

Alaina F. Brenick Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- Ph.D. Human Development, University of Maryland, College Park
Dissertation advisor: Prof. Melanie Killen
Specialization: Developmental Science
Dissertation title: Intergroup Attitudes among Children and Adolescents
Identifying with Groups in Conflict
Advanced to Candidacy: May 1, 2007
Degree expected: May, 2009
- B.A. Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Magna Cum Laude
Baltimore, MD, 2002
Honors thesis: Communication variance between traditional group therapy and art
therapy among the Schizophrenic population.

Honors & Distinctions

- 2003-2007 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/National
Institutes of Health (NIH) 4-Year Predoctoral Traineeship
- 2004 Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society
- 2003 Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society
- 2002 Phi Beta Kappa Society
- 2002 Omicron Delta Kappa Honor and Leadership Society
- 2002 University of Maryland, Baltimore County Student Affairs Leadership
Award
- 2000 University of Maryland, Baltimore County Behind the Scenes Leader of
the Year
- 2000 Psi Chi Psychology National Honor Society
- 1999 Golden Key National Honor Society

Research Awards

- 2007 Rachel M. Petty Dissertation Award, Department of Human Development, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2007 RiSE-UP (Research on Socially and Economically Underrepresented Populations) Research Award, Association for Psychological Science
- 2006 Graduate Student Travel Award, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
- 2006 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2004, 2006 Human Development Graduate Student Travel Grant, Department of Human Development, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2004 Human Development Graduate Student Research Award, Department of Human Development, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2003 Graduate Research Interaction Day Best Scholarly and Creative Research Award, Poster Presentation, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2001 Provost's Undergraduate Research Award Scholar & Grant Recipient, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Research Interests

The influence of stereotypic expectations on children's and adolescents' social reasoning about intergroup relations

The intergroup stereotypes and attitudes of children and adolescents, especially those living in areas of high conflict or identifying as a member of a group in conflict

The role of intergroup contact in reducing stereotypes

The role of the media in promoting or eliminating stereotypes

Publications

- Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., Killen, M., Fox, N. A., Raviv, A., & Leavitt, L. A. (2007). Social judgments in Israeli and Arab children: Findings from media-based intervention projects. In D. Lemish & M. Götz (Eds.), *Children and Media at Times of Conflict and War* (pp. 287-308). Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

Brenick, A., Henning, A., Killen, M., O'Connor, A., & Collins, M. (2007). Social reasoning about stereotypic images in video games: Unfair, legitimate, or “just entertainment”? *Youth and Society*, 38, 395-419.

Ardila-Rey, A., Killen, M., & Brenick A. (in press). Moral reasoning in violent contexts: Displaced and non-displaced Colombian children's evaluations of moral transgressions, retaliation, and reconciliation. *Social Development*.

Henning, A., Brenick, A., Killen, M., O'Connor, A., & Collins, M. (under review). Adolescent's perceptions of stereotypic content in video games. University of Maryland.

Brenick, A., Killen, M., Lee-Kim, J., Fox, N. A., Leavitt, L. A., Raviv, A., Masalha, S., Mura, F., & Smadi, Y. (under review). Social understanding in Israeli-Jewish, Israeli-Palestinian, Palestinian, and Jordanian 5-year old children: Moral judgments and stereotypes. University of Maryland.

Killen, M., Margie, N. G., & Brenick, A. (in preparation). Cross-race peer exclusion: The relation between personal experience and social reasoning. University of Maryland.

Fox, N. A., Killen, M., Leavitt, L. A., Raviv, A., Masalha, S., Mura, F., Smadi, Y., Brenick, A., Edmonds, C., & Lee-Kim, J. (November, 2004). Sesame Stories: Qualitative Study Report. Submitted to the Sesame Workshop, New York City.

National Conference Presentations

Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., Killen, M., Fox, N. A., & Leavitt, L. A. (2007, May). *Arab and Israeli children's stereotypes about the other and evaluations of peer intergroup exclusion*. In (J. Denver, chair), *RiSE-UP Research Award Symposium: Research on Socially and Economically Underrepresented Populations*. Symposium at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science. Washington, DC.

Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., Killen, M., Fox, N. A., & Leavitt, L. A. (2007, May). *Arab and Israeli children's stereotypes about the other and evaluations of peer intergroup exclusion*. Poster presented at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science. Washington, DC.

Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., Killen, M., Fox, N. A., & Leavitt, L. A. (2007, March). *The intergroup attitudes and stereotypes of Arab and Israeli children living in the Middle-East*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.

Margie, N. G., Brenick, A., Killen, M., Crystal, D., & Ruck, M. (2007, March). *Peer exclusion: Personal experience, moral judgments, and ethnic group membership*.

Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.

Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., Killen, M., Fox, N. A., Raviv, A., & Leavitt, L. A. (2006, June). *Intergroup judgments from Israeli and Arab children in the Middle-East*. Paper presented at the biennial convention of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Long Beach, CA.

Margie, N. G., Brenick, A., Killen, M., Crystal, D., & Ruck, M. (2006, May). *Peer victimization and moral judgments about interracial peer encounters*. Poster presented at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science. New York, NY.

