

# Sylvia Havadtoy Branca

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of Texas at Austin**  
2005 Human Development and Family Sciences  
Committee: Dr. Theodore 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

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-present **Primary Investigator:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University  
With Dr. Slusser, examining the nature of class climate in large, lecture courses  
*Study Title: Understanding Student Expectations and Experiences in Large Classes*
- 2018-2020 **McNair Faculty Mentor:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University  
Advisor to McNair Student/LCOE Student Research Award Recipient, Melody Mann  
*Study Title: Understanding Teacher-Child Interactions in Early Care Settings*
- 2017 **Primary Investigator:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University  
RSCA funded research examining parental attributions and emotion regulation  
*Study Title: Does Parental Emotion Regulation Mediate the Relationship Between Authoritarian Beliefs and Attributions for Children's Behavior?*
- 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 Essay: 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.



**PUBLICATION**

Dix, T., & Branca, S. H. (2003). Parenting as a goal-regulation process. *Handbook of the Dynamics in Parenting, 167-187*. Sage Publications.

**EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

**Special Education Tutor**, Dartmouth Middle School, San Jose, CA 2017

- Provided one-on-one tutoring and executive function skill development to middle school student diagnosed with Autism

**Substitute Teacher (Regular & Spec. Education)**, Alta Vista Elementary School, Los Gatos, CA 014, 2016-2017

- Taught in K-3 classrooms as a substitute regular and special education teacher

**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 and connected mothers to local resources for help with infant care, 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 court-mandated 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 and well-being

**Program Evaluation Assistant**, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX Summer, 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
- Developed observational measures for gathering data in classroom settings
- Synthesized qualitative data for dissemination

**GRANT**

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

**SELECTED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS**

*Note: Presented under maiden name Havadtoy and married name Branca. \*Denotes student co-author.*

**Branca, S.H.** & Slusser, E. (2019). *Understanding Student Expectations and Experiences in Large Classes*. Session presented at the Lily Conference: Teaching for Active and Engaged Learning, San Diego, CA.

\*Mann, M. & **Branca, S.H.** (2019). *Understanding teacher-child interactions in early care settings*. Poster presented at University of New Mexico McNair Scholars Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

**Branca, S.H.** (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.

**Branca, S.H.** (2016). *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.

Mistry, R. S., Bos, J., Shim, M., **Branca, S. H.**, & Cummings, J. (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. (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). *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.** (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. (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.

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Faculty Participant**, FLIP Workshop, SJSU First in the World Grant  
San José State University, May 31, 2019

**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 Along the Way*  
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 Faculty 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