

CURRICULUM VITAE
ALEXIS MERCULIEF, PH.D.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CENTER ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research investigates cultural and community resilience factors as promoters of executive function skills for children from underserved backgrounds, especially American Indian and Alaska Native communities. I also examine risk factors in the built and social environment for children and families from these communities, and how these risks impact children's behavioral and cognitive health.

EDUCATION

2023	Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies (Oregon State University)
2019	M.S., Human Development and Family Studies (Oregon State University)
2012	B.A., Psychology (Summa Cum Laude, Seattle Pacific University) Minor: Latin American Studies

RESEARCH POSITIONS

August 2023-present	Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University Center on Early Childhood Supervisor: Jelena Obradovic, Ph.D. Member of the IES (E3) Equity in Early Childhood Education Postdoctoral Fellowship
2017-2023	Graduate Research Assistant to Drs. Megan McClelland and Shannon Lipscomb (Oregon State University) Projects: Developing a Measure of Self-Regulation for Children At-Risk; Children's flame retardant exposures measured by passive wristbands
2019-2020	Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Megan Pratt (Oregon State University) Projects: Oregon Early Learners Workforce, Oregon Early Learning Structural Indicators, Annual Researcher's Roundtable, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership
2019-2020	Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. John Geldhof (Oregon State University) Projects: Green Chimneys Therapeutic Intervention for Children with Special Needs, Positive Youth Development in a Kenyan Context
2011-2015	Undergraduate and Post-baccalaureate Research Assistant Dr. Beverly Wilson (Seattle Pacific University) Projects: self-regulation in children with Autism ages 3-6 years old.

TEACHING POSITIONS

2020-2021	Instructor (Oregon State University eCampus) <i>Courses taught:</i> HDFS 361 Research Methods (5 terms)
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- 2017-2019** **Graduate Teaching Assistant** (Oregon State University)
Courses assisted: Human Sexuality (3 terms; Lectures Taught: Power and Coercion), Child Development (2 terms; Lectures Taught: Teratogens and Prematurity; Emotional and Social Development in Early Childhood), Research Methods (2 terms)
- 2011** **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant** (Oregon State University)
Courses Assisted: Child Development (1 term; Lecture Taught: Moral Development)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2018** **Graduate Intern**, Friends of the Children (FOTC; Portland, Oregon)
Duties: Revised and implemented annual Alumni survey for youth who graduated from FOTC's youth mentorship program. Collected data on youth experiences with FOTC and experiences after finishing the program including educational attainment, employment, and social support. Organized and ran a summer barbeque for Alumni and their families. Assisted with the creation of a new Alumni Council at FOTC.
- 2013-2017** **Education Case Manager, Youth Services Manager**, Seattle Indian Health Board
Duties: Supervised four staff and managed four grants (City Levy, SAMHSA, IHS, Seattle Foundation) totaling over \$1.5 million. Provided wrap-around services, advocacy, and mediation to enrolled families during meetings with Seattle Public Schools. Created and taught curriculum for supplemental educational programs: "Mathletes" Summer Camp and "Sprouts" After School Reading Program. *Accomplishments:* Earned over \$50,000 in bonus/performance pay and donations for SIHB. Led SIHB's Youth Program to score above the national average on the Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI) Assessment for School-Age Programs. Improved school attendance rates for the Youth caseload by an average of 2% (almost 4 full school days per year).

GRANT SUPPORT

Funding Type and Agency: Diversity Supplement Award (Dissertation), National Institutes of Health
Role: PhD Student Researcher (Mentee)
 Lipscomb, S., McClelland, M. M., & Kile, M. (2021-2023). *Examining Flame Retardant Exposure, Neurocognitive Effects, and Resilience Factors in Children from Underserved Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds in Preschool*. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. PI: Lipscomb.

PUBLICATIONS

- Lipscomb, S.T., **Mercurief, A.**, & Phelps, B. (2023). Measuring resilience in young children: The Child and Youth Resilience Measure- Early Childhood (CYRM-EC). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* (Under Review).
- Martin, T., **Mercurief, A.**, Young, R.I., White, L., Marshall, S.M., Waubanasum, C., White, E.J., & Russette, H. (2023). Striving to be Pono (balanced, just, fair, & hopeful): Conceptualizing an indigenous writing process from a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective. *Adversity & Resilience Science* (Under Review).
- Mercurief, A.**, Lipscomb, S.T., McClelland, M.M., Geldhof, G.J., & Tsethlikai, M. (2023). Cultural socialization promotes resilience in the context of neighborhood risk through executive function development for AI/AN preschool children. *Frontiers in Psychology*, (Under Review).

