

Emily E. Little, Ph.D.

emilyelysialittle.com | 707-391-7477 | emelysialittle@gmail.com

I am a researcher trained in experimental psychology examining maternal and infant health behavior from a cultural and psychological perspective. I am currently a postdoctoral researcher at University of Texas for Project RISE, a Gates-funded research project investigating rituals surrounding maternal health behavior. I am also the founder and director of Nurturely, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using research and outreach to eliminate socioeconomic disparities in infant health and development.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** May 2017
University of California, San Diego
Developmental Psychology, Specialization in Anthropogeny
Dissertation: “Culture, carrying, and communication: The role of mother-infant physical contact in maternal responsiveness”
- M.A.** June 2013
University of California, San Diego
Developmental Psychology
Thesis: “Books and baby time: The effect of early experiences on deferred imitation in infancy”
- B.A.** May 2011
University of Colorado at Boulder
Psychology, *summa cum laude*

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Postdoctoral Scholar, Project RISE** Dec 2017- present
University of Texas at Austin

PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS (N = 2)

- Little, E.E.,** Legare, C.H., & Carver, L.J. (2018). Mother-infant physical contact predicts responsiveness to hunger cues among U.S. breastfeeding mothers *Nutrients*, *10*, 1251. doi:10.3390/nu10091251 ([link](#))
- Little, E.E.,** Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (2016). Cultural variation in triadic infant-caregiver object exploration. *Child Development*, *87*(4) 1130–1145. doi:10.1111/cdev.12513 ([link](#))

SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS (N = 3)

- Little, E.E.,** Legare, C. H., & Carver, L.J. (under review). Culture, carrying, and communication: The effect of physical contact on responsiveness and mother-infant interaction. *Infant Behavior & Development*.
- Little, E.E.,** Polanco, M.A., Baldizon, S.R., Wagner, P., & Shakya, H. (under review). Community diffusion of breastfeeding knowledge and health-promoting practices in rural Guatemala. *Social Science & Medicine*.
- Little, E.E.,** Broesch, T., Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (under review). Cultural variation in infant emotion expression during dyadic interaction. *Infant Behavior and Development*.

IN-PREP MANUSCRIPTS (N = 6)

Little, E.E., Legare, C. H., & Carver, L.J. (in prep). Culturally-mediated parenting beliefs predict responsiveness to infant satiation cues during feeding. *Childhood Obesity*.

Little, E.E., Bain, L., Leon, A., Selchau, K., Chousa, L., Svistoonoff, N., Reyes, M.L., Legare, C.H., Hahn-Holbrook, J. (in prep) Effect of mother-infant physical contact on breastfeeding exclusivity and duration among low-income Latina mothers. *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Hahn-Holbrook, J. & **Little, E.E.** (in prep). Breastfeeding-induced prolactin predicts maternal behavior. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

Little, E.E. & Legare, C. H. (in prep). Global perinatal rituals and their association with infant and maternal risk: A review.

Little, E.E., Gagneux, P., Rossano, F. (in prep) Primate mother-infant communication preceding nursing.

Little, E.E., Kim, J., & Hahn-Holbrook, J. (in prep) The effect of skin-to-skin wraps on breastfeeding outcomes, infant physiology, and maternal confidence: A randomized controlled trial in the neonatal intensive care unit.

REFEREED CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA (N = 3)

Little, E.E. (Chair), Mannen, E., & Williams, L.R., (2019). Keep on carrying on: Infant carrying effects on early nutrition, motor development, and social interaction. Oral symposium submitted to the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Bigelow, A. (Chair), **Little, E.E.,** Williams, L.R., (2018). To have and to hold: The impact of mother-infant physical contact on infants, mothers, and their relationship. Oral symposium presented at the World Association for Infant Mental Health, Rome, Italy.

Little, E.E. (Chair), Karasik, L., & Bigelow, A. (2017). Culture, carrying, and contact: Developmental implications of culturally-mediated mother-infant physical contact. Oral symposium presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS (N = 4)

Little, E.E., Broesch, T., Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (2018) Cultural variation in infant emotion expression during dyadic interaction. Paper presented at the Cultural Evolution Society, Tempe, AZ.

Little, E.E., Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (2017). The effect of culturally-mediated mother-infant physical contact on breastfeeding responsiveness. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.

Little, E.E., Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (2015). “WEIRD” parenting: Cultural variation in triadic infant-caregiver object exploration. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.

Little, E.E., Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (2014). Infant-caregiver communication and object exploration in two cultures. Paper presented at the Jean Piaget Society, San Francisco, CA.

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REFEREED CONFERENCE POSTERS ($N = 7$) *denotes undergraduate student

Little, E.E., Bain, L., Leon, A., Selchau, K., Chousa, L., Svistoonoff, N., Reyes, M.L., Legare, C.H., Hahn-Holbrook, J. (2018) Effect of mother-infant physical contact on breastfeeding exclusivity and duration among low-income Latina mothers. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association, San Diego, CA.

*Ward, A., **Little, E.E.**, & Carver, L.J. (2017). An exploration of parenting beliefs and infant feeding practices in the U.S. Poster presented at the Conference for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, San Diego, CA.

