

## Aleija Rodriguez

Department of Psychology, Yale University  
100 College St., New Haven, CT, 06510  
Email: aleija.rodriguez@yale.edu

### Education

---

- Yale University** *Aug. 2025 - Present*  
*Ph.D. Student in Clinical Psychology*  
*Advisor: Arielle Baskin-Sommers, Ph.D.*
- University of Michigan – Ann Arbor** *Sept. 2019 – Apr. 2021*  
*Bachelor of Arts in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience, High Honors and Highest Distinction*  
**Honors Thesis:** Low Overexpression of Ubiquilin-2 Exacerbates Tau Pathology *in vivo*  
**Overall GPA:** 4.0 / 4.0, *summa cum laude*
- Monroe County Community College** *Sept. 2016 – May 2019*  
*Associate of Science*  
**Overall GPA:** 4.0 / 4.0, *summa cum laude*

### Honors & Awards

---

- Best Poster, Undergraduate – MADRC 5th Annual “Beyond Amyloid” Symposium *2021, June*
- Marshall Nirenberg Life Sciences Thesis Award Nomination – University of Michigan *2021, April*
- James B. Angell Scholar – University of Michigan *2021, April*
- Perrigo Biomedical Research Fellow – University of Michigan *2020, May*
- William J. Branstrom Freshman Prize – University of Michigan *2020, April*
- Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society Member – University of Michigan *2019, August*
- LEAD Scholarship Recipient – University of Michigan *2019, August*
- Outstanding Student of The Year Award – Monroe County Community College *2019, April*
- President’s Academic Achievement Award – Monroe County Community College *2019, April*

### Publications

---

- Rodriguez, A. L.**, Allen, C. H., Maurer, J. M., Edwards, B. G., Anderson, N. E., Harenski, C. L., Koenigs, M. R., & Kiehl, K. A. (2025). The Relationship Between Psychopathic Traits and Executive Functioning Among Incarcerated Men. *Frontiers in Psychiatry, 15*.  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2024.1524033>
- Gerson, J. E., Sandoval-Pistorius, S., Welday, J. P., **Rodriguez, A. L.**, Gregory, J. D., Liggins, N., Schache, K., Li, X., Trzeciakiewicz, H., Barmada, S., Sharkey, L. M., & Paulson, H. L. (2022). Disrupting the Balance of Protein Quality Control Protein UBQLN2 Accelerates Tau

Proteinopathy. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 42(9), 1845-1863.  
<https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1116-21.2021>

## **Manuscripts Under Review**

---

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Marshall, K., Brovko, J. M., & Viljoen, S. (2024). *Ethical, Practical, and Psychosocial Concerns in the Measurement and Use of the Term "Grooming"* [Revised-resubmit]. Gold Standard Forensics, LLC.

Allen, C. H., **Rodriguez, A. L.**, Maurer, J. M., Stephenson, D. D., Edwards, B. G., Anderson, N. E., Harenski, C. L., & Kiehl, K. A. (2025). *Neurobiological Structural Correlates of Executive Functioning: A Network-Based Analysis* [Manuscript under review]. Mind Research Network.

## **Manuscripts in Preparation**

---

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Shold, J. N., Allen, C. H., Chavez, M., Anderson, N. E., Kiehl, K. A., & Harenski, C. L. (2025). *The Association Between Early-Life Traumas and Sexual Sadism Among Adult Men Convicted of Sex Offenses* [Manuscript in preparation]. Mind Research Network.

## **Invited Talks & Presentations**

---

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Shold, J. N., Allen, C. H., Chavez, M., Anderson, N. E., Kiehl, K. A., & Harenski, C. L. (2024). *Examining the Relationship between Trauma, Trauma Subtypes, and Sexual Sadism Among Adult Men Convicted of Sex Offenses* [Accepted paper presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) 2025 conference, San Juan, PR, United States.

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Marshall, K., Brovko, J. M., & Viljoen, S. (2024, March 21). *Ethical, Social, and Psycholegal Considerations in the Development, Assessment, and Use of the Term "Grooming"* [Paper presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) 2024 conference, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, & Rahman-Filipiak, A. (2022, February). *Ask the Experts: A Conversation on How to Prepare for Life's Challenges as We Age* [Community presentation]. Waltonwood Carriage Park Senior Living, Canton, MI, United States.

