

Sylvia Havadtoy Branca

Curriculum Vitae

Updated Spring, 2018

San José State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0071

sylvia.branca@sjsu.edu
sbranca@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of Texas at Austin**
2005 Human Development and Family Sciences
Committee: Dr. Theodore (Ted) Dix, Dr. Aletha C. Huston, Dr. Edward Anderson
Understanding How Parenting and Authoritarian Beliefs Affect Perceptions of Parenting.
- M.A. **San José State University**
1999 Psychology (Developmental)
Committee: Dr. Robert Cooper, Dr. Mary Masters, Dr. Amy Strage
The Effect of Instruction Manipulation on the Academic Performance of Children.
- B.A. **San José State University**
1996 Psychology with a minor in Child Development, *cum laude*

CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2018-present **Adjunct Lecturer:** Psychology
San José State University
- 2015-present **Adjunct Lecturer:** Child and Adolescent Development
San José State University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-present **Primary Investigator:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University
Pre-Survey data collected from undergraduate students Sep '18 with Dr. Slusser
Study Title: Enhancing Student Engagement and Class Climate in Large Lecture Courses
- 2018-present **Faculty Mentor:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University
LCOE Student Research Award Recipient and Mentee, Melody Mann
Research Focus: Effects of Caregivers' Practices on Young Children's Development
- 2017 **Primary Investigator:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University
RSCA funded research on parental attributions and emotion regulation
Research Focus: Parental Emotion Regulation, Authoritarian Beliefs, and Attributions
- 2011-2012 **Research Associate:** Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory, UT Austin
Provided research/grant writing support to the director of the laboratory school
Authored Article: Lab School Explores Innovative Outdoor Play Space
Supervisor: Rhonda Hauser, M.A.
- 2005-2007 **Research Consultant:** VSA Arts of Texas
Provided research/evaluation for a nonprofit agency promoting accessible arts education
Authored Report: Teacher Survey Final Report – Arts Alive
Supervisor: Celia Hughes, M.A.

- 2001 **Research Assistant:** Psychology, University of Texas at Austin
 Parenting and Family Violence Research Lab
 Conducted research and examined the effectiveness of a parent education program
Poster Presentation: Evaluating Middle Way: Lasting Change in Parent Education
 Supervisor: George Holden, Ph.D.
- 1996-2000 **Research Technician/Research Assistant:** Psychology, San José State University
 Social-Emotional Research Lab
 Performed all aspects of research (data collection, coding, analyses, document findings)
Research Focus: The Socialization of Emotion in Children
 Supervisor: Mildred Alvarez, Ph.D.
- 1999-2003 **Research Assistant:** Human Development & Family Sciences, UT Austin
 Center for Public Policy Research
 Performed all aspects of research (data collection, coding, analyses, document findings)
Research Focus: Evaluation of a Work-Based, Anti-Poverty Demonstration Program
 Supervisor: Aletha Huston, Ph.D.
- 1998 **Research Assistant:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University
 Interviewed school principals, conducted teacher focus groups for HUD funded research
Research Focus: Parent Involvement in Schools
 Supervisor: Kathleen Densmore, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Child Development

Child & Adolescent Development 60 (service learning)
Teaching Evaluations: 4.8/5.0 (F17)

F18, F17, S17, F16, S16, F15
 San José State University

Lifespan Development in the 21st Century

Child & Adolescent Development 70
Teaching Evaluations: 4.9/5.0 (S18)

F18, S18, F17
 San José State University

General Psychology

Psychology 001

F18
 Evergreen Valley College

Child Development

Family and Consumer Studies 70

S18
 Evergreen Valley College

Ethical, Philosophical, & Professional Dev. Issues (upper division)

Human Development and Family Sciences 340

F10
 University of Texas at Austin

Developmental Psychology

Psychology 33

S04
 Southwestern University

Child Development

Human Development and Family Sciences 313 (lab component)

S11,S03
 University of Texas at Austin

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED / EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

- Special Education Tutor**, Dartmouth Middle School, San Jose, CA 2017
- Provided weekly, one-on-one academic tutoring and executive function skill development to support middle school autistic students' well-being
- Substitute Teacher**, Alta Vista Elementary School, Los Gatos, CA 2014, 2016-2017
- Performed classroom teaching/behavior management duties as a substitute teacher in regular and special education classrooms
- Evaluation Specialist**, Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT), San Jose, CA 2014-2015
- Led focus groups with K-8 teachers regarding development and implementation of hands-on, Common Core lessons and teacher professional development trainings
 - Designed and implemented quantitative and qualitative evaluation measures for classroom-based, K-12 hands-on STEAM activities
 - Performed data entry, data analyses, synthesized evaluation findings for dissemination
- Response to Intervention Teacher**, Alta Vista Elementary School, Los Gatos, CA 2013-2014
- Created and implemented original classroom-based literacy intervention activities for at-risk students struggling with reading and phonemic awareness
 - Documented children's developmental progress using grade-level academic assessment measures
 - Worked closely with classroom teachers to monitor and assess children's literacy skills and academic progress
- Parent Educator**, Parents of Newborns Project, Family Connections, Austin, TX 2004-2005
- Provided in-hospital visits to teen-aged mothers on maternal and child well-being including infant health and safety, breast-feeding, and attachment
 - Conducted weekly phone consultations with mothers to answer questions about infant care and development, parenting, and social support
- Parent Trainer**, The Middle Way Program, Family Forward, Austin, TX 2001-2002
- Taught a mandatory, 16-week parent-education program for parents seeking renewed custody of their children
 - Prepared and delivered lectures on child development, attachment, developmental milestones, emotion-regulation, and positive parenting
 - Facilitated support-group discussions with parents regarding parenting challenges
- Program Evaluation Assistant**, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX 2002
- Managed and organized administrative data including children's academic achievement and teachers' professional development records
 - Interviewed school principals regarding the implementation and success of summer school programs designed to promote at-risk children's academic achievement
 - Synthesized qualitative data for dissemination and developed observational measures for gathering data in classroom settings

