

Jason R. Schmidt Avendaño

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[Personal Website](#)

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EDUCATION

- 2021 – Present **University of South Florida**, Tampa, Florida
Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience
Lab Website: <https://emac-usf.com/>
2021 University Graduate Fellow (UGF)
2021 Diverse Student Success (DSS)
Research Advisor: Liz Schotter, Ph.D.
- 2016 - 2020 **Stetson University**, DeLand, Florida
B.S. in Psychology
Cumulative GPA - 3.7, *Magna Cum Laude*
Research Advisor: Michael Eskenazi, Ph.D.
Senior Research: “*Musicians’ Regressive Eye Movements: The Interaction of Skill and Complexity*”

B.M. in Vocal Performance
Cumulative GPA - 3.7, *Magna Cum Laude*
Faculty Voice Teacher: Mary Jane Christeson, M.A.
Senior Recital: “*Madre Mía: A Night of Latina Composers*”
- 2012 - 2016 **Bayside High School Encore Academy**, Palm Bay, Florida
High School Diploma in Vocal Arts
Cumulative GPA- 4.3
Senior Research: “*Understanding how Correct Vocal Technique is Dependent on Contemporary or Classical Education*”.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Broadly interested in the neuro-cognitive overlap between music and language.
- Investigating musical factors that impact the network and function of the brain, specifically auditory and sensory perception, language comprehension, and emotional response.
- Understanding the pathway and importance of music research’s ability to continually innovate the healthcare, public policy, and community sectors.
- Identifying and incorporating factors of diversity, equity, and inclusion into all facets of the STEM field and music cognition and perception research.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 – 2022 **USF Diverse Student Success Fellow** - \$9,530
The goal of the USF Diverse Student Success Fellowship (DSS) is to support graduate student research productivity and enhances the impact of that effort across the global research landscape.
- 2021 – 2022 **USF University Graduate Fellow** - \$8,667
The goal of the University Graduate Fellowship (UGF) is to provide one outstanding graduate student with an opportunity to study in one of our most outstanding graduate programs.
- 2016 – 2020 **Stetson University William E. Duckwitz Talent Scholarship** - \$31,500
Awarded every year. Awarded to students showing musical artistry in their chosen art form.

MANUSCRIPTS

Eskenazi, M. A., & **Schmidt, J. R.** (under review). Confident but wrong: Myths, misconceptions, and misinformation about reading processes in the general population, *Scientific Studies of Reading*.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Schmidt, J. R., & Eskenazi, M. A. (2021). *Musicians' Regressive Eye Movements: The Interaction of Skill and Complexity*. Psychonomics Society 62nd Annual Meeting, Virtual

Schmidt, J. R., (2021). *Look back (or don't): Regressive eye movement behavior of musicians*. Southeastern Psychological Association, Orlando, Florida.

Schmidt, J. R., (2020). *The Navajo Nation: Understanding How A Lack of Music Creation Has Psychological Repercussions*. Virtual Leadership Alliance National Symposium (VLANS), Online.

Schmidt, J. R., (2017). *Understanding how Correct Vocal Technique is Dependent on Contemporary or Classical Education* [First undergraduate in Stetson University history to present research at the annual faculty workshop]. Stetson University School of Music Faculty Research Workshop, DeLand, Florida.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018 - 2020 **Neuroscience Research Assistant (tDCS)**, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Principal Investigator: Dr. Sarah Garcia

Titles: "*tDCS as a treatment for anxiety and related cognitive deficits.*" & "*You Feel Me?: The Effects of tDCS on Pain Empathy.*"

This study examines how Transcranial Direct-Current Stimulation (tDCS) could be used to mitigate the effects of pain empathy commonly problematic in depressed and anxious individuals.

- Trained on various neuropsychologic tests and scoring such as Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST).
- Collected and scored multiple surveys and psychological tests such as the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire (TEQ), Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), etc.
- Responsible for recruitment, administering all protocol, data entry, data analysis, and interpretation.