Little, E.E., Legare, C. H., & Carver, L.J. (2016). The effect of babywearing on maternal responsiveness and infant social expectations. Poster presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies, New Orleans, LA.

Little, E.E. (2016). An examination of breastfeeding-related infant-caregiver communication in rural Guatemala. Poster presented at the International Summit on Social and Behavior Change Communication, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Little, E.E., Carver, L.J. & Legare, C. H. (2015). Culturally-mediated contingent responsiveness during breastfeeding interactions. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.

Little, E.E. & Carver, L.J. (2015). Multi-modal variation of the still-face paradigm shows cultural differences in expectations for social interaction. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.

Little, E.E., & Carver, L.J. (2013). Books and Baby Time: The effect of early experiences on deferred imitation in infancy. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Memphis, TN.

INVITED TALKS ($N = 4$)

Little, E.E. (2018). The science & nature of breastfeeding: How to support breastfeeding from a cultural, biological, and psychological perspective. Paper presented at Healthy Start's Educational Quality Circle.

Little, E.E. (2017). The changing culture of infancy: Revisiting the importance of mother-infant physical contact for early social, emotional, and cognitive development. Paper presented at the New York Young Child Expo, New York, NY.

Little, E.E. (2016). The culture and science of babywearing. Paper presented at the Babywearing International SoCal Summit, San Diego, CA.

Little, E.E. (2016). The culture and science of babywearing. Paper presented at the BOND Conference, New York, NY.

SCIENCE WRITING ($N = 3$)

Little, E.E. (2016). Kangaroo care: The research behind the benefits of babywearing. Tula Baby Blog, San Diego, CA. ([link](#))

Little, E.E. (2016). Incorporating skin-to-skin contact into your babywearing routine. Tula Baby Blog, San Diego, CA. ([link](#))

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Little, E.E. (2016). Hush little baby: What science says about babywearing and reduced crying. Tula Baby Blog, San Diego, CA. ([link](#))

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

C. for Academic Research & Training in Anthropogeny University of California, San Diego	Sept 2015-June 2017 Graduate fellowship
Friends of the International Center University of California, San Diego	June 2015-Aug 2016 Graduate fellowship
Tinker Foundation University of California, San Diego	June 2015-Aug 2016 Graduate fellowship
Institute for International Comparative and Area Studies University of California, San Diego	June 2014-Aug 2015 Graduate fellowship

TEACHING POSITIONS

Lecturer, University of California, San Diego	June 2017 - Dec 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Social Psychology- Recommended by 98% of students▪ Cognitive Development in Infancy- Recommended by 100% of students▪ Psychology- Recommended by 98% of students	
Instructional Assistant, University of California, San Diego	Jan 2014 - May 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Social Development▪ Developmental Foundations▪ Developmental Psychology▪ Introduction to Social Psychology▪ Conceptions of Intelligence▪ Criminology▪ Parenting	

HEALTH OUTREACH POSITIONS

Founder & Director Nurturely	Jan 2017 - present
Consultant Project Concern International	July 2015- present

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MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

Developmental Psychology
Infant Behavior and Development
Emotion
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Faculty Search Committee University of California, San Diego	Sept 2013- June 2014 Graduate rep
Career Transition Committee University of California, San Diego	Sept 2015- June 2016 Graduate rep
Colloquium Committee University of California, San Diego	Sept 2013- June 2014 Graduate rep

OTHER MENTORSHIP/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin Texas	Dec 2017- present Postdoctoral mentor
UCSD Developmental Neuroscience Lab California	Aug 2012-June 2017 Graduate mentor
Adventures Cross-Country Costa Rica, Dominican Republic	June 2011- Aug 2012 Youth immersion leader
Ukiah Unified School District Ukiah, California	Sept 2011-Dec 2011 Substitute teacher
Phoenix Wittaya School Thailand	May 2010- Mar 2011 English teacher

INTERNATIONAL FIELDWORK

Breastfeeding practices in rural Guatemala Huehuetenango, Guatemala	July 2015-Sept 2016
Emotional displays and expectations for contingency Cochabamba, Bolivia	June 2014-Aug 2014
Exploring different modalities of play and pedagogy Tanna, Vanuatu	June 2013-Aug 2013

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

Babywearing International San Diego, California	Jan 2016- March 2018 Babywearing educator
Surfrider Foundation San Diego, California	Aug 2015- Mar 2018 Committee co-leader
UCSD International Center San Diego, California	Jan 2015-June 2015 Class coordinator
Sustainable Bolivia Cochabamba, Bolivia	July 2014- Sept 2014 Health volunteer
Christel House Academy Cape Town, South Africa	Feb 2007- Mar 2007 Classroom volunteer

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Lactation Educator Counselor
(June 2015) University of California, San Diego

Certified Teaching English as a Foreign Language Instructor
(November 2006) TEFL Buenos Aires, Argentina

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

World Association for Infant Mental Health

Society for Research in Child Development

Cultural Evolution Society

REFERENCES

Cristine Legare
legare@austin.utexas.edu

Leslie Carver
ljcarver@ucsd.edu

Jennifer Hahn-Holbrook
jhahn-holbrook@ucmerced.edu