

Sandry M. Garcia, Ph.D. (She/Her/Hers)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Memory Modulation Lab
Department of Psychology & Neuroscience, Boston College
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EDUCATION

- 2020 – 2025 Boston College, Ph.D. Cognitive Neuroscience
 Advisor: Elizabeth A. Kensinger, *Committee:* Maureen Ritchey, Hiram Brownell, & Elizabeth Race
 Dissertation Title: *The Role of the Lateral Prefrontal Cortex in Emotional Episodic Memory*
 Master's Thesis Title (M.A. awarded 2022): *The Effects of List Composition on Memory in Young and Older Adults*
- 2014 – 2017 Brooklyn College CUNY, B.S., Psychology, *Cum Laude*
- 2012 – 2014 Queensborough Community College CUNY, A.A., Liberal Arts & Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – Present **Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Memory Modulation Laboratory**, Boston College, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
 Advisor: Maureen Ritchey, Ph.D.
- 2020 – 2025 **Doctoral Student at the Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory**, Boston College, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Chestnut Hill, MA
 Advisor: Elizabeth A. Kensinger, Ph.D.
- 2017 – 2020 **Laboratory Coordinator and Research Assistant at the Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory**, Boston College, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Chestnut Hill, MA
 Supervisor: Elizabeth A. Kensinger, Ph.D.
- 2016 – 2017 **Independent Research Honors Student at the Memory and Metacognition Lab**, Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY
 Supervisor: Elizabeth F. Chua, Ph.D.
- Summer 2016 **Research Assistant at the Spence Laboratories of Psychology**, Department of Psychology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
 Supervisor: Ryan T. LaLumiere, Ph.D.
- Spring 2016 **MARC Research Assistant at the Memory and Metacognition Lab**, Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY
 Supervisor: Elizabeth F. Chua, Ph.D.

Fall 2014 **RISE Research Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College,
Brooklyn, NY
Supervisor: Lori Sims, M.S.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Research

2024	Dissertation Fellowship Award for Spring 2025 Semester, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College
2023	Sallie P. Asche Travel Award Fund for the 2023 Dallas Aging & Cognition Conference
2022	Best Research Poster Award, Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society
2022	Sallie P. Asche Travel Award Fund for the 2022 Dallas Aging & Cognition Conference
2021	Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2020	Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2016	Certificate of Achievement for Oral Presentation at the 2016 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students
2016 – 2017	The Helen D. Henkin '42 Memorial Scholarship
2016 – 2017	NIH Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Scholar
2016 – 2017	Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) Scholar
2015 – 2016	The Josephine Bustamante Memorial Scholarship
2014 – 2015	NIH Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Scholar

Teaching

2024	Certificate of Achievement for completing the Apprenticeship in College Teaching Program presented by the Center for Teaching Excellence of Boston College
2022	Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Teaching, Boston College

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Monkman, R.G., Faul, L., Maybury, J., **Garcia, S.**, Chung, J., Echols, H., Koziol, N., Williams, S., Payne, J., & Kensinger E. (*Accepted*). Different effects of emotional valence on overt attention and recognition memory. *Cognition and Emotion*.

Garcia, S.M., Ritchey, M., & Kensinger, E.A. (2023). How list composition affects the emotional enhancement of memory in younger and older adults. *Cognition and Emotion*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2023.2270202>

Garcia, S.M., & Kensinger, E.A. (2023). Emotional processing in aging. *Encyclopedia of the Human Brain, 2nd Edition*, Chapter 00266. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-820480-1.00021-8>

Ford, J.H., Field, E.C., **Garcia, S.M.**, Cunningham, T.J., & Kensinger, E.A. (2023). Perceived event resolution – rather than time – allows older adults to reduce the negativity of their memories. *Memory*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09658211.2023.2166079>.

Cunningham, T.J., Fields, E.C., **Garcia, S.**, & Kensinger, E.A. (2021). The relation between age and experienced stress, worry, affect, and depression during the spring 2020 phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. *Emotion*, 21(8), 1660-1670. <https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0000982>

Fields, E.C., Kensinger, E.A., **Garcia, S.M.**, Ford, J.H., & Cunningham, T.J. (2021). With age comes well-being: Older age associated with lower stress, negative affect, and depression throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. *Aging & Mental Health*, 26(10), 2071-2079. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2021.2010183>

Ford, J. H., **Garcia, S. M.**, Fields, E. C., Cunningham, T. J., & Kensinger, E. A. (2021). Older adults remember more positive aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Psychology and Aging*, 36(6), 694-699. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pag0000636>.

Chua, E.F., Ahmed, R., & **Garcia, S.** (2016). Effects of HD-tDCS on memory and metamemory for general knowledge questions that vary by difficulty. *Brain Stimulation*. (16)30298-4, DOI: 10.1016/j.brs.2016.10.013.