Henning, A., & Brenick, A. (2005, April). *Adolescents' social evaluations of stereotypic images and themes in video games*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

Henning, A., & Brenick, A. (2004, June). *Stereotypes in video games: Is the lack of diversity viewed as problematic or legitimate by adolescents and young adults?* Poster presented at the biennial convention of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Washington, DC.

International Conference Presentations

Brenick, A., & Mayer, A. (2008, June). *Stereotypes and judgments regarding cultures in conflict: Jewish and Arab-American adolescents' intergroup attitudes*. Poster to be presented at the annual conference of the Jean Piaget Society, Quebec City, Canada.

Brenick, A., & Margie, N. G. (2008, June). *How do personal experiences with exclusion bear on adolescents' evaluations of exclusion?* Poster to be presented at the annual conference of the Jean Piaget Society, Quebec City, Canada.

Brenick, A., & Henning, A. (2004, June). *Adolescents' and young adults' evaluations of video games*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Jean Piaget Society, Toronto, Canada.

University Conference Presentations

Brenick, A. (2008, May). *Considering the outgroup when growing up amidst conflict: Arab and Israeli children's intergroup attitudes*. Paper to be presented at the University of Maryland, College of Education Graduate Research Day, College Park, MD.

Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., Killen, M., Fox, N. A., & Leavitt, L. A. (2007, April). *Arab and Israeli children's stereotypes and evaluations of intergroup exclusion*. Poster

presented at the University of Maryland Graduate Research Interaction Day, College Park, MD.

Henning, A., & Brenick, A. (2004, April). *Stereotypes in video games: Is the lack of diversity viewed as problematic or legitimate by adolescents and young adults?* Poster presented at the University of Maryland Graduate Research Interaction Day, College Park, MD.

Brenick, A., & Henning, A. (2003, April). *The morality of media: Children's recognition and reasoning about gender stereotypes in video games.* Paper presented at the University of Maryland Graduate Research Interaction Day, College Park, MD.

Brenick, A. (2002, May). *Communication variance between traditional group therapy and art therapy among the Schizophrenic population.* Poster presented at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day, Catonsville, MD.

Research Experience

- 2007-present *Dissertation Project*, Intergroup Attitudes among Children and Adolescents Identifying with Groups in Conflict (Faculty Advisor: Prof. M. Killen).
- Project involves surveying children and adolescents about their stereotypes about members of the other cultural group (Jew or Arab), evaluations of intergroup exclusion scenarios, and level of intergroup contact, assessing the influence of the Arab-Israeli conflict on these factors among American children and adolescents who identify with either group involved in the conflict yet do not currently live amid the daily violence and conflict.
- 2004-present *Research Assistant*, Sesame Street Workshop: Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian children's evaluations of conflict resolution, mutual respect, and tolerance (P.I.s: Profs. N. Fox, M. Killen, & L. Leavitt and The Michael Cohen Group, NYC).
- Project involved interviewing children in Israel, Jordan, and Palestine about their stereotypes and their social and moral judgments about intergroup relations. Duties included: data collection and analysis, developing coding system, preparing reports, and co-authorship on conference presentations and publications.
- 2003-present *Research Coordinator*, Social Evaluations of Stereotypes in Video Games (P.I. Prof. M. Killen).
- Project examined how adolescents and young adults evaluate stereotypic images portrayed in video games. Duties included: structuring the conceptual framework, developing instrument for administration, scheduling and conducting interviews, recruiting, training, and overseeing

undergraduate research assistants, managing data and files, developing coding system, data analysis, and co-authorship on conference presentations and publications.

- 2002-present *Research Assistant*, Social Reasoning about Exclusion and Rights (P.I.: Prof. M. Killen).
- Project involved interviewing children and adolescents from homogeneous and heterogeneous schools about their evaluations of exclusion based on race and ethnicity in intimate and non-intimate social contexts. Duties included: developing instrument for administration, conducting interviews, training and overseeing undergraduate research assistants, developing coding system, data analysis, and co-authorship on conference presentations and publications.

Teaching Experience

- 2008-2009 *Graduate Teaching Co-Instructor*, Apprenticeship in College Teaching: Graduate Teaching Seminar, University of Maryland, Department of Human Development
- Prepared monthly seminars for graduate instructors that relate to issues and concerns in the classroom and observed and provided feedback for new graduate instructors.
- 2008-2009 *Graduate Teaching Instructor*, Human Development through the Life-Span, University of Maryland, Department of Human Development
- Full responsibility for teaching course: planned and organized course, gave lectures, lead discussions, created assignments, wrote exams, graded papers, and evaluations.
- 2007-2008 *Graduate Teaching Instructor*, Research Methods in Human Development, University of Maryland, Department of Human Development
- Full responsibility for teaching course: planned and organized course, gave lectures, lead discussions, created assignments, wrote exams, graded papers, and evaluations.
- 2005-2007 *Instructor/Co-Facilitator*, Multiversity Intergroup Dialogue Program, Teaching and Learning about Cultural Diversity through Intergroup Dialogue, University of Maryland, Office of Human Relations Programming
- As part of a national, multi-University research initiative, co-facilitated intergroup dialogue, instructed undergraduate students in how to engage in dialogue, lead undergraduate seminar discussions on historical and current issues affecting intergroup relations, facilitated and encouraged productive intergroup dialogue among a diverse group of students, created innovative assignments for students to explore intergroup dialogue outside of the

classroom setting, completed administrative duties such as grading and advising, and supervised a junior facilitator. Co-Facilitator: T. Segar