2018 - 2020 **Cognitive Psychology Research Assistant (Eye-Tracking)**, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Principal Investigator: Dr. Michael Eskenazi

Title: "*Readers' Explicit Awareness of Their Eye Movements During Reading.*"

The purpose of the study is to learn more about readers' awareness of their own eye movement behavior.

- Managed Research Assistants and participants through scheduling, correspondence, paperwork, and task facilitation while maintaining confidentiality throughout.
- Close attention to detail through eye tracking procedures using an EyeLink 1000 Plus, autonomous and independent work during data collection, and creative problem solving during difficult eye tracking sessions.

INTERNSHIPS AND WORKSHOPS

- Summer 2020 **Vanderbilt Leadership Alliance SR-EIP REU Internship**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
Principle Investigator: Dr. Duane Watson
- Would have worked on a project that explored whether the relationship between the rhythm of language on memory extends beyond lists of words to English sentences.
 - Participants would have been presented with rhythmically regular or irregular sentences, and their recall for these sentences would have been evaluated.
 - Could have independently studied psycholinguistic literature, designed an experimental study, and collected research data.
- Summer 2020 **Vanderbilt Virtual Summer Experience (VSE)**, Vanderbilt University, Online
Program Director: Dr. Don Brunson
- Worked on multiple case studies related to minority populations struggling in the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Attended weekly flash meetings held by faculty and graduate students on current research in a wide variety of disciplines such as psycholinguistics, clinical interventions, and neuroscience.
 - Analyzed social injustices that affect people of color and Indigenous Americans to become a culturally sensitive scientist and researcher.
- Summer 2020 **Brown University Leadership Alliance Professional Development Series**, Brown University, Online
Program Director: Samantha Andersen, Dr. Taiese Bingham-Hickman.
- Reviewed the overall research process with a special focus on discipline-specific ethical considerations, research during COVID-19, and applying to graduate programs.
 - Strengthened confidence in interviewing and presenting through weekly mock interviews and presentations.
 - Worked on professional skills through integrative workshops, presentations, recruitment events, virtual meetings, and a national conference.
- Summer 2019 **Empirical Methods Workshop in Music Cognition**, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Program Director, David Huron & Daniel Shanahan
- Only undergraduate selected to participate, trained alongside doctoral students and assistant professors.
 - Learned how to design and execute music experiments, how to apply empirical, systematic, and statistical techniques to problems in music science, analysis, performance, and culture.
 - Learned and utilized computational programs like The Humdrum Toolkit.
 - The workshop introduced several methods, including descriptive, exploratory and questionnaire methods, field research, correlational and experimental methods, hypothesis testing, theory formation, and other useful research tools and concepts of music science research.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2020 **Research Methods**, Stetson University, Department of Psychology, DeLand, Florida
Teaching Assistant, 16 students enrolled
- Responsible for working with students to craft an honors thesis.
 - Aided students through research design, ethical consideration, statistical analysis, data entry and manuscript writing.
 - Reviewed, created, organized, and graded assignments.

- Held TA hours weekly that resulted in one-on-one counseling for the class as well as general social issues troubling the students.

Spring 2020 **Cognitive Psychology**, Stetson University, Department of Psychology, DeLand, Florida
Teaching Assistant, 22 students enrolled.

- Responsible for organizing and teaching four review lectures throughout the semester, grading assignments, organizing TA office hours, and tutoring students one-on-one.

Spring 2020 **Behavioral Statistics**, Stetson University, Department of Psychology, DeLand, Florida
Teaching Assistant, 20 students enrolled.

- Responsible for organizing, creating and grading assignments, organizing TA office hours, and tutoring students one-on-one.

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

2018 - 2020 **Student Development and Campus Vibrancy Assistant**, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

- Working to ensure campus vibrancy is maintained through intentional community-building initiatives, large scale events and programs, and promotion of vibrant offerings.
- Successfully manage and coordinate graphic design projects from concept through completion.
- Helped create and maintain spreadsheets used to assist in developing, monitoring, interpreting, and presenting the financial information for each fiscal year of over 275 registered student organizations.