## **Posters**

---

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Allen, C. H., Maurer, J. M., Edwards, B. G., Anderson, N. E., Harenski, C. L., Koenigs, M. R., & Kiehl, K. A. *The Relationship Between Executive Functions and Psychopathic Traits Among Incarcerated Men*. [Poster presentation]. New Mexico Psychological Association (NMPA) 2024 fall conference, Albuquerque, NM, United States.

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Allen, C. H., Maurer, J. M., Edwards, B. G., Anderson, N. E., Harenski, C. L., Koenigs, M. R., & Kiehl, K. A. *The Relationship Between Executive Functions and Psychopathic Traits Among Incarcerated Men*. [Poster presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) 2024 conference, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

**Rodriguez, A. L.**, Gerson, J., Welday, J., Gregory, J., Windle, A., Sharkey, L., & Paulson, H. *A New*

*Role for Ubiquilin-2 in Tauopathies* [Poster presentation]. Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (MADRC) "Beyond Amyloid" 2021 Research Symposium, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI, United States.

**Rodriguez, A. L.,** Gerson, J., Welday, J., Gregory, J., Windle, A., Sharkey, L., & Paulson, H. *Low Overexpression of Ubiquilin-2 Exacerbates Tau Pathology in vivo* [Poster presentation]. University of Michigan – Psychology Department 2021 Thesis Showcase, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI, United States.

**Rodriguez, A. L.,** Gerson, J., Welday, J., Gregory, J., Windle, A., Sharkey, L., & Paulson, H. *Unlocking Alzheimer's: Understanding the Link Between Tau and Neurodegeneration* [Symposium cancelled due to COVID-19]. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), 2020.

## **Grants & Other Funding**

---

### Awarded

08/2025 – 08/2028

#### **"Dean's Emerging Scholar Fellowship"**

Institution: Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Type: Internal Award

Direct Costs: \$12,500

### Not Awarded

10/2024

#### **"How Brain Regions Associated with Affective Decision-Making are Impacted by Trauma Among High- and Low-Risk Adolescents"**

Institution: National Science Foundation

Type: Graduate Research Fellowship Program

## **Research Experience**

---

### **Ph.D. Student**

*Aug. 2025 – Present*

*Mechanisms of Disinhibition Lab (Yale University)*

*PI: Arielle Baskin-Sommers*

- Examines unique social, developmental, and neurocognitive contributors to externalizing and disinhibited behaviors.

### **Research Coordinator**

*Aug. 2022 – Aug. 2025*

*Mind Research Network*

*PI: Kent Kiehl, Ph.D.*

- Primary coordinator on an R01 longitudinal study examining effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) on cognitive performance, structural and functional brain development, and criminal behavior among currently- and formerly-incarcerated populations, as well as among those civilly-committed for sex offenses.
- Conducted clinical interviews with currently- and formerly-incarcerated individuals, as well as with those civilly-committed for sex offenses, to assess domains including mood,

- psychosis, substance use, personality disorders, and trauma, among others.
- Collected MRI & fMRI data from currently-incarcerated participants, formerly-incarcerated participants, and civilly-committed sex offenders using a mobile 1.5T Siemens Avanto MRI.
- Administered and scored neuropsychological tests to currently-incarcerated participants, formerly-incarcerated participants, and civilly-committed sex offenders across New Mexico and Wisconsin.
- Developed procedures for neuropsychological testing protocols, including the creation of multiple scaled score auto-calculation tools for cognitive assessments administered across several studies. These tools have allowed for streamlined data cleaning for 1,000+ participants.
- Created & refined new onboarding, training, and research engagement procedures for undergraduate volunteers and new post-baccalaureate research staff.
- Accumulated hours of face-to-face participant data collection: 429 (361 assessment hours across 300 sessions, 68 fMRI technician hours across 65 sessions).

**Research Technician**

*May 2021 – July 2022*

*Research Program on Cognition and Neuromodulation-Based Interventions*

*University of Michigan – Ann Arbor*

*PI: Benjamin Hampstead, Ph.D.*

- Engaged in approx. 185 face-to-face interactions with elderly participants diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia of the Alzheimer's type (DAT).
- Administered neuropsychological tests to elderly participants.
- Applied transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) in 140 intervention sessions as part of the R01 Stimulation to Improve Memory (STIM) clinical study.
- Accumulated hours of face-to-face participant data collection: 309 (293 tDCS hours across 140 sessions).