Gonzales, C., **Mercurief, A.**, Ghetti, S., & McClelland, M.M. (2022). Longitudinal relations between uncertainty monitoring, executive functioning and academic achievement during the transition to kindergarten. *Child Development, 93*(2), 1-16.

McClelland, M.M., Gonzales, C.R., Cameron, C., Geldhof, G.J., Bowles, R., Nancarrow, A., **Mercurief, A.**, & Tracy, A. (2021). The head-toes-knees-shoulders revised (HTKS-R): Links to academic outcomes and measures of EF in young children. *Frontiers in Psychology, 12*, 1-14.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Foster, S.A., Kile, M.L., Geldhof, G.J., **Mercurief, A.**, Lipscomb, S.T., MacDonald, M., McClelland, M.M., Anderson, K., Chang, S., Megowan, M., & DeRuyter, T. (2023). Have flame retardant chemical exposures changed over time? An exposure assessment using silicone wristbands among Oregonian preschool-aged children before and during the COVID-19 pandemic [Manuscript in preparation]. College of Public Health, Oregon State University.

Mercurief, A., Chen, Q., Foster, S., Ozenbaugh, I., Bradetich, A., Carlson, S., McClelland, M., & Lipscomb, S. (2023). Exploring early childhood educator experiences of workplace support and distress during the COVID-19 pandemic using multiple methods. [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Oregon State University.

Mercurief, A., McClelland, M.M., Kile, M., Geldhof, G.J., & Lipscomb, S.T., (2023). PBDE and OPFR flame retardant exposure and executive function in preschool: Racial/ethnic disparities and community resilience factors [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Oregon State University.

Mercurief, A., & McClelland, M.M. (2023). English proficiency and executive function in dual language learners enrolled in Head Start. [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Oregon State University.

Tsethlikai, M., **Mercurief, A.**, Munoz, F., Meyer, A., Sparrow, J., & Murray, D. (2023). Building a Model of Executive Function to Promote Positive Development and Reduce Harm to Indigenous Children. [Invited Manuscript in Preparation, *Child Development Perspectives*]. Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Mercurief, A., McClelland, M.M., Kile, M., Geldhof, G.J., & Lipscomb, S.T., (2023). *Disparities in PBDE and OPFR flame retardant exposure: Influences on early childhood executive function and community resilience-promoting factors* [Poster presentation]. American Public Health Association, Atlanta, GA.

Mercurief, A., Lipscomb, S.T., & McClelland, M.M. (2022). Examining risk and resilience in the built and social neighborhood environment for American Indian/Alaska Native preschool children. In Tsethlikai, M. (Chair), *Exploring Protective Factors to Promote Cognitive Development and Well-being in Indigenous Children in the Midst of Economic, Environmental, and Social Stressors* [symposium submitted for presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Mercurief, A.; Chen, Q., Foster, S.A.; Ozenbaugh, I.; Bradetich, A.; Carlson, S., Braithwaite, P., Lipscomb, S.T., & McClelland, M.M. (2022). *Early childhood teacher experiences of workplace support and self-reported distress during the COVID-19 pandemic*. [Poster presentation]. National Research Conference on Early Childhood. Virtual Conference.

Ahmadi, A., **Mercurief, A.**, & Ozenbaugh, I. (2022). *Training Executive Function in Young Children: Effects on Working Memory and Basic Math Skills*. [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Special Topics Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri.

Carlson S. L., Elliot A., Karing J., Bradetich A., **Mercurief A.**, Ozenbaugh I., Ahmadi A., & McClelland M. M. (2022). *The relationship between parent stress and preschool children's self-regulation in families with low-income*. [Poster presentation]. International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Athens, Greece.

Mercurief, A., Blodgett, J., Bolding, C.W., Asige Lawrence, M., Orucho, J., Esokomi, A., Omuse, D., & Onyiko, K. (2021). *Seeking harmony: The juxtaposition between positive and negative community influences for Kenyan youth*. [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Virtual Conference.

