**DEMITRI JAMES AGUILAR**

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Lexington, KY 40517

**EDUCATION**

**University of Kentucky** Expected: May 2029 Ph.D. *Experimental Psychology*

Program Area: *Developmental, Health, and Social*

**University of South Carolina Upstate** Graduated: Fall 2023

B.S. *Psychology with Summa Cum Laude;* Minor: *Child Advocacy Studies*

Overall GPA: 4.00

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

My research examines the social issues of underrepresented populations in research. Specifically, I examined how social identity, such as race, gender, and sexuality, affect social outcomes. Another facet of my research is using the investment model to examine commitment to different educational institutions, such as undergraduate colleges.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Dr. Armenta Spring 2024

National Prostalgia Predicts Decreases in Prejudice, Ingroup Protection, and Outgroup Derogation

I contributed to a manuscript for publication investigating the relationship between national prostalgia and intergroup relations. Most of my contributions were made in the introduction and methods sections.

Dr. Barideaux Fall 2023

Heatstroke News Story: The Effect of Race and Political Ideology on the Perception of Responsibility

I conducted a research study that wanted to determine if there was an effect on the perception of responsibility based on race and political ideology when it came to the death of a child. I created stimuli, conducted data-analysis, and worked with Qualtrics. We found a significant relationship between a mother’s political ideology and blame and a mother’s race, mother’s political ideology, and participants’ political affiliation for punishment.

Dr. Barideaux and Dr. Hannay Spring 2023

Should I Stay, or Should I Go? Applying the Investment Model to College Commitment

I examined, from an academic perspective, which facet of Rusbult’s Investment model is most influential in college students’ decisions about staying at their current college or transferring to another institution. I wrote the abstract, research proposal, created stimuli, conducted data-analysis, and presented the research findings. We found that satisfaction may be driving transfer decisions when considering investment and alternatives. We found White students were more likely to transfer if they are less satisfied and an interaction between first generation students and alternatives. Lastly, we found a three-way interaction between alternatives, investments, and subjective social status.

Dr. MeekSpring 2022

Pandemic Blues: Exploring the relationship between mental well-being and socioeconomic level during the COVID-19 pandemic

I explored the relationship between mental well-being and socioeconomic level during the COVID-19 pandemic. I conducted a research study following APA guidelines, entered, collected, and analyzed data with a data-analysis program, and wrote an APA-style manuscript. We found there was no relationship between mental well-being and socioeconomic level during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Aguilar, D.**, Barideaux Jr., K.J., & Hannay, J. (2023, March 31). *Should I Stay, or Should I Go? Applying the Investment Model to College Commitment* [Poster Presentation]. 19th Annual SC Upstate Research Symposium, Spartanburg, SC. <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/scurs/2023symposium/2023posterpresentations/41/>\*

**PUBLICATIONS**

**PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION**

Barideaux Jr., K.J. **Aguilar, D.**, & Hannay, J (2023). *Should I Stay, or Should I Go? Applying the Investment Model to College Commitment.* [Manuscript in preparation].

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

Armenta, A. D., **Aguilar, D.** J., McAweeney, K., Nincehelser, S. D., & Zárate, M. A. (Under Review). National Prostalgia Predicts Decreases in Prejudice, Ingroup Protection, and Outgroup Derogation.

**HONORS & AWARDS**

Outstanding Graduate of the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Fall 2023

* Honored by university for academic, community, and research achievements during undergraduate program
* Selected from 2023-2024 graduates of the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences undergraduate program

Jerry D. Lehman Award for Outstanding Psychology Major Fall 2023

Summa Cum Laude Fall 2023

* Recognized by university for graduating with a cumulative GPA of 4.0

Winner of Best Student Poster Presentation in Psychology at SCURS\* Spring 2023

Distinction in Psychology Spring 2023-Fall 2023

* Selected by professors to collaborate with other top-achieving students in psychology
* Course focused on preparation for graduate school

Psi Chi, International Academic Honor Society for Psychology Spring 2022

Chancellor’s List (6x) Spring 2021-Fall 2023

* Recognized by university for earning a GPA of 4.0

Dean’s List (6x) Spring 2021-Fall 2023

* Recognized by university for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher

SC Life Scholarship (6x) Spring 2021-Fall 2023

* Earned at least a 3.0 GPA while completing 15 credit hours

**RESEARCH SUPPORT AND MONETARY AWARDS**

College of Arts & Sciences 2024-2025

Psychology Fellowship for Research on Intergroup Relations

Recipient: Demitri Aguilar

Mentor: Dr. Armenta

Status: Awarded

Amount: $41,500

**TEACHING EXPERIENCING**

**SERVICE WORK**

**Victimology**, *Service-Learning Project* (2023)

* Collected donations for Project R.E.S.T, which is an organization that offers various resources to help victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in Spartanburg, Union, and Cherokee County in South Carolina
* Brought awareness to the services and missions of Project R.E.S.T and SANE Nurses by talking to different organizations
* Organized a donation drive for a career fair
* Helped host a game night to gather donations

**USC Spectrum**, *Treasurer* (2021)

* Helped create a more inclusive environment for LGBT+ students on campus
* Organized presentations on various LGBT+ issues

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Direct Support Professional**, *Charles Lea Center,* Spartanburg, SC, (33 hours per week), 2022-2023

* Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED certified
* Interacted and took care of various individuals with different cognitive and physical disabilities
* Trained in the Prevention of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation
* Proficient in the documentation of events with technology
* Helped maintain the health of various individuals by distributing medications

**Shift Leader**, *Little Caesars*, Spartanburg, SC, (25 to 35 hours per week), 2020-2022

* Earned manager role by demonstrating work ethic
* Supervised a group of crew members to achieve common goals
* Served customers in a timely and professional manner

**TRAINING, SKILLS**

* Prevention of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploration
* Child Abuse Response Protocol and Recognizing and Reporting Abuse and Neglect Training
* HIPPA and confidentiality
* SPSS
* Microsoft Office
* CITI training
* RCR training