PUBLICATIONS

Dix, T., & Branca, S. H. (2003). Parenting as a goal-regulation process. In L. Kuczynski (Ed.), *Handbook of the Dynamics in Parenting*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Note: Presented under maiden name Havadtoy and married name Branca.

**Denotes student co-author.*

*Mann, M. & **Branca, S.H.** (2019, April). Teacher responses to child noncompliance in early care settings. Poster presented at the Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference (SPARC), San José State University, San Jose, CA.

Branca, S.H. (April, 2017). Authoritarian beliefs affect mothers' appraisals of real-time parent-child interaction. Poster presented at the meeting of the Western Psychological Association (WPA), Sacramento, CA.

Mistry, R. S., Bos, J., Shim, M., **Branca, S. H.**, & Cummings, J. (April, 2003). Examining the relations of parents' employment and income source to youth risk and resilience: Does family process matter? In R. S. Mistry (Chair) Employment, Welfare, Income, and Adolescent Outcomes in the Context of Welfare Reform. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Tampa, FL.

Huston, A. C., Mistry, R., Bos, J., **Branca, S. H.**, & Shim, M. (November, 2002). Parental employment and adolescent well-being: Are parents' employment and income source related to youth risk and resilience? Paper presented for a panel at the 24th annual conference of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Dallas, TX.

Hawk, K. C., **Branca, S. H.**, Ragan, J., & Holden, G. (2002, March). Evaluating middle way: Lasting change in parent education. Poster presented at the meeting of the Southwestern Society for Research in Human Development (SWSRHD), Austin, TX.

Havadtoy, S. (April, 2001). The relationship between maternal well-being and child well-being: Comparing a direct and an indirect effects model in a low-income sample. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Minneapolis, MN.

Havadtoy, S., Alvarez, M. M., Ruggles, V., Teerman, G. C., & Marquez, H. (April, 1999). Socialization of emotion in children: The relationship between maternal self-expressiveness and emotion language. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Albuquerque, NM.

OTHER SCHOLARLY WORK

Note: Presented under maiden name Havadtoy and married name Branca.

Branca, S.H. (2016, April). How to think critically about any topic. Poster presented at the Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Project Showcase, San José State University, San Jose, CA.

Branca, S. H. (2011, October). Lab school explores innovative outdoor play space. Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory Newsletter, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Branca, S. H. (2005). Understanding how parenting and authoritarian beliefs affect perceptions of parenting. (Doctoral dissertation). University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. Can be retrieved from <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/1515/brancad15128.pdf;sequence=2>

Havadtoy, S. (1999). The effect of instruction manipulation on the academic performance of children. (Master's Thesis). San José State University, San Jose, CA. Can be retrieved from http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/etd_theses/1931

GRANTS

2016 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) Grant – San José State University
Does Parental Emotion Regulation Mediate the Relationship Between Authoritarian Beliefs and Attributions for Children's Behavior?

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Active Learning Certification, Center for Faculty Development/eCampus
San José State University, June 8, 2018

Invited Speaker, Engaging for Success: An Inclusive Dialogue with Students, Faculty, and Staff
A Place for All: The Importance of Classroom Climate in Fostering Inclusion
San José State University, May 1, 2018

Parent Education Workshop Presenter, Associated Students Child Development Center
Promoting Positive Parent-Child Interactions: and Helping Children Learn Valuable Skills
San José State University, April 19, 2017

Invited Speaker, Graduate Seminar of MA Research and Experimental Psychology (Psy 280)
Navigating the Path Through Graduate School and Beyond
San José State University, Sept 20, 2016

SJSU Delegate, CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning Summer Institute
What Works: Designing Teaching for Diverse Learners
California State University Long Beach, Chancellor's Office, July 12-14, 2016

Faculty Participant, Professional Development Training
Strategies for Addressing (and Avoiding) Classroom Behavior Management Issues
San José State University, Dec 4, 2015

AWARDS

2016 AANAPISI Faculty Writing Workshop Award – San José State University
2004 College of Natural Sciences Special Fellowship Award – University of Texas at Austin
2003 Continuing Bruton Fellowship – University of Texas at Austin
2000 Professional Development Travel Award – University of Texas at Austin (& 2001, 2003)
1998 Ronald G. Rabedeau Memorial Scholarship for Achievement in Psychology – San José State University
1999 Alumni Association Scholarship in Recognition of Outstanding Academic Accomplishments – San José State University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association

Center for Faculty Development, SJSU

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

Society for Research in Child Development

Western Psychological Association

CALIFORNIA 30-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHING PERMIT (K-12)

2013, 2017