SUBMITTED PUBLICATIONS

Davidson, P., **Garcia, S.M.**, Denis, D., Kensinger, E.A., Pace-Schott, E.F. (*Submitted*). Does sleep de-contextualize fear learning? The effect of a daytime nap on the consolidation and generalization of conditioned fear learning. *Neuropsychologia*.

Kensinger, E.A., **Garcia, S.M.**, & Monkman, R.G. (*Submission Approved*). Emotional episodic memory. Under review for inclusion in *Handbook of Human Affective Neuroscience, 2nd Edition* (Jorge Armony and Patrik Vuilleumier, Eds.). Cambridge University Press.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Garcia, S.M., Thakral, P., & Kensinger, E.A. (2025). The role of the left DLPFC and left VLPFC in positive and negative emotional memory: An rTMS study. Poster presentation at the 2025 Cognitive Neuroscience Society, March 29 – April 1, 2025, Boston, MA.

Garcia, S.M., Ford, J.H., & Kensinger, E.A. (2024). Emotional episodic retrieval is associated with a hemispheric asymmetry reduction in older age. Poster presentation at the 2024 Social & Affective Neuroscience Society, April 10 – 13, 2024, Toronto, Canada.

Garcia, S.M., Ritchey, M., & Kensinger, E.A. (2023). Testing the list composition effect on the emotional enhancement of memory in younger and older adults. Poster presentation at the 2023 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference, Dallas, TX.

Garcia, S.M., & Kensinger, E.A. (2022). Testing the list composition effect on the emotional enhancement of memory in younger and older adults. Virtual oral presentation at the 2022 Boston College Graduate Research Day, May 6th, 2022. Poster presentation at the 2022 Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society Conference, May 3, 2022, at Bentley University, Waltham, MA, and at the Psychonomic Society 63rd Annual Meeting at Boston, MA.

Garcia, S.M., & Kensinger, E.A. (2022). Testing the list composition effect on memory in younger and older adults. Virtual poster presentation at the 2022 Dallas Aging & Cognition

Conference, February 28, 2022, and virtual poster presentation at the 2022 Society for Affective Science Annual Conference, March 31, 2022.

Garcia, S.M., Ford, J.H., Fields, E.C., Cunningham, T.J., & Kensinger, E.A. (2021). Older age continues to be associated with more positive reframing of the earlier phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual poster presentation at the 2021 Society for Affective Science Annual Conference, April 13-16, 2021, and at the Boston College 2021 Annual Graduate Research Day, May 20, 2021.

Garcia, S.M., Ford, J.H., Fields, E.C., Cunningham, T.J., & Kensinger, E.A. (2020). Older age is associated with a more positive reframing of memories from the spring phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual poster presentation at the Gerontological Society of America 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting, and at the Boston College 2020 Advancing Research and Scholarship Day: Responding to COVID-19.

Garcia, S.M., Kark, S., Frederiks, K., & Kensinger, E.A. (2019). Can resting-physiology predict stress-physiology? Poster Presentation at the Society for Affective Science Annual Conference, March 21-23, Boston, MA, the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, February 28 – March 2, 2019, New York, NY, and the New England Psychological Association Annual Meeting, November 10, 2018, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Bennion, K. A., **Garcia, S. M.**, & Kensinger, E.A. (2018). Effects of stress and sleep on memory for emotional scenes. Poster presentation at the biennial International Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Garcia, S., Ahmed, R., & Chua, E.F. (2017). Effects of high definition transcranial direct current stimulation on memory and metamemory by task difficulty. Poster presentation at the NYC Neuromodulation 2017 Conference, January 13-15, 2017, New York, NY and the 2016 Annual Department of Psychology In-House Conference at Brooklyn College, December 13, 2016, Brooklyn, NY.

Chua, E.F., Ahmed, R., & **Garcia, S.** (2016). Effects of high definition transcranial direct current stimulation on memory and metamemory by task difficulty. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, November 17-20, 2016, Boston, MA.

Garcia, S., Ahmed, R., & Chua, E.F. (2016). Effects of high definition transcranial direct current stimulation on memory and metamemory by task difficulty. Oral presentation at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), November 9-12, 2016, Tampa, FL.

Garcia, S., Cosme, C.V., and LaLumiere, R.T. (2016). Blocking D1 receptors in the agranular cortex reduces cued and prime reinstatement in rats. Summer Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Garcia, S., Ahmed, R., and Chua, E.F. (2016). The effects of high definition transcranial direct current stimulation on memory. 2016 Brooklyn College Science Day Conference, Brooklyn, NY.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

2024 – Present	Social & Affective Neuroscience Society
2022 – 2023	Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society
2020 – 2023	The Gerontological Society of America
2018 – 2023	Society for Affective Science
2018 – Present	Cognitive Neuroscience Society
2016 – 2023	Eastern Psychological Association
2016 – Present	Psychonomic Society
2018 – 2019	New England Psychological Association

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record (Teaching Fellowship)