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

*Jan. 2020 – May 2020*

*Affective Neuroscience & Biopsychology Lab (University of Michigan – Ann Arbor)*

*PI: Kent Berridge*

- Observed rat perfusions and paraformaldehyde brain preservation.
- Trained on liking vs. wanting addiction theory.
- Conducted optic fiber viability testing to ensure its efficiency in optogenetic testing.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

*Sept. 2019 – May 2021*

*Henry L. Paulson Research Lab (University of Michigan – Ann Arbor)*

*PI: Henry Paulson, MD, Ph.D.*

- Completed an independent honors thesis examining the relationship between tau — a protein associated with Alzheimer's disease — and minimal overexpression of ubiquilin-2, a cellular clearance protein (Advisors: Julia Gerson, Ph.D. & Laura Zahodne, Ph.D.).
- Independently analyzed protein changes in transgenic mice models through techniques such as Western blotting, immunoprecipitation, quantification of immunofluorescence imaging, and dot blotting.

## **Mentorship Experience**

---

### **Peer Mentor – Yale Sneak Peek Program**

*Aug. 2025 – Present*

- Meets at least monthly to provide 1:1 guidance to a current prospective Ph.D. applicant. We review statements of purpose, curriculum vitae, interview strategies, and other items germane to the Ph.D. application process.
  - *Note:* Mentees within the program are not restricted to applying solely for Yale’s Ph.D. program, often instead applying to a variety of programs across the United States.

### **Resident Advisor – Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS)** *Aug. 2020 – May 2021*

- Supported the well-being of 30 students and fostered community among students within the MRADS program.
- Engaged in extensive community-building events, developed success plans for each student, and kept detailed and confidential records of student information.
- Regularly advised students on how to engage with research and expand their understanding and appreciation for scientific inquiry. This included leading workshops focused on topics such as CV development, literature reviews, and research proposal development at the undergraduate level.

### **Writing Fellow – Monroe County Community College**

*Jan. 2018 – May 2019*

- Tutored college students on how to improve their writing for courses across the humanities, social sciences, and life sciences.
- Provided guidance on how to meet college-level writing expectations.

## **Clinical & Cognitive Assessments Administered**

---

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Beck Depression Inventory - II (BDI-II)           | (MSAQ)  |
| • Benson Complex Figure Test                        | • Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)  |
| • Boston Naming Test (BNT)                          | • Multilingual Naming Test (MINT)   |
| • Brief Visuospatial Memory Test - Revised (BVMT-R) | • National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) Trails A & Trails B                                   |
| • Craft Story – 21-item version                     | • Ohio State University TBI Identification Method (OSU-TBI)   |
| • Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS)   | • Psychopathy Checklist - Revised (PCL-R)   |
| • Hachinski Ischemic Scale (HIS)                    | • Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS)                            |
| • Hollingshead Socioeconomic Status Questionnaire   | • Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5, Personality Disorders Version (SCID-5-PD)                    |
| • Hooper Visual Organization Test (HVOT)            | • Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5, Research Version: Modules A, B, C, D, E, F, G, L (SCID-5-RV) |
| • Hopkins Verbal Learning Test (HVLN-R)             | • Test of Memory and Malinger   |
| • Judgment of Line Orientation (JoLO)               |   |
| • Life Events Checklist for DSM-5 (LEC-5)           |   |
| • Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE)              |   |
| • Modified Substance Abuse Questionnaire            |   |

- (TOMM)
- Trauma Checklist 2.0 (TCL 2.0)
- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - IV Digit Span (WAIS-IV)
- WAIS-IV Digit Symbol Coding
- WAIS-IV Symbol Search Task
- Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence - II (WASI-II)
- Wechsler Test of Adult Reading (WTAR)
- Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT)
- Wisconsin Card Sorting Test – Emory Short Version (WCST)

### **Professional Memberships**

---

APA Division 41 – American Psychology - Law Society (AP-LS) (Mar. 2023 – Present)

New Mexico Psychological Association (NMPA) (Sept. 2024 – Present)

### **Technical Skills**

---

- Microsoft Office (advanced ability)
- COINS data management system (advanced ability)
- REDCap data management system (intermediate ability)
- R & RStudio (introductory ability)