

A photograph of a university campus. In the background, a multi-story building with brick and concrete facades is visible under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained lawn with a flower bed containing red and white flowers, and a paved walkway. The text "Meet our Faculty!" is overlaid in a large, red, outlined font across the middle of the image.

**Meet our Faculty!**

**U<sub>of</sub>L** **PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES**



# Dr. Nadia Al-Dajani

## Current Research Focus

Identification of near-term risk factors of suicidal thoughts and behaviors, in order to better understand momentary suicide risk and to develop novel prevention/intervention methods

## Favorite Things About Louisville:

Something I love about Louisville is the number of different festivals that they have, like Bock Fest, NULU fest, Oktoberfest, WorldFest, etc.

*Assistant Professor*

**RISSC Lab**  
**Risk Identification**  
**of Suicidal States to**  
**Inform Care**

[nadia.aldajani@louisville.edu](mailto:nadia.aldajani@louisville.edu)





# Dr. Konrad Bresin

## **Current Research Focus:**

Mechanisms involved in the initiation and continuance of behaviors such as nonsuicidal self-injury, substance use, and aggression, with a particular focus on the role of emotions.

***Assistant Professor***

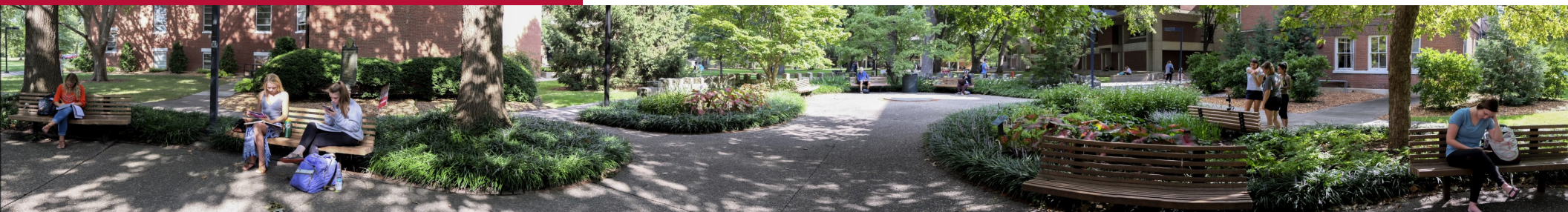
## **STIRRED Lab**

**Short-Term Intense Relief:  
Redefining the Etiology of  
Dysregulation**

[konrad.bresin@louisville.edu](mailto:konrad.bresin@louisville.edu)

## **Favorite Thing About Louisville:**

Historic homes, Food, Parks



# Dr. Sara Bufferd



***Associate Professor,  
Director of Clinical Training***

## **Child Anxiety & Mood Lab**

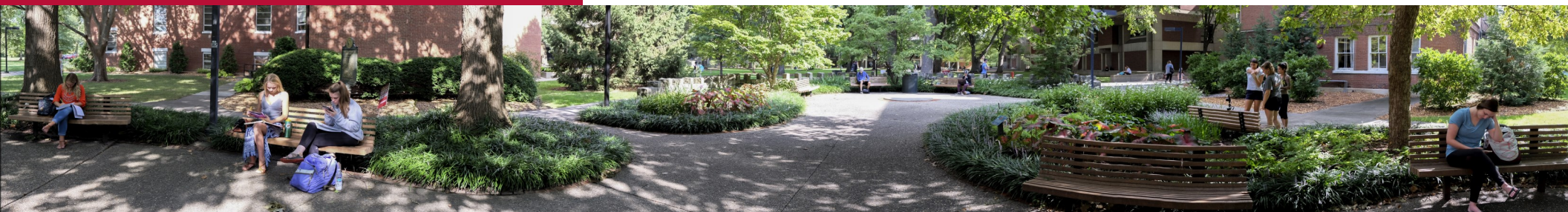
[sara.bufferd@louisville.edu](mailto:sara.bufferd@louisville.edu)

### **Current Research Focus:**

We are a developmental psychopathology laboratory investigating factors that contribute to the onset and course of anxiety and mood dysregulation in young children. Current projects include the: 1) **Preschool Emotion Project:** our goal is to better understand the spectrum of developmentally typical to more clinically significant manifestations of emotion and behavior in early childhood. We use daily diaries and other methods to assess relevant constructs; and 2) **Child and Parent Emotion and Sleep Study:** our goal is to continue to map daily behavior in preschool-aged children and expand on this work by closely investigating the contexts (parent behavior; child and parent sleep; child and parent stress) that influence children's emotions and behavior day to day.