Fall 2024	MCPS1072, Memory in Everyday Life Messina College at Boston College
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Guest Lectures

2024	“Using Cognitive Psychology Principles to Succeed in Class” - PSYC2272, Cognitive Psychology: Mental Processes and their Neural Substrates
2022	“Stress” – PSYC1032, Science of Emotion
2021	“Emotion” – PSYC3371, Cognitive Neuroscience
2021	“Effects of the Pandemic on Mental Wellbeing” – PSYC3336, Clinical Psychology
2020	“Memory, Emotion, and Aging” (asynchronous) – PSYC2260, Developmental Psychology

Teaching Assistantships

Spring 2024	Social and Emotional Development (PSYC3366), Dr. Karen Rosen
Fall 2023	Clinical Psychology (PSYC3336), Dr. Karen Rosen
Spring 2023	Science of Emotion (PSYC1032), Dr. Andrea Heberlein
Fall 2022	Social Psychology (PSYC2241), Dr. Andrea Heberlein
Spring 2022	Social and Emotional Development (PSYC3366), Dr. Karen Rosen
Fall 2021	Clinical Psychology (PSYC3336), Dr. Karen Rosen
Spring 2021	Cognitive Neuroscience (PSYC3371), Dr. Maureen Ritchey
Fall 2020	Developmental Psychology (PSYC2260), Dr. Sara Cordes

MENTORING EXPERIENCES

Fall 2020 – 2025	Mentor in the Boston College Application Mentorship Program (AMP) Duties include mentoring prospective Ph.D. applicants - meeting weekly and assisting with application materials (e.g., CV and personal statements).
2021 – 2025	Mentor to Undergraduate Research Assistants Duties include teaching research methods, training with using cognitive neuroscience tools, and assessing short-term and long-term goals.
2021 – 2022	Mentor in the Undergraduate Mentorship Program at Boston College

Served as point of contact for undergraduate students who were mentors to younger undergraduate students in the department of Psychology and Neuroscience.

SERVICE

2020 – 2025	Graduate Research Day Committee, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College
2020 – 2025	Undergraduate Research Conference Committee, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College
Spring 2024	Graduate Student Host for Colloquia Speaker, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College
Spring 2024	Graduate Student Panelist on Boston College Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Subcommittee
Fall 2022	Graduate Student Host for Colloquia Speaker, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College
Fall 2022	Panelist at the Teaching Assistant and Teaching Fellow Orientation presented by the Center for Teaching Excellence, Boston College

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Annual Undergraduate Research Hour Showcase – Nov. 9th, 2022 & Oct. 26th, 2023

- Assisted members of the lab in providing undergraduate students from the department of Psychology and Neuroscience at Boston College, information about our research.

Brain Awareness Outreach at Newton Center Community Fair – Oct. 16th, 2022

- Answered questions to children and adults of all ages, about brain health, neuroscience research, and being a scientist.

Second CANLab Intergenerational Science Social – June 26th, 2020

- Volunteered with organizing the event (e.g., designing and emailing newsletters for older adults, and setting up Zoom accounts for older adults prior to the event). Assisted during the event (e.g., Zoom presentation on the benefits of exercise from home and outdoors during the COVID-19 Pandemic).

First CANLab Intergenerational Science Social – July 29th, 2019

- Helped organize the event (e.g., designing and mailing newsletters to older adults and their families), and assisted during the event (e.g., guiding older adults to the different poster presentations, and helped two high school volunteers prepare their presentation to inform older adults about the problems that multitasking can bring to their memory and quality of life).

Volunteer at Rosie's Place, Boston, MA 02118 – Fall 2017-Fall 2020

- Assisted with preparing and serving meals to low-income and homeless women in the Boston area.

QUANTITATIVE AND COMPUTATIONAL METHODS WORKSHOPS

Sept. 2022 – Dec. 2022	fMRI Workshop , Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Sept. 2020 – May 2021	R Workshop , Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Sept. 2020 – Dec. 2020	Graduate Programming Lab (MATLAB) , Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

- Jan. 8 – 12, 2018 **Introduction to Python Boot Camp (Python)**, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
- Jan. 2 – 8, 2017 **Quantitative Methods Workshop (MATLAB, Python)**, Department of Biology and NSF Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- Feb. 2020 - 2025 **Short Courses at the Harvard Center for Brain Science and Neuroimaging.** Topics include:
- Overview of Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation
 - Introduction to Python for Neuroimaging
 - Overview of Psychiatric Disorders including Neuroimaging Considerations
 - Quality Control of MRI and fMRI Data
 - Overview of Neurodegenerative Disorders with Neuroimaging Considerations
 - Advanced Topics in Neuroimaging Data Acquisition

Certifications

- “Green Badge” certified to be the lead operator of the Prisma Fit 3T MRI scanner at the Harvard Center for Brain Sciences
- Certified to operate the TMS machine independently at the Boston College Human Neuroscience Recharge Center and the Harvard Center for Brain Sciences