

SAARA MAHJOURI

EDUCATION

University of California, Graduate School of Education
Ph.D., Psychological Studies in Education Los Angeles, CA
2011

Harvard University, Graduate School of Education
Ed.M., Human Development and Psychology Cambridge, MA
2007

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts
B.F.A., Theater Arts New York, NY
2003

EXPERIENCE

Weill Cornell Medical College
Postdoctoral Fellow in Psychology, 2012-2014 White Plains, NY

- Developed an autism specific curriculum for a supported employment transition program, aimed at adolescents.
- Created training opportunities and provided professional development for educational professionals.
- Served as a liaison between the community and the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain to identify needs and provide services.
- Project management for NIH funded research study.
- Conducted diagnostic assessments and prepare reports of findings for families.
- Coordinated data collection for multiple studies.

UCLA Kasari Lab
Graduate Student Researcher/Research Coordinator 2008-2011 Los Angeles, CA

- Coordinated two multi-site studies funded by the NIMH.
- Trained researchers from other institutions in treatment, data coding, and project coordination.
- Collect, code and analyze data pertinent to studies conducted with the research group.
- Developed online program to code social network data.
- Supervised research assistants, undergraduate and graduate students.
- Implemented school-based social skills intervention to elementary and high school students with autism.
- Provided student mentorship and staff consultation for a high school integrated social/academic program for adolescents with autism spectrum disorders.

UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies
Teaching Assistant, 2010 Los Angeles, CA

- Facilitated and supervised fieldwork for 50 undergraduate students.
- Assisted in planning course syllabus, created course website, and collaborated on weekly presentations and lectures.
- Delivered individual instruction to students and graded all written assignments.

California State University
Adjunct Instructor, 2010 Los Angeles, CA

- Instructed Masters level course in Educational Testing for Exceptional Children.
- Trained students in testing procedures, interpretation of scores, and diagnostic implementation.
- Provided individualized instruction and mentorship in report writing, norm referenced test scoring and administration.

K&M Center, Inc.

Santa Monica, CA

Educational Therapist, 2007-2011

- Combined educational and therapeutic approaches for evaluation, remediation, communication and advocacy on behalf of children and adults with learning difficulties.
- Consulted with school administration and staff to develop sustainable educational accommodations and modifications for individual students.
- Assessed and modified implementation of school-based supports to promote individual student growth.
- Implemented research driven interventions to improve phonological awareness, auditory and visual processing, cognitive function, metacognition and executive function.
- Developed individual treatment plans based on psychoeducational testing and consultation to remediate skill gaps as well as anticipate problems that may appear in the future.

South Pasadena Unified School District

Pasadena, CA

Special Education Teacher, 2005-2006

- Created and implemented Individual Educational Plans for students with autism and cognitive delays in fourth and fifth grades.
- Presented curriculum in various mediums and levels to engage and meet the needs of all students.
- Collaborated with Director of Special Education and service providers to maintain consistent supports across home and school contexts.
- Worked with Principal and staff to develop inclusive opportunities for students.

Summer School Teacher, 2006, 2007

- Developed activities-based curricula for Yoga, Math and Reading courses.
- Instructed grades K-5.

Substitute Teacher, 2004-2005

- Followed and developed lesson plans for grades K-12.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Academy 123 Online

Los Angeles, CA

Online Curriculum Developer, 2005-2008

Score! Educational Systems

Pasadena, CA

Personal Academic Tutor, 2005-2006

Ivy West

Los Angeles, CA

Math Tutor/Teacher, 2003-2005

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Mahjouri, S., and Lord, C. (2012) What the DSM-5 Portends for Research, Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders, *Current Psychiatry Reports*, (DOI) 10.1007/s11920-012-0327-2.

Mahjouri, S., and Kasari, C. (submitted) Social Skills Treatments. Bondy & Weiss (Eds.)

Mahjouri, S., Kasari, C., and Orlich, F. (2012) Social profiles of fully included teenagers with ASDs. *Poster at International Meeting for Autism Research*.

Mahjouri, S., Locke, J., Rotheram-Fuller, E., and Kasari, C. (2011) Usability of the playground observation of peer engagement. *Poster at International Meeting for Autism Research*.

Mahjouri, S. (2011) Moral decision making in adolescents with ASDs. *Poster at Society for Research and Child Development, biennial meeting*.

Mahjouri, S., and Kasari, C. (2011) Self-perceptions of bullying and relation to IQ in fully included students with ASDs. *Oral Presentation Symposium at Gatlinburg Conference on Disability*.

HONORS

2010 University Fellowship UCLA

2010 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award UCLA

2008 ISRP Scholarship UCLA

2007 Class Marshall Harvard University

2006 University Fellowship Harvard University

2000-2 Tisch School of the Arts Theater Scholarship New York University