### **Favorite Thing About Louisville:**

I have many favorite things about Louisville! I love the natural beauty (e.g., Cherokee Park, Bernheim Forest), the many delicious restaurants, and the mild winters. However, my most favorite thing in Louisville is definitely the people.



# Dr. Cheri Levinson

## About the EAT Lab:

The EAT Laboratory has a five-pronged mission, all of which center on improving the lives of those with eating disorders. Our mission is to (a) conduct cutting-edge research to develop novel treatments for eating disorders, (b) provide high-quality, evidence-based treatment for eating disorders (c) train the next generation of eating disorder researchers and clinicians, (d) distribute scientifically-based prevention programs across the community, and (e) advocate for more awareness, better treatment, and services for eating disorders. Our research focuses primarily on (a) novel treatment development for eating disorders and (b) understanding the high comorbidity between eating disorders and anxiety disorders. Current NIH funded studies in the lab include using sensor technology, intensive longitudinal data, and network analysis to predict who relapses from an eating disorder and a randomized controlled trial testing online imaginal exposure therapy as an intervention for eating disorders.

## Favorite Things About UofL & Louisville:

I like that UofL is both a Research I University and a Community Engaged Research University because this means we are doing really high quality research AND a lot of the research is also directly helping the community we live in. My favorite thing about Louisville is that it has all the perks of a big city (art, music, bars, good food) but it is still very livable and affordable.



***Associate Professor***

**Eating Anxiety  
Treatment  
(EAT) Lab**

[cheri.levinson@louisville.edu](mailto:cheri.levinson@louisville.edu)





***Professor***

**Aging &  
Neuropsychology  
Lab**

[b.mast@louisville.edu](mailto:b.mast@louisville.edu)

# Dr. Ben Mast

## **Current research focus:**

Person-centered assessment in dementia and Alzheimer's disease,  
Development of strengths-based measure for dementia care,  
Gut biome and cognitive functioning in older adults

## **Favorite Thing About Louisville:**

Louisville has great coffee!





# Dr. Yara Mekawi

## Current Research Focus:

In the COLOR Lab, we aim to challenge ongoing legacies of racism both directly (e.g., understanding and changing racist attitudes and behavior) as well as indirectly (e.g., challenging dominant models of psychopathology that have historically excluded racially marginalized groups). Specifically, we examine racial discrimination and racial prejudice at the intersection of affect and cognition.

Using interdisciplinary and multi-method approaches, we focus on three overarching questions:

- (a) How does racial discrimination lead to negative mental health outcomes for racially marginalized groups (e.g., cognitive and affective mechanisms)? What factors either ameliorate or exacerbate these processes?
- (b) What are the cognitive and affective factors that maintain racially prejudiced behavior and attitudes among individuals from racially privileged groups?  
and
- (c) What are the most effective strategies to reduce racial prejudice and ameliorate its effects on the mental health of individuals from racially marginalized groups?

## Favorite Thing About Louisville:

I love how incredibly friendly and generous people are in Louisville! The parks, food, and beautiful neighborhoods are also lovely.

***Assistant Professor***

**COLOR Lab**

**Challenging Ongoing  
Legacies of Racism**

[yara.mekawi@louisville.edu](mailto:yara.mekawi@louisville.edu)



# Dr. Tamara Newton



*Professor*

**Stress &  
Health Lab**

[tamara.newton@louisville.edu](mailto:tamara.newton@louisville.edu)

## **Current research focus:**

Mind-body mechanisms connecting trauma exposure to mental and physical health risks

## **Something that surprised me about Louisville:**

All of the great restaurants!







***Associate Professor***

**Health Behavior  
Change  
Research Lab**

[barbara.stetson@louisville.edu](mailto:barbara.stetson@louisville.edu)

# Dr. Barbara Stetson

## **Current research focus:**

Health Risk Reduction and  
disease prevention

## **Favorite campus perk:**

Popping into the Speed Art Museum  
and its Cafe and Cinema – It's right  
next to the Life Sciences Building!



# Experimental Faculty

**Dr. Cara Cashon**—Infant Cognition Lab

*Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, College of Arts & Sciences*