2018 - 2020 **Music Admissions Assistant Recruiter**, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

- Acting Music Admissions Recruiter during job search. Conducted the duties of a staff member while balancing being a full-time student.
- Generated, edited, published, shared content, and optimized School of Music pages on the college website and within social media platforms.
- Coordinated and participated in extensive national recruitment programs and represented the School of Music at high schools, college fairs, conferences, and summer camps.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2021 – Present **University of South Florida Psychology Department Mentorship Program**

- Mentorship program project coordinator facilitating resource development. Formulated, presented, and wrote a proposal on program effectiveness.

2020 **Visiting Assistant Professor Search Subcommittee**

- Attended teaching demonstrations for each candidate and questioned multiple facets to solidify confidence in appropriate fit for Stetson University.

2020 – 2020 **Academic Note Taker, Stetson University**

- Stetson University appointed note-taker for classes.
- Accurately listen to the class lectures and wrote down PowerPoint notes including graphs and tables for the student.
- Kept confidentiality and sent notes within a strict 24-hour time period.

2017 – 2020 **Instruments of Healing, Singer**

- Instruments of Healing is a nonprofit organization, with a mission of using music to educate, motivate, and inspire individuals in their recovery from mental health and addiction challenges.

- Our programs include using music in recovery, instrumental experimentation, group jamming, solo singing, and sing-alongs.

2017 – 2017

My Angel with Paws Inc.

- My Angel with Paws is a volunteer-based non-profit organization committed to expanding public understanding and knowledge of the needs of children and adults with disabilities through the rescuing, breeding, training, and placement of professional service dogs.
- Taught and trained clients in all aspects of dog care and behavior: basic obedience and manners, tricks, problem behaviors, diet, nutrition, exercise, first aid, and hygiene.
- Collaborated with veterinarians, owners, and any other parties involved to ensure an excellent experience and proper care was administered

AWARDS AND HONORS

- April 2021 **Psi Chi SEPA Regional Research Award** - \$400
The award was based on top research excellence of over 4000 submitted poster presentation at the Southeastern Psychological Association with only 4 award recipients.
- April 2021 **Stetson University Psychology Department Award for Excellence in Research** - \$200
The award is presented each year to the student who has completed the most outstanding psychological research. (<https://www.stetson.edu/other/senior-awards/jason-schmidt.php>)
- April 2021 **Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society**
- Summer 2020 **Stetson University Senior Research Funding** - \$100
Awarded to senior’s conducting experimental research that can be aided through departmental funding.
- Summer 2019 **Stetson University Dean’s Travel Award** - \$250
Competitively funded award given to students to advance their research experience.
- January 2018 **Psi Chi Honor Society**
- May 2017 **Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society**

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Statistics and Experimental Programming

R, SPSS, MatLab, Data Viewer, and Experimental Builder

Eye-Tracking

EyeLink 1000 Plus

tDCS Testing

NeuroConn

Soterix 1x1

10-20 EEG Placement System

NeuroPsych Testing

WCST-64, Trail Making, MoCA, Verbal Fluency, Rey-O, and Stroop

Neuro Imaging

ERP, Eye-tracking & ERP Co-Registration

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

2021 **Student Diversity Committee, University of South Florida**
2021 **Phi Beta Kappa**
2020 **SPARK Society**
2020 **Cognitive Neuroscience**
2019 **Society for Music Perception and Cognition**
2018 **APA Division 10**
2018 **Psi Chi**
2017 **Phi Eta Sigma**

REFERENCES

Michael Eskenazi, Ph.D.

Senior Research Advisor

Assistant Professor
Cognitive Psychology,
Department of Psychology
Stetson University
421 N Woodland Blvd.
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Email: meskenazi@stetson.edu

Sarah L. Garcia, Ph. D.

Research Assistant Advisor

Assistant Professor
Neuropsychologist, Department
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Liz Schotter, Ph.D.

Doctoral Mentor

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