Congratulations to SRCD's
2015 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award Winners!

Natalie H. Brito – Columbia University

Natalie Hiromi Brito is currently a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Columbia University. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology with a concentration in Human Development and Public Policy from Georgetown University in 2013. Dr. Brito's graduate training focused on how early experience influences cognitive trajectories for very young children. She has published work on learning from media, parent-child interactions, and how early experience with multiple languages influences memory during infancy. Currently, Dr. Brito is examining how early environmental variations shape the trajectory of cognitive development by connecting her previous work in memory and bilingualism with research into socioeconomic disparities and neurocognitive development.

Camelia E. Hostinar – University of Minnesota

Camelia E. Hostinar, Ph.D. earned her doctorate in Developmental Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience from the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development in 2013 and is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar at Northwestern University. Dr. Hostinar's research seeks to understand how chronic early-life stress (e.g., poverty-related family disruption, social deprivation, and child maltreatment) shapes developmental outcomes and the functioning of stress-mediating physiology, as well as how these alterations may influence later physical health. She is especially interested in examining protective factors (e.g., supportive relationships and self-regulation skills) that can buffer children and adolescents against stress and mitigate its deleterious effects on later health outcomes.

Sergey Kornilov – University of Connecticut

Sergey Kornilov received his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology (with a concentration in Language & Cognition) from the Univ. of Connecticut in 2014. Currently a Postdoctoral Associate at the Yale University Child Study Center, Dr. Kornilov works on multiple projects that range from designing assessments of language development in Arabic and Russian to molecular genetic association studies of complex traits and common neurodevelopmental disorders (i.e., developmental language disorder, reading disability, and autism spectrum disorders). His research is focused on the integration of psychometric, cognitive, and neurobiological approaches to both normative and atypical development in a variety of populations and contexts for the purpose of illuminating the complex etiological architecture of general cognition and language (both spoken and written).

Laura Kurdziel – University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Laura Kurdziel received her doctoral degree in Neuroscience and Behavior from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her work, under the advisement of Dr. Rebecca Spencer, examined the role of napping on declarative and emotional memory consolidation in preschool children. Dr. Kurdziel is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at UMass as well as an adjunct faculty member at Hampshire College and Mount Holyoke College.

Yalda T. Uhls – University of California, Los Angeles

Yalda T. Uhls, MBA, Ph.D. is a Senior Researcher at the Children's Digital Media Center-LA as well as the Director of Creative Community Partnerships at Common Sense Media, a national non-profit that helps children, families and educators navigate the digital world. Her research focuses on how older and newer media impacts the social behavior of preadolescents. In addition to her peer-reviewed published research, Dr. Uhls has co-authored an online chapter for the *Encyclopedia of Adolescence* and writes for non-academic audiences in outlets such as *HuffPost*, UCLA's *PsychologyinAction* and her own blog, *IntheDigitalAge*. Awards include UCLA's Psychology in Action Award, for excellence in communicating psychological research to audiences beyond academia as well as the UCLA Dena Chertoff Graduate Service and Madsen Distinguished Dissertation Awards.