbiome on Early Childhood Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms*. Symposium panel presented at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA) Conference, Boston, MA.

McKenna, B., Ander, I., Brown, A., Jhunhunwala, R., Nair, S., Kelly, U., & Powers, A. (2024, April). *Characterizing Associations Between PTSD Symptoms and Interoceptive Awareness Among Women Survivors of Sexual Assault*. Poster presented at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA) Conference, Boston, MA.

McKenna, B., Dunlop, A., Corwin, E., Smith, A., Venkateswaran, S., & Brennan, P. (2022, November). *Infant Gut Microbiome Composition May Buffer the Impact of Intergenerational Trauma*. Poster presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, San Diego, CA.

McKenna, B., Dunlop, A., Corwin, E., Smith, A., Venkateswaran, S., & Brennan, P. (2022, April). *Infant Gut Microbiome Composition Associates with Emotional and Behavioral Symptoms in Toddlerhood*. Poster presented at the Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Bowes, S.M. & **McKenna, B.** (2022, February). *Intellectual humility and racial bias: An examination of anti-Black prejudice*. In J. Koetke (Chair) New Directions in Intellectual Humility Research symposium panel presented virtually at the 2022 meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

McKenna, B., Treadway, M., Teer, D., Graves, C., Youngblood, A., Dixon, H.D. (2021, August). *The Process of Creating and Implementing Caring Communities: Community Education*. Symposium panel presented at the American Psychological Association Convention, San Diego, CA (panel held virtually).

McKenna, B., Choi, J., Knight, A., Smith, A., Brennan, P. (2021, April). *Maternal Adversity and Epigenetic Aging Predict Offspring Emotional Reactivity: Implications for Intergenerational Risk*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN (conference held virtually).

Hendrix, C., Brown, A., **McKenna, B.,** Dunlop, A., Corwin, E., Brennan, P. (2021, April). *Prenatal distress links maternal early life adversity to infant stress functioning in the next generation*. Flash talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN (conference held virtually).

McKenna, B., Mekawi, Y., Katrinli, S., Powers, A., Stevens, J., Smith, A., & Michopoulos, V. (2020, November). *Mechanisms underlying racial health inequities: The role of anger and social support in the link between lifetime adversity and epigenetic age acceleration among Black adults*. Symposium panel presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies' 35th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (conference held virtually).

McKenna, B., Hendrix, C., Brennan, P., Smith, A., Stowe, Z., Newport, J., & Knight, A. (2020, April). *Maternal Prenatal Depression and Decelerated Epigenetic Gestational Aging: Competing Roles of SSRIs and Prenatal Stress*. Poster accepted for the Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, New York, NY (conference cancelled).

Kuzyk, E., Mekawi, Y., Dixon, H.D., **McKenna, B.,** Martinez de Andino, A., & Powers, A. (2020, March). *Characterizing Typologies of Polytraumatization: A Replication and Extension Study Examining Internalizing and Externalizing Psychopathology in an Urban Population*. Poster accepted for the 40th Annual ADAA Conference (Anxiety and Depression Association of America), San Antonio, TX (conference cancelled).

McKenna, B., Hammen, C., & Brennan, P. (2019, May). *Informing the Fetal Programming Hypothesis for Offspring Depression: HPA-Axis Polygenic Risk Interacts with Maternal Prenatal Stress*. Poster presented at the 31st APS Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.

McKenna, B., Hammen, C., & Brennan, P. (2018, October). *Polygenic Risk Moderates Influence of Maternal Prenatal Stress on Offspring Internalizing Symptoms at Age 20*. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology 51st Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Huang, Y., **McKenna, B.**, Vervier, K., & Michaelson, J. (2018, April). *Facial Morphology Predicts Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Genetic Risk: Comparing Digit Ratio to Automated Facial Landmarking*. Poster presented at the Computational Psychiatry Workshop, Iowa City, IA.

McKenna, B., Koomar, T. & Michaelson, J. (2017, November). *Subclinical Newborn Metabolite Levels Predict Neurodevelopmental Symptomatology*. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology 50th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

McKenna, B. & Michaelson, J. (2017, May). *Neurodevelopmental Consequences of Fetal Androgen Exposure Depend on Sex*. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.