Geldhof, G.J., Blodgett, J., Chandler, K., Bowers, E.P., Onyiko, K., Allen, L., Bolding, C.W., McQuillin, S., **Mercurief, A.** & Thompson, D. (2021). Positive youth development across three Kenyan contexts: An inductive approach. In: Thomas, K. (Chair), *Contextual Influences on Youth Character Development: Evidence from Kenya, Brazil, and Canada*. [Paper Symposium]. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Virtual Conference.

Gonzales, C., **Mercurief, A.**, Ghetti, S., & McClelland, M.M. (2021). *Longitudinal Relations between uncertainty monitoring, executive functioning and academic achievement during the transition to kindergarten*. [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Virtual Conference.

Mercurief, A., & McClelland, M.M. (2019). *English proficiency and executive function in dual language learners enrolled in Head Start*. [Poster presentation]. Society for the Study of Human Development, Portland, OR.

Gonzales, C., **Mercurief, A.**, Sciuto, I., Tracy, A., Karing, J., & McClelland, M. (2019). *Uncertainty monitoring predicts academic achievement at the transition to kindergarten*. [Paper Symposium]. Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY.

Mercurief, A., Sciuto, I., Alonso, J., Finders, J. & McClelland, M. (2018). *Cumulative family resources and children's self-regulation: Where does change occur?* [Poster presentation]. Oregon Parenting Educators Conference, Corvallis, OR.

Mercurief, A. & Paddock, M. (2017). *From isolation to belonging: Fostering resilience in Native American youth*. Oral presentation by former colleagues at Washington State Public Health Association Conference, Wenatchee, WA.

Mercurief, A.; Wilson, B; Miller, H. & Murray, R. (2013). *Spontaneous mimicry: Reflection of facial expression in children with autism*. [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Conference, Seattle, WA.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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| 2021-2023 | Native Children's Research Exchange, Cohort 10 Scholar
Selected for 18-month fellowship and training program in Native Children's Research
Received cultural and academic mentorship, financial assistance, and tailored career development training |
| 2019 | Certificate, Early Childhood Research Summer Institute (Johns Hopkins University: Center for American Indian Health)
Attended the 2019 Tribal Early Childhood Research Summer Institute for graduate credit as a scholarship recipient. July 14-19, 2019, Baltimore, M.D. |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Indigenous Caucus Member

American Public Health Association (APHA)

Society for the Study of Human Development (SSHD)

Native Children Research Exchange (NCRE)

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

- 2023** **Reviewer, Robert Wood Johnson Evidence 4 Action Indigenous Health and Wellbeing**
Served as community peer reviewer for CFP and grant applications
- 2023** **Graduate Student Peer Reviewer, Journal of Adolescence**
Supervising Faculty: John Geldhof, Ph.D.
- 2019-2023** **Founding Member, Anti-Racism Student Group**
Member of the student-led, collaborative group dedicated to exploring topics surrounding anti-racism in academia, centered in Dr. John Geldhof's DepTH lab. Collaboratively wrote a statement of belonging for the DepTH Lab: (<https://health.oregonstate.edu/labs/DePTh/statement-of-belonging>).
- 2019-2021** **Representative, College of Public Health and Human Sciences Graduate Council (Oregon State University)**
Duties: Student representative for the Human Development and Family Studies program. Increased departmental collaboration via quarterly meetings and events including the Fall Harvest Social and Annual CPHHS Research Poster Symposium.
- 2020** **Graduate Student Representative for Human Development and Family Studies Instructor Search Committee (Oregon State University)**
Duties: Helped to create qualification matrix, screen candidates, conduct interviews, and select a new full-time Instructor for the department.
- 2019** **Graduate Student Mentor, "Yes, I Am" Student Club (Oregon State University)**
Duties: Graduate student mentor for undergraduate student club focused on self-efficacy, positivity, and mental health.
Workshops taught: Stress and Coping Mechanisms (November, 2019).
- 2013** **English Teacher and Humanitarian Worker (GoEnglish & IberoAmerican Ministries, Santiago, Chile)**
Duties: Taught basic English to adolescents and adults for six months. Assisted with Casa Esperanza children's refuge center (before and after school care for low-income children). Constructed housing for Pehuenche indigenous people of Southern Chile.