Small Grants Program for Early Career Scholars
Key Research Areas

Research Areas	Example Topics
Attention, Learning, Memory	Attention
Attention, Learning, Memory	Executive function & inhibition
Attention, Learning, Memory	Eyewitness testimony
Attention, Learning, Memory	Habituation/information processing
Attention, Learning, Memory	Learning (conditioning/intentional/incidental etc.)
Attention, Learning, Memory	Memory
Attention, Learning, Memory	Visual scanning/eye tracking
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Affective Neuroscience
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Brain function & structure
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Brain plasticity and/or injury
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Cognitive Neuroscience
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Endophenotypes
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Genetics/epigenetics
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Neurofeedback
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Neuroimaging (MRI, fMRI, DTI, fNIRS)
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Neurophysiology (e.g. EEG/ERP/ENIRS)
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Neurotransmitters (e.g. norepinephtine, dopamine)
Biological Processes: Neuroscience and Genetics	Social neuroscience
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	AIDS/HIV
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Autonomic nervous system
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Cardiovascular (e.g., vagal tone, RSA)
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Electrodermal response/skin conductance level
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Illness/immune system
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Injury/trauma/stress
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Neuroendocrine system/cortisol/enzymes
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Nutrition
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Prenatal environment & fetal development
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Psychophysiology
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Puberty, menarche
Biological Processes: Psychophysiology	Pupillometry
Cognitive Processes	Categorization & conceptual development
Cognitive Processes	Creativity (e.g. art, drawing)
Cognitive Processes	Decision making
Cognitive Processes	Imagination/pretense/fantasy
Cognitive Processes	Intelligence/IQ
Cognitive Processes	Mathematics/numbers
Cognitive Processes	Metacognition
Cognitive Processes	Naïve theories/folk theories
Cognitive Processes	Object permanence
Cognitive Processes	Planning/future orientation/strategy
Cognitive Processes	Problem solving
Cognitive Processes	Reasoning (e.g., analogical, causal, inferential, scientific)
Cognitive Processes	Representation/symbols
Cognitive Processes	Self regulation/monitoring/control
Cognitive Processes	Source monitoring
Cognitive Processes	Spatial development

Developmental Disabilities	Assessment/diagnosis/identification/screening
Developmental Disabilities	Attention problems/attention deficit/hyperactivity
Developmental Disabilities	Autism spectrum disorders
Developmental Disabilities	Developmental delay
Developmental Disabilities	Developmental disabilities, not listed here
Developmental Disabilities	Down syndrome
Developmental Disabilities	Fetal alcohol syndrome
Developmental Disabilities	Genetic disorders (e.g. Fragile X & Williams syndrome)
Developmental Disabilities	Intellectual disability
Developmental Disabilities	Intervention/treatment/prevention
Developmental Disabilities	Language impairment and reading disabilities
Developmental Disabilities	Learning disabilities
Developmental Disabilities	Risk & protective factors in disabilities
Developmental Psychopathology	Antisocial/conduct disorder/externalizing behaviors
Developmental Psychopathology	Anxiety
Developmental Psychopathology	Assessment/diagnosis/identification/screening
Developmental Psychopathology	Bipolar disorder
Developmental Psychopathology	Borderline personality disorder
Developmental Psychopathology	Depression/Mood disorders
Developmental Psychopathology	Eating Disorders
Developmental Psychopathology	Fears/phobias
Developmental Psychopathology	Internalizing problems
Developmental Psychopathology	Intervention/prevention/institutionalization
Developmental Psychopathology	Mental illnesses, not listed here
Developmental Psychopathology	Personality problems/disorders
Developmental Psychopathology	Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
Developmental Psychopathology	Risk and protective factors in Psychopathology
Developmental Psychopathology	Risk taking/substance abuse
Developmental Psychopathology	Suicide, self-harm
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Access/Power/Privilege
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Activism/Allyhood/Participatory Action Research
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Civic/political engagement
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	BlackLivesMatter
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Classism
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Disadvantage.Marginalization/Oppression
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Discrimination
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Diversity
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Equality/Equity/Fairness
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Heterosexism
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Human Rights
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Intergroup relations: Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Bias
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Intersectionality
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Poverty/SES/Social Class
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Social Justice
Diversity, Equity & Social Justice	Sexism
Education, Schooling	Academic achievement and failure
Education, Schooling	Assessment and testing
Education, Schooling	Classroom behavior
Education, Schooling	Community/civic engagement
Education, Schooling	Computers/technology

