

SURYA MARIMUTHU

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EDUCATION

B.S. Cognitive Science, B.A. Psychology with Highest Honors, *UC Santa Cruz* 2025
Minor: Education
GPA: 3.94, *cum laude*
Senior Thesis: *Moral Essentialism in Parent-Child Conversations about Prosocial and Antisocial Actions*
Advisor: Dr. Maureen Callanan

HONORS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Researcher Award 2025
Department of Psychology, UC Santa Cruz

Senior Thesis Funds: \$1,000 2025
Department of Psychology, UC Santa Cruz

Dean's Honor List 2021 - 2025
UC Santa Cruz

CONFERENCE POSTERS

* Indicates equal contribution

Marimuthu, S., Popat, A. K., & Leonard, J. A. (2026, September). *"People like me will always fail": Children persist less after seeing evidence that their social group cannot succeed.* Poster submitted to the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

Marimuthu, S., Popat, A. K., & Leonard, J. A. (2026, July). *Is it me or my group? Children persist less when they attribute failure to their social group.* Poster presented at the Workshop in Social Cognitive Development, Cambridge, MA.

Marimuthu, S.,* Shachnai, R.,* Reyes Umaña, L., Erthum, A., Sims, L., & Leonard, J. A. (2026, April). *Parents calibrate taking over based on task difficulty and children's competence.* Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Montreal, CAN.

McHugh, S. R., **Marimuthu, S.**, & Callanan, M. A. (2025, May). *Parent-Child Conversations about the Apparent Motion of the Sun.* Poster presented at the Society of Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.

Marimuthu, S., & Callanan, M. A. (2024, June). *What is the essence of good and bad? Parent socialization practices and the development of moral essentialism.* Poster presented at the UC Santa Cruz Psi Chi Research Symposium, Santa Cruz, CA.

McHugh, S. R., **Marimuthu, S.**, & Callanan, M. A. (2024, March). *To correct or not to correct? Parents' reported approaches to children's scientifically incorrect ideas.* Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Shachnai, R., **Marimuthu, S.**, West, T., Mendes, W. B., & Leonard, J. A. (2026, September). *It's hard to watch children struggle: The psychophysiology of overparenting.* Talk submitted to the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

PROJECTS IN PREP

Marimuthu, S., Popat, A. K., & Leonard, J. A. Children persist less after seeing evidence that their social group cannot succeed

MANUSCRIPT IN PRESS

Marimuthu, S., (in press). Reflecting on the Struggle for Ethnic Studies. *Journal of Critical Ethnic Studies*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lab Manager June 2025 - Present
Yale University (PI: Dr. Julia Leonard)

- Designed, ran, and presented a first-author preregistered study investigating whether children are sensitive to statistical evidence indicating whether their failure on a task is specific to them or their social group.
- Led recruitment, data collection, and coding for a longitudinal study examining whether physiological stress predicts overparenting.
- Managed 13 research assistants across 13 coding schemes to examine parent-child interactions and children's persistence.
- Coordinated online and in-person testing across two museums and four preschools; managed all administrative work in the lab including IRB protocols, lab finances, and participant databases.
- Mentored and supervised 22 undergraduate research assistants.

Senior Thesis Student Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2025
UC Santa Cruz (PI: Dr. Maureen Callanan)

- Conducted a senior thesis studying whether parent-child dyads attribute others' prosocial and antisocial actions to intrinsic, moral essentialist qualities or external, situational causes.
- Established research partnerships with three Indian language schools to recruit participants for my thesis.
- Developed coding schemes for a project examining parents' verbal responses to their children's incorrect scientific beliefs and coded 25 hours of parent talk.
- Recruited and tested 40 parents and young children at a children's museum.
- Transcribed 150 parent-child conversations using Datavyu, Excel, and Otter.ai.

Summer Research Assistant June 2024 - Aug. 2024
Stanford University (PI: Dr. Hyowon Gweon)

- Tested 15 young children at a local preschool to study children's curiosity to learn about the self.
- Analyzed data in R and presented findings at an end-of-summer research symposium.
- Learned open science frameworks including preregistration, collaborative coding on GitHub and R Markdown, and sharing open-source research materials on OSF.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Oct. 2022 - Dec. 2022
UC Santa Cruz (PI: Dr. Audun Dahl)

- Coded, formatted, and organized 150 high school students' Qualtrics responses on academic integrity to analyze how and why students cheat in academic settings.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lead Tutor/Mentor June 2023 - Aug. 2023
Muindi Foundation

- Taught English and math to K-5 students from low-income, at-risk, and marginalized communities at an education nonprofit.
- Created specialized Math and English curricula for each student including book reports, oral presentations, interactive math lessons, and art projects.

RESEARCH SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** R, Python, HTML, EPICpy
- **Online Data Collection:** Qualtrics, Children Helping Science, Prolific, CloudResearch
- **Data Coding Platforms:** Datavyu, Motion Energy Analysis (MEA), Excel
- **Stimulus Development:** Powerpoint, iMovie, Canva

MENTORSHIP

Primary Mentor

Myah Salazar Salvador, Nyah Smith, Tzideny Romero

Supervising Mentor

Yale Undergraduate Research Assistants

Laura Reyes Umaña, Alyssa Erthum, Christina Norberg, Celia Hernandez, Rose Kosciuszek, Gina Jung, Liza Greenberg, Muhammad Nuliadi

Non-Yale Research Assistants

Laura Sims (University of Bath), Khalab Blagburn (Pomona College), Claire Zhang (Middlebury College), Sophie Weston (University of Bath), Emily Brendlinger (Temple University), Marionna Haynes (Temple University), Chloe Patz (Wake Forest University), Ameya Nerella (Temple University), Jiayi Song (Harvard GSE), Amy Li (UPenn)