

STEPHEN BRAREN

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Education

- Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology 2021 (expected)
New York University, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
New York, NY
- B.A. in Psychology, Certificate in Public Policy 2016
Hunter College, The City University of New York
New York, NY

Research Experience

- Neuroscience and Education Lab 6-15 – Present
New York University
Principal Investigators: Clancy Blair, Ph.D. and Cybele Raver, Ph.D.
- Phelps Lab 5/15 – 6/15
New York University
Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Phelps, Ph.D.
 - Position: Research Assistant exploring the effects of aversive stimulus intensity on emotional learning and memory in humans
 - Techniques/Methods: Fear conditioning with electric shock; skin-conductance response (SCR); behavioral and self-report measures
 - Duties/Skills: program computer-based experiment tasks with E-Prime; coordinate, manage and run human participants for experiments; collect, organize, and analyze behavioral and physiological data using AcqKnowledge, SPSS, and Matlab
- Serrano Lab 8/14 – 9-15
Hunter College
Principal Investigator: Peter Serrano, Ph.D.
 - Position: Research Assistant investigating cellular and molecular neurobiological effects of various stressors on learning and memory in rodents
 - Techniques/Methods: Western blotting, confocal microscopy, *in vitro* electrophysiology, rodent behavior training and assessment
 - Duties/Skills: Run and analyze immunoblots; assist with rodent stereotaxic surgery; perform microdissections; design figures for publication using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop; write, edit, and prepare manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication
- Kaas Lab 6/14 – 8/14
Vanderbilt University
Principal Investigator: Jon Kaas, Ph.D.

- Position: Research Assistant studying the neural plasticity of the primate somatosensory cortex following spinal cord lesions
- Techniques/Methods: Immunohistochemistry, Fluorescent and light microscopy, Mapping and plotting neural tissue with Neurolucida
- Duties/Skills: Analyze fMRI, electrophysiology, flow cytometry data with Matlab and SPSS; stain brain tissue and mount to microscope slides; trace tissue sections using light microscope-computer interface

Other Academic & Professional Experience

Peer Activist Learning Community 8/15 – Present
LaGuardia Community College

- Position: Research Assistant, coordinator, and peer mentor for a program intended to engage students in a meaningful reflection and assessment of their motivation and attitude toward learning

Quantitative Biology Workshop 1/15
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Position: Participant in an intensive computational neuroscience course intended to introduce students to the practical application of computer programming to research in neurobiology

College Readiness Internship Program 9/12 – 7/14
LaGuardia Community College

- Position: Peer mentor and researcher for an outreach program offered to underprivileged and immigrant high school students to assist in their development of core college-level skills

Statistical Methods in Psychological Research Course 1/14 – 6/14
Hunter College

- Position: Teacher's assistant & tutor for an undergraduate statistics course

Peer Leaders Initiative 2/13 – 6/14
LaGuardia Community College

- Position: Tutor for undergraduate students in an introduction to psychology course

Intercollegiate Partnership Summer Science Program 6/13 – 7/13
Barnard College

- Position: Participant in intensive biology-based curriculum intended to prepare students for research and study in the natural sciences

Honors & Achievements

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship 2016 – Present
National Science Foundation

Livingston Welch Award 4/16
Hunter College

Miriam & David L. Klein Graduate Scholarship <i>Hunter College</i>	4/16
Blueprint Program for Enhancing Neuroscience Diversity through Undergraduate Research Experiences (BP-Endure; NIH-NINDS) <i>Hunter College</i>	6/14 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-year research fellowship program in Neuroscience & Psychology 	
Presidential Student Engagement Award <i>Hunter College</i>	5/15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Award in support of presenting research at the 2015 International Drug Abuse Research Society in Sydney, Australia 	
Social Science Department Honors Award <i>LaGuardia Community College</i>	6/13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit-based award in recognition of academic excellence 	
Spring Into Action Scholarship <i>LaGuardia Community College</i>	11/12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial- and merit-based scholarship awarded by LaGuardia Foundation to new or returning college students 	
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society	8/12 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-year college honor society promoting and awarding scholastic excellence and leadership 	

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Zanca, R. M., Braren, S. H., Maloney, B., Schrott, L., Luine, V., and Serrano, P. A. (2015). Environmental enrichment increases hippocampal glucocorticoid receptors and decreases GluA2 and protein kinase M zeta (PKM ζ) trafficking during chronic stress: A protective mechanism? *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 9 (303). doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2015.00303
- Braren, S. H., Drapala, D., Tulloch, I., Serrano, P. A. (2014). Methamphetamine-induced short-term increase and long-term decrease in spatial working memory affects protein Kinase M zeta (PKM ζ), dopamine, and glutamate receptors. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 8 (438). doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2014.00438

Presentations

- Braren, S. H. (2016). Increasing Equity in Educational Outcomes for Community College Students in New York City. Oral presentation given at *Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute Capstone Seminar*. New York, NY.
- Braren, S. H., Dunsmoor, J. E., Kroes, M. C. W., Phelps, E. A. (2016). Varying Stimulus Intensity

Increases Fear Generalization, but Not Fear Learning in Humans. Poster presented at *Hunter College Psychology Convention*. New York, NY.

Braren, S. H., Drapala, D., Avila, J, Serrano, P. A. (2015). Acute methamphetamine produces long-term deficits in hippocampal-dependent spatial learning and memory retention, decreases PKMzeta, GluA2 and dopamine 1 receptors (D1), and increases microglial expression. Poster presented at *Society for Neuroscience*. Chicago, IL.

Flores-Ramirez, F. J., Riggs, L. M., Alipio, J. B., Hernandez, M. A., Cruz, B., Braren, S.H., Serrano, P.A., Iniguez, S.D. (2015). Witnessing social defeat stress mediates a depression-like phenotype in female c57BL/6 mice. Poster presented at *Society for Neuroscience*. Chicago, IL.

Braren, S. H., Dunsmoor, J. E., Kroes, M. C. W., Phelps, E. A. (2015). The Effect of Unconditioned Stimulus Intensity on Fear Learning and Generalization in Humans. Poster presented at *Society for Neuroscience*. Chicago, IL.

Braren, S. H., Drapala, D., Tulloch, I., Serrano, P. A. (2014). Methamphetamine-induced short-term increase and long-term decrease in spatial working memory performance involving Protein Kinase M zeta (PKM ζ) in the hippocampus and dorsal striatum. Poster presented at *Society for Neuroscience*. Washington, DC.

Braren S. H., Serrano P. A., Michelson L., Sullivan R. M. (2014). Amygdala PKM ζ increases with functional emergence of amygdala-dependent fear learning in rat pups. Poster presented at *Society for Neuroscience*. Washington, DC.

Braren, S. H., Liao, C. C., Kaas, J. (2014). Recoveries from long-term dorsal column lesions of the spinal cord may be mediated by other spinal cord pathways. Poster presented at *Vanderbilt University Summer Science Symposium*. Nashville, TN.

Braren, S. H. (2013). Positioning theory and racial identity. Talk given at *LaGuardia Community College Social Science Symposium*. Long Island City, NY.

Braren, S. H. (2012). The role of narrative in personality development. Talk given at *LaGuardia Community College Psychology Conference*. Long Island City, NY.
