

Alea Corin Skwara

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Education

New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY September 2011-Present

Master of Arts in Psychology, Exp. May 2013

- Concentration in Neuroscience
- 4.0 GPA

Davidson College, Davidson, NC May 2009

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

- Concentrations in Acting and Directing; lab experience in Biology and Psychology
- Graduated in top 15% of class
- Harper Scholar for Vocal Performance; featured performer in numerous theatre and vocal performances

UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC Summer 2008

- Coursework and lab experience in Psychology and Statistics
- 4.0 GPA

L'Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, Paris, France Fall 2007

- Training in Vocal Performance, Music Theory, and History of Music
- French spoken as primary language in complex academic and social interactions

Asheville School, Asheville, NC May 2005

- Graduated with high honors, ranked second in graduating class
- Awards earned at graduation for outstanding performance in Biology, Humanities, English, Theater, and French
- National Merit Scholar

Research Experience

NYU Social Perception and Evaluation Lab, New York, NY December 2011-Present

PI: Dr. Jay Van Bavel

Research Assistant

Exploration of the connection between political stance and social perception and judgment

- Exclusive focus on fMRI—NYU certified operator
- Run participants in fMRI experiments using Siemens Syngo software and complex experimental protocol
- Assist with participant recruitment, data management, and protocol streamlining

NYU Social Neuroscience Lab, New York, NY November 2011-Present

PI: Dr. David Amodio

Research Assistant

Social psychology research on brain activity and implicit racial bias

- Exclusive focus on EEG
- Run subjects in EEG experiments using Neuroscan 4.5, including physical set up, experimental protocol, and data monitoring

NYU Contemplative Sciences Lab, New York, NY September 2011-Present

PI: Dr. Zoran Josipovic

Research Assistant

Research on the effects of contemplative practice on behavior and on brain function and structure

- Design pilot study; prepare application for IRB submission
- Research and select scales
- Analyze fMRI data using Brainvoyager

UNC Chapel Hill Peer Relations Lab, Chapel Hill, NC Summer 2008

Research Assistant

Psychological research on youth response to stressful social situations as it relates to pain tolerance and self-injurious behavior

- Work directly with subjects conducting experiments and gathering data
- Organize and analyze data
- Conduct literature searches
- Help pioneer lab to research vagal tone and associations with psychological disturbances

Lab and computer proficiencies include:

Brainvoyager; EEG; Excel; experimental design; fMRI; MATLAB; meta-analysis; Neuroscan 4.5; physiological stress measures; Siemens Syngo; SPSS; structured interviews

Work Experience

BlissPR/BlissHealth, New York, NY

Freelancer

September 2011-Present

Account Executive

March-September 2011

Exclusive focus on healthcare clients: healthcare service providers, biotechnology, pharma

- Internal business development for BlissHealth, including branding and pursuit of new business
- Develop strategic communications plans for traditional, digital and social media and investor relations
- Advise clients on messaging and manage client relationships; supervise execution of account plans
- Write high-level bylined articles, media pitches and new business pitches

Associate Account Executive

June 2010-March 2011

Business to business professional services and healthcare clients

- Focus on writing, media relations, account management and digital/social media

ProgenBio, New York, NY

February-June 2010

Operations and Communications Consultant

Biotech start-up marketing genetic testing kits

- Work directly with CEO and COO on a daily basis; facilitate and streamline company organization and communication
- Build clinical forms; technical and consumer brochures
- Generate, edit, and update all web-content and external communications

Conferences and Associations

Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY

June 2012

Research Fellow

Inaugural Single Unit Studies Conference, New York, NY

November 2011

Conference Volunteer

Inaugural conference bringing together the single unit community to present current research and discuss next steps for the field

- Attend and facilitate conference lectures, roundtables, and events

Society for Mind Brain Sciences, New York, NY

September 2011-Present

Pro Bono Communications and Media Strategist

Nonprofit committed to fostering dialogue between scientists and educating the public about the science of consciousness

- Develop internal communications platform and media outreach/communications strategy
- Contribute to program development and conduct on-screen interviews for upcoming video pilot focusing on single unit studies

Metro Area Research Group on Awareness and Meditation, New York, NY

September 2011-Present

Member

Semimonthly lectures and discussions led top researchers and scholars on the brain and meditation