Education, Schooling	Curriculum & instruction
Education, Schooling	Delinquency
Education, Schooling	Development of educators/teacher training
Education, Schooling	Extracurricular activities
Education, Schooling	Family influences
Education, Schooling	Geography/maps
Education, Schooling	Gifted/talented
Education, Schooling	Home schooling
Education, Schooling	Literacy
Education, Schooling	Mathematics/Science/STEM
Education, Schooling	Motivation
Education, Schooling	Music education
Education, Schooling	Parent involvement
Education, Schooling	Physical education/play
Education, Schooling	Post-secondary education
Education, Schooling	School climate
Education, Schooling	School discipline
Education, Schooling	School engagement
Education, Schooling	School racial/ethnic diversity
Education, Schooling	School transitions
Education, Schooling	Special needs
Education, Schooling	Teacher-student relationships
Education, Schooling	Technology & media
Family Context & Processes	Adolescent parents
Family Context & Processes	Adoption and foster care
Family Context & Processes	Cultural differences
Family Context & Processes	Divorce/custody/remarriage/co-parenting
Family Context & Processes	Domestic violence
Family Context & Processes	Family decision making
Family Context & Processes	Family dynamics
Family Context & Processes	Family resources (e.g., income)
Family Context & Processes	Family structure/single parenting
Family Context & Processes	Grandparents/intergenerational relationships
Family Context & Processes	Homelessness
Family Context & Processes	Incarcerated parents
Family Context & Processes	Intervention/treatment/prevention
Family Context & Processes	Marital relationships/conflict
Family Context & Processes	Military families
Family Context & Processes	Multiracial families
Family Context & Processes	Pregnancy/birth
Family Context & Processes	Risk
Family Context & Processes	SES/Poverty
Family Context & Processes	Siblings/sibling relationships
Family Context & Processes	Social support
Family Context & Processes	Transition to parenthood
Health, Growth, Injury	Chronic illness
Health, Growth, Injury	Eating behavior
Health, Growth, Injury	Health attitudes/behavior
Health, Growth, Injury	Health disparities
Health, Growth, Injury	Health promotion
Health, Growth, Injury	Injury/injury prevention
Health, Growth, Injury	Institutionalization

Health, Growth, Injury	Nutrition/underweight/obesity
Health, Growth, Injury	Prematurity
Health, Growth, Injury	Prevention
Health, Growth, Injury	Resilience
Health, Growth, Injury	Risk behaviors & substance abuse
Health, Growth, Injury	Sexual abuse
Health, Growth, Injury	Sleep
Health, Growth, Injury	Teen pregnancy
Health, Growth, Injury	Well-being
Language, Communication	Assessment
Language, Communication	Babbling
Language, Communication	Bilingual/second language
Language, Communication	Gesture/non-verbal communication/sign language
Language, Communication	Grammar/syntax
Language, Communication	Lexical development & language comprehension
Language, Communication	Narrative and conversation
Language, Communication	Phonology/speech/speech perception
Language, Communication	Pragmatics
Language, Communication	Prosody
Language, Communication	Psycholinguistics
Language, Communication	Reading
Methods, History, Theory	Assessment/testing
Methods, History, Theory	Cross-cultural methodology
Methods, History, Theory	Developmental trajectories
Methods, History, Theory	Evolutionary theory
Methods, History, Theory	Experimental methodology
Methods, History, Theory	Historical topics
Methods, History, Theory	Intervention assessment
Methods, History, Theory	Item Response Theory (IRT)
Methods, History, Theory	Longitudinal methodology/analysis
Methods, History, Theory	Measurement issues
Methods, History, Theory	Meta-analysis
Methods, History, Theory	Modeling (e.g., SEM)
Methods, History, Theory	Observational methodology
Methods, History, Theory	Policy analysis
Methods, History, Theory	Program evaluation
Methods, History, Theory	Qualitative methodology
Methods, History, Theory	Reliability/validity
Methods, History, Theory	Sampling/generalization
Methods, History, Theory	Statistical techniques
Methods, History, Theory	Survey methodology
Methods, History, Theory	Teaching developmental science
Methods, History, Theory	Theories of development
Moral Development	Aggression
Moral Development	Civic engagement
Moral Development	Empathy
Moral Development	Moral cognition
Moral Development	Moral development
Moral Development	Prosocial behavior
Moral Development	Socialization
Moral Development	Spirituality/religion

Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Abuse/neglect
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Adoption and foster care
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Attachment
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Discipline
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Father-child relationships
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Parent-child communication
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Parent-child conflict
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Parental monitoring and control
Parenting & Parent-Child Relationships	Parenting style
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Auditory perception
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Balance/posture
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Cross-modal perception
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Face perception
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Hearing/hearing impairment/deafness
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Locomotion
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Manual Behavior
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Object perception
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Olfaction/taste perception
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Play
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Reflexes
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Sports/aerobic exercise
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Time perception
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Touch
Perceptual, Sensory, Motor	Vision/visual perception/blindness
Prevention and Interventions	Attention training
Prevention and Interventions	Cognitive Behavior Therapy
Prevention and Interventions	Community Interventions
Prevention and Interventions	Early intervention
Prevention and Interventions	Learning Intervention
Prevention and Interventions	Family interventions
Prevention and Interventions	Head start
Prevention and Interventions	Home visiting
Prevention and Interventions	Internet based interventions
Prevention and Interventions	Inpatient/Hospital settings
Prevention and Interventions	Mental health Interventions
Prevention and Interventions	Parenting interventions
Prevention and Interventions	Prevention Science
Prevention and Interventions	Public Health Interventions
Prevention and Interventions	Randomized Clinical Trials
Prevention and Interventions	School-based interventions
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Acculturation
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Biracial, multiracial
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Community/neighborhood
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Cross-cultural differences & comparisons
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Cultural identity practices & beliefs within a culture
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Discrimination/prejudice
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Ethnic differences
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Immigration
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Intergroup attitudes/Relationships
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Juvenile justice
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Military service

Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Political conflict/natural disasters
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Poverty/welfare
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Race or ethnic identity
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Racial/ethnic socialization
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Schools
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Social class/SES
Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Context	Stereotypes
School Readiness/Childcare	Child care
School Readiness/Childcare	Infant Care
School Readiness/Childcare	Preschool/pre-kindergarten
School Readiness/Childcare	School readiness
Sex, Gender	Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender issues
Sex, Gender	Gender identity
Sex, Gender	Gender socialization
Sex, Gender	Gender stereotyping
Sex, Gender	Same-sex schooling
Sex, Gender	Sex differences, Gender differences
Sex, Gender	Sex education
Sex, Gender	Sexual behavior
Sex, Gender	Sexual discrimination, sexual harassment
Sex, Gender	Sexuality
Social Cognition	Emotion knowledge
Social Cognition	Imitation
Social Cognition	Intention/joint attention
Social Cognition	Social cognition/social learning
Social Cognition	Social information processing
Social Cognition	Theory of mind
Social Policy	Child Care
Social Policy	Early childhood education
Social Policy	Family planning
Social Policy	Health
Social Policy	Income support and anti-poverty policy
Social Policy	K-12 education
Social Policy	Marriage and family structure
Social Policy	Parenting and family support
Social Policy	Paternal engagement and child support
Social Policy	Policy and program evaluation
Social Policy	Policy implementation
Social Relationships	Aggression
Social Relationships	Bullying/victimization
Social Relationships	Conflict
Social Relationships	Dating/intimacy/romance
Social Relationships	Friendships
Social Relationships	Peer relationships
Social Relationships	Social networks
Social Relationships	Social skills
Social Relationships	Social status/popularity/rejection/isolation
Social Relationships	Social support
Social Relationships	Social withdrawal

Social, Emotional, Personality	Body image
Social, Emotional, Personality	Coping, response to stress
Social, Emotional, Personality	Ego development
Social, Emotional, Personality	Emotion expression
Social, Emotional, Personality	Emotion recognition
Social, Emotional, Personality	Emotion regulation
Social, Emotional, Personality	Emotion socialization
Social, Emotional, Personality	Identity
Social, Emotional, Personality	Personality
Social, Emotional, Personality	Representations
Social, Emotional, Personality	Self concept/perception
Social, Emotional, Personality	Self esteem
Social, Emotional, Personality	Socialization
Social, Emotional, Personality	Temperament

Technology, Media & Child Development	Children as producers and consumers of media
Technology, Media & Child Development	Digital media
Technology, Media & Child Development	Film and Television
Technology, Media & Child Development	Gamification
Technology, Media & Child Development	Internet/video game addiction
Technology, Media & Child Development	Passive mobile sensing
Technology, Media & Child Development	Smartphones
Technology, Media & Child Development	Social Media
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology and media in service of development
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology and cognitive development
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology and cognitive training
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology and family relations
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology and media as tools/interventions
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology and sleep
Technology, Media & Child Development	Technology in schools/education
Technology, Media & Child Development	Video Games
Technology, Media & Child Development	Wearable computing