SELECT RESEARCH TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

2024	<i>Antiracism in a Scientific Community</i> Harvard Catalyst Harvard Medical School Boston, MA
2024	<i>Conducting Research in Stress, Health, and Resilience Training Program</i> California Stress, Trauma, and Resilience (CAL STAR) Network (virtual webinar series)
2019	<i>Epigenetics Boot Camp: Planning and Analyzing DNA Methylation Studies</i> Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health New York, NY
2018	<i>QIIME and other Bioinformatics Tools for Microbiome Analysis and Microbial Ecology</i> Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences Bethesda, MD

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

2025	<i>Reviewer, Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology</i>
2025	<i>Reviewer, Translational Psychiatry</i>
2024	<i>Reviewer, Genome Medicine</i>
2024	<i>Reviewer, International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience</i>
2024	<i>Reviewer, European Journal of Psychotraumatology</i>
2024	<i>Reviewer, Development and Psychopathology</i>
2022, 2023	<i>Reviewer, Psychological Medicine</i>
2022, 2023	<i>Reviewer, Brain, Behavior, and Immunity</i>
2022	<i>Reviewer, Epigenetics</i>

2020 *Reviewer, Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

2023 Editor, *Application Statement Feedback Program (ASFP)*

2023, 2024 Guest Lecturer, *Psychology of Self-Care and Wellness*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2022 Course Instructor, *Introduction to Psychology: Psychobiology & Cognition*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2021 – 2022 Mentor, *Living in Bias: Education on Racial Trauma for Youth (LIBERTY) Project*
Girl Scout Gold Award | Atlanta, GA

2021 – 2022 Lab Instructor, *Psychoeducational Assessment Practicum*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2020 Research Mentor, *Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2020 – 2022 Teaching Assistant, *Advanced Topics in Abnormal Psychology: ASD*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2019 Lab Instructor, *Psychology Research Methods*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2019 Guest Lecturer, *Psychobiology & Cognition*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2019 Teaching Assistant, *Psychobiology & Cognition*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2018 – 2019 Graduate Mentor, *Emory Pipeline Program*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2018 Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Psychology*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2018, 2019 Research Mentor, *Undergraduate Research Symposium*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2018 Visiting Instructor, *Atlanta Brain Awareness Campaign*
Atlanta Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience | Tucker, GA

2018 Guest Lecturer, *Introduction to Psychology*
Emory University | Atlanta, GA

2015 – 2018	Supervisor, <i>Undergraduate Research Assistants</i> University of Iowa Iowa City, IA
2015	Lead Tutor, <i>AVID</i> Chapel Hill, NC
2014	Academic Tutor, <i>Molecular Biology and Genetics</i> Chapel Hill, NC

SERVICE

Leadership Positions

2024	Wellness Committee Director, <i>McLean Mental Health Research Summer Program</i> McLean Hospital, Mass General Brigham Belmont, MA
2021 – 2022	Co-Founder and Organizer, <i>Better Together Atlanta Psychology Research Day</i> Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Clark Atlanta, Agnes Scott Atlanta, GA
2020 – 2021	Founding Member, <i>Caring Communities for COVID-19 Response</i> Emory School of Medicine Atlanta, GA
2019 – 2023	Psychology Department Graduate Student Representative Emory University Atlanta, GA
2019 – 2023	Chair, <i>Clinical Recruitment Committee</i> Emory University Atlanta, GA
2017 – 2021	President, <i>Graduate Students in Psychology and Neuroscience Committee</i> Emory University Atlanta, GA
2017 – 2023	Cohort Representative, <i>Clinical Science Advisory Committee</i> Emory University Atlanta, GA

Clinical Service, Science Outreach, & Community Involvement

2021 – 2022	Diversity Dialogue Facilitator Emory University SOM, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Atlanta, GA
2021 – 2022	Member, <i>Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC)</i> Emory University SOM, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Atlanta, GA
2020 – 2023	Member, <i>Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee</i> Emory University Atlanta, GA

2020	Invited Speaker, <i>SPARK for Autism Webinar Series</i> Michaelson Lab University of Iowa Iowa City, IA (virtual)
2020	Leader/Organizer, <i>Virtual Break Series for Behavioral Healthcare Providers</i> Caring Communities Atlanta, GA
2020	Virtual Break Leader/Organizer, <i>Annual GMN (Virtual) Summit</i> Georgia Memory Net Atlanta, GA
2020	Group Facilitator, <i>Support Group Initiative for COVID-19 Frontline Responders</i> Caring Communities Atlanta, GA
2018	Rapporteur, <i>Human Rights Defenders Forum</i> The Carter Center Atlanta, GA
2018	Child Study Center Advocate, <i>Atlanta Science Festival Expo</i> Atlanta, GA
2017 – 2023	Support Group Facilitator, <i>Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence</i> Decatur, GA
2014	Team Leader/Event Planner, <i>UNC Relay for Life</i> University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC
2013	Volunteer Tutor, <i>Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate</i> Chapel Hill, NC

Professional Memberships

Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP)
 Intl. Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS)
 International Society for Developmental Psychobiology (ISDP)
 Association for Psychological Science (APS)
 American Psychological Association (APA)
 Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
 Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology (SSCP)