**Dr. Judith Danovitch**—Knowledge in Development Lab

*Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences*

**Dr. Daniel DeCaro**—Social Decision Making & Sustainability Lab

**Dr. Marci DeCaro**—Learning & Performance Lab

*Director of Graduate Studies, Experimental Psychology PhD Program*

**Dr. Paul DeMarco**—Visual Electrophysiology Lab

*Associate Dean, Graduate School*

**Dr. Brendan Depue**—NILCAMP Lab

**Dr. Zijiang He**—Visual Perception & Cognition Lab

**Dr. Maria Kondaurova**—Parent-Child Interaction & Language Learning Lab

**Dr. Andrew Lynn**—Brain and Attention Development Lab

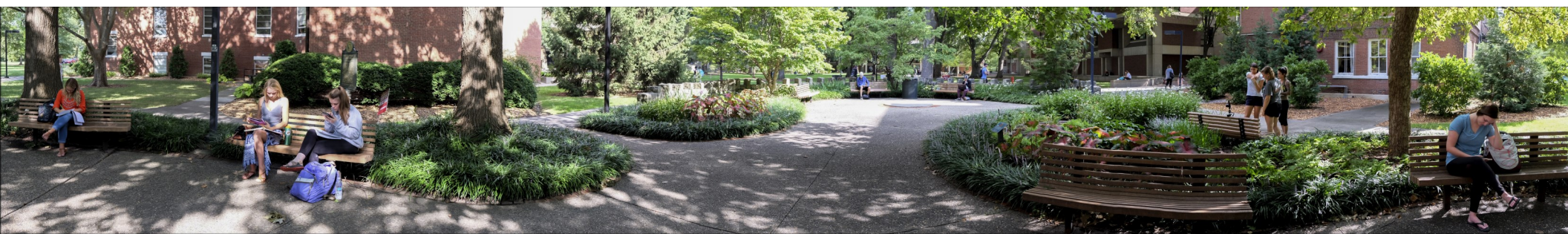
**Dr. Carolyn Mervis**—Neurodevelopmental Sciences Lab

**Dr. Nicholas Noles**—Knowledge in Development Lab

*Interim Chair, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences*

**Dr. Christian Stilp**—Auditory Perception & Processing Lab

**Dr. Pavel Zahorik**—ZAP (Zahorik Auditory Perception) Lab



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**Meet our Students!**

**U<sub>of</sub>L** **PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES**

# FIRST YEARS

**Angie Chou** (Mentor: Dr. Tamara Newton)

**Lauren Hall** (Mentor: Dr. Yara Mekawi)

**Savannah Hooper** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)

**Amanda Jiang** (Mentor: Dr. Nadia Al-Dajani)

**Avantika Kapadia** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)

**Meg Powers** (Mentor: Dr. Yara Mekawi)

**Luis Sandoval-Araujo** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)



# SECOND YEARS

**Michaela Ahrenholtz** (Mentor: Dr. Konrad Bresin)

**Shequanna Belizaire** (Mentor: Dr. Yara Mekawi)

**Loie Faulkner** (Mentor: Dr. Sara Bufferd)

**Ashley Phares** (Mentor: Dr. Tamara Newton)

**Maryam Ware** (Mentor: Dr. Yara Mekawi)



# THIRD YEARS

**Tiarra Abell** (Mentor: Dr. Patrick Pössel, ECPY)

**Alexis Cerrillos** (Mentor: Dr. Tamara Newton)

**Claire Cusack** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)

**Julia Nicholas** (Mentor: Dr. Konrad Bresin)

**Olivia Shaffer** (Mentor: Dr. Konrad Bresin)



# FOURTH YEARS

**Helena Alacha** (Mentor: Dr. Sara Bufferd)

**Mackenzie Brown** (Mentor: Dr. Konrad Bresin)

**Alex Cowand** (Mentor: Dr. Yara Mekawi)

**Emilee Ertle** (Mentor: Dr. Ben Mast)

**Akira Isaac** (Mentor: Dr. Sara Bufferd)

**Annie Olczyk** (Mentor: Dr. Sara Bufferd)

**Alyssa Rodriguez** (Mentor: Dr. Sara Bufferd)

**Darby Simon** (Mentor: Dr. Ben Mast)



# FIFTH+ YEARS

**Caroline Christian** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)  
*Currently on predoctoral internship*

**Meaghan Flynn** (Mentor: Dr. Sara Bufferd)  
*Currently on predoctoral internship*

**Cassie Gonzalez** (Mentor: Dr. Barbara Stetson)  
*Currently on predoctoral internship*

**Rowan Hunt** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)

**Ani Keshishian** (Mentor: Dr. Konrad Bresin)

**Brenna Williams** (Mentor: Dr. Cheri Levinson)  
*Currently on predoctoral internship*





# EAT LAB STAFF

DR. CHERI LEVINSON

**Jeff Bryan** (Study Coordinator)

**Rachel Butler, Ph.D.** (Postdoctoral Fellow)

**Emma Crumby** (Study Coordinator)

**Hannah Fitterman-Harris, Ph.D.** (Postdoctoral Fellow)

**Allison Grady** (Study Coordinator)

**Abby McCarthy** (Study Coordinator)

**Anna Marie Ortiz, Ph.D.** (Postdoctoral Fellow)

**Christina Ralph-Nearman, Ph.D.** (Assistant Research Professor)