- 2005 *Teaching Apprentice*, Research Methods in Human Development (Graduate), University of Maryland, Department of Human Development
- Assisted with administrative duties such as grade keeping, filing, and copying, prepared weekly readings and handouts, created prototypic databases for student assignments, and prepared guideline handouts for data entry and analysis. Advisor: M. Killen
- 2005 *Instructor/Co-Facilitator*, Words of Engagement: An Intergroup Dialogue Program, Teaching and Learning about Cultural Diversity through Intergroup Dialogue: Intragroup Dialogue: Jewish Story Circle, University of Maryland, Office of Human Relations Programming
- Lead undergraduate seminar discussions on current issues affecting the Jewish community, facilitated and encouraged productive intragroup dialogue among a diverse group of students, created innovative assignments for students to explore intragroup dialogue outside of the classroom setting, and completed administrative duties such as grading and advising. Co-Facilitator: B. Goldberg
- 2002-2003 *Assistant Director*, Advocates for Children Program: College Park Scholars, University of Maryland
- Taught classes throughout colloquium series: College Park Scholars Colloquium I: Advocates for Children, College Park Scholars Colloquium II: Advocacy and Discovery, advised students, organized guest speakers, field trips, and community-wide College Park Scholars service days, oversaw admittance of new students, redesigned program setup and curriculum, and assessed current program quality. Advisor: A. Battle. Co-Directors: R. Fassinger & J. Amadeo.

Professional & Scholarly Activities

- 2008 Invited Speaker, *What can Big Bird teach us about peace and justice? The role of media as an agent for social change*, Teach-in for Peace and Justice, The Park School of Baltimore
- 2007, 2008 Senior Reviewer, RiSE-UP (Research on Socially and Economically Underrepresented Populations) Research Award Competition, Association for Psychological Science
- 2007, 2008 Community Service Co-Chair, Human Development Graduate Student Organization, University of Maryland

- 2007 Reviewer, Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology Division Programming for the annual American Psychological Association Convention, APA: Division 48
- 2007 Member, RiSE-UP (Research on Socially and Economically Underrepresented Populations) Committee, Association for Psychological Science
- 2007 Reviewer, Student Grant Competition, Association for Psychological Science
- 2007 Graduate Mentor, Mentorship Program, Association for Psychological Science
- 2007 Guest Lecturer, *The effects of Sesame Street on Middle Eastern preschoolers' intergroup attitudes*, Human Development and Societal Institutions Course, University of Maryland
- 2007 Reviewer, Student Research Award Competition, Association for Psychological Science
- 2006, 2007 Project Coordinator/Manager, Kairos Management
Summer Developed and coordinated all aspects of an evaluation of the effectiveness of the District of Columbia Summer School programs. Prepared an evaluative report of the findings. Supervisor: K. Watson
- 2006, 2007 Graduate Representative, Campus Assessment Working Group, University of Maryland
- 2006 Member, Developmental Science Field Committee, University of Maryland
- 2006 Guest Lecturer, *The impact of media on young children's stereotypes and social reasoning in contexts of war and conflict*, Human Development and Societal Institutions Course, University of Maryland
- 2006 Local Planning Committee Member, the annual conference of the Jean Piaget Society
- 2006 Invited Speaker, *Managing academics and research to succeed as a graduate student*, University of Maryland, Human Development Graduate Student Organization
- 2005 Participant, *Chronic exposure to war experiences and political violence: Links to the well being of children and their families*. Regional Scientific

Workshop, International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, East Jerusalem

- 2005 Member, Association for Psychological Science (formerly American Psychological Society)
- 2005 Invited Presenter, Fox, N.A., Killen, M., Brenick, A., Lee-Kim, J., & Leavitt, L. A. (2005, November). *Sesame Stories: The impact study*. Paper presented at Sesame Workshop, New York City
- 2005 Invited Speaker, *Knowing and utilizing your departmental and university resources*, University of Maryland, Department of Human Development Presentation for Graduate Recruitment Day
- 2004, 2005 Invited Speaker, *The graduate experience of the mentorship model*, University of Maryland, Department of Human Development Presentation for Graduate Recruitment Day
- 2004, 2005 Graduate Representative, University of Maryland Senate, Academic Procedures and Standards Committee
- 2004 Member, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
- 2004 Member, Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology, Division 48, American Psychological Association
- 2003 Member, Jean Piaget Society
- 2003 Member, Human Development Graduate Student Organization, University of Maryland