

JORDAN BIRKNER

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SUMMARY

Interdisciplinary neuropsychology researcher with expertise in diagnostics, epigenetics, and critical studies. Skilled in data analysis and project coordination. Demonstration of leadership in research and educational development.

EDUCATION

North Carolina State University | Raleigh NC May 2025
Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies: Neuropsychology Diagnostics Treasurer of Graduate Student Association
North Carolina State University | Raleigh NC December 2023
Bachelor of Science in Understanding Biological Impacts on Neuropsychology **GPA: 3.6, Magna Cum Laude**
Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Biology Dean's List, 6 semesters.
Minors in Genetics; Health, Medicine, and Human Values Undergraduate Certificate in Essentials of Business

EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant | North Carolina State University | Raleigh, NC January 2021 – Present
Graduate Research Assistant January 2025 – Present

- Work to observe and improve communication of food safety practices under grant awarded by the USDA.
- Analysis and review of data across North Carolina, Vermont, and Oregon.

Lab Manager, How We Argue January 2021 – December 2023

- Assisted leading a team of student researchers and faculty to develop a critical thinking course.
- Participated in panels and presentations to address inquiries related to the project and its accessibility.
- Created lessons on argument visualization technology to enhance critical thinking skills.
- Assisted in organizing a psychology study comparing traditional seminars and the developed course.
- Established an extensive database documenting responses, facilitating AI training and documentation.

Critical DAMN (Disability, Autism, Madness, and Neurodivergence) Studies Project January 2021 – June 2022

- Conducted research and critical analysis in the behavioral health field.
- Prepared research papers, literature reviews, and social media informatics.
- Created and organized an extensive Critical DAMN Studies database, encompassing over 300 articles.
- Developed presentation for Raleigh Town Hall on COVID-19 and its intersections with mental health.

Teaching Assistant | North Carolina State University | Raleigh, NC August 2024 – December 2024

- Work developing lesson plans in multiple courses, including Environmental Ethics, Women and Health, and Science, Technology, and Society.
- Reviewed lesson materials to ensure accuracy and accessibility.
- Developed and distributed eIRB-approved research survey via Qualtrics for data analyzed and presented in student's culminating projects.
- Created and referenced rubrics to assess student writing and provide specific feedback to ~200 students.
- Developed and hosted lectures covering behavioral health disparities, presentation etiquette, critical thinking, and professional networking.

Registered Behavior Technician | Autism Society of NC | Raleigh, NC December 2022 – Present

- Provided direct care to clients, implementing Applied Behavioral Analysis techniques to enhance communication and promote independence.
- Accumulated nearly 1000 clinical experience hours delivering behavioral interventions.
- Collected and analyzed data to inform and develop individualized behavioral care plans.
- Additional work completed through other company departments with Autistic individuals, such as a staff in Services and as a counselor for Camp Royall

Chair of Quality Improvement Committee | Autism Society of NC | Raleigh, NC February 2023 – Present

- Reviewed external communications and media for accuracy, accessibility, and cultural competence.
- Developed and implemented an action plan to improve and ensure measurable progress.
- Developed Annual Employee Satisfaction surveys, achieving a 37% completion rate among 1,000+ employees.

- Analyzed survey data to identify patterns over time, implementing strategies to address regional disparities.

Mental Health Technician | *Universal Mental Health Care* | Raleigh, NC October 2024 – Present

- Supported clients and families in providing respite care for those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- Reviewed behavior goals to ensure quality and accuracy of care.

Staff Writer | *Technician* | Raleigh, NC September 2022 – Present

- Writing focuses on addressing social issues and disparities, mental health and well-being, challenging societal norms and stereotypes, and implementing structural changes.
- Copy-editing, news writing, and research performed for 30+ article publications.
- Experience developing opinion arguments, including satire and dueling columns.

Cook | *Case Dining Hall at North Carolina State University* | Raleigh, NC August 2021 – December 2023

- Effectively managed and executed a range of routine and repetitive tasks, maintaining consistency and attention to detail in a fast-paced environment.
- Enhanced accuracy in food preparation by reviewing measurements through comprehensive data collection.
- Prioritized food safety and allergen controls, monitoring potential contaminants and temperature.
- Contributed positively to team dynamics as a cook while collaborating with kitchen staff and student workers.
- Demonstrated multitasking ability by overseeing various tasks with attention to detail and accuracy.

Consultant and Web Designer | *Jordan Birkner, LLC* | Triad and Triangle Areas, NC October 2018 – Present

- Developed and published tools to address and improve accessibility in educational or personal-use materials.
- Created and revised website content, presentations, and advertising materials for various businesses.
- Conducted research to identify effective strategies and improve clients' business outcomes.
- Utilized skills in Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Social Media Optimization (SMO), customer service, marketing, logo design, software development, and project management.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Women in Science	September 2023
American Psychological Association Campus Ambassador	August 2023
American Psychological Association of Graduate Students	June 2023
Cognitive Neuroscience Society	June 2023
The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health	June 2023
Diversity and LGBT Advocate, North Carolina State University	November 2020

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PROJECTS

Publications:

Comstock, G., & **Birkner, J. A.** (2025). Valorizing Autism: Conceptualizing ASD as Instrumentally Valuable. [Symposium paper presentation]. *Dimensions of Difference: Exploring Diversity, Complexity, and Connection in Thought and Practice*, Leesburg, FL.

Presentations:

Birkner, J. (2024, November). Effectively Communicating Research. *Instructor lecture for Science, Technology, and Society course at North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J. (2024, September). Gender and diagnoses: Disparities seen within the DSM-5. *Research presentation as guest lecture for Women and Health course at North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J. (2024, September). Environmental Responsibility. *Instructor lecture developed for Environmental Ethics course at North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J., Carter, M., & Wallace, J. D. (2024, April). Pathway to Success and Growth Mindset in College for People with Disabilities. *Featured speaker at "Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair for Students with Disabilities."*

Birkner, J. (2024, April). Exploring Lipid Hormone Structures: Mechanisms and Impacts. *Table presentation at "Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair for Students with Disabilities," The Science House.*

Birkner, J. (2024, March). RBT CEU: Two Perspectives. *Training developed and administered to clinical employees of the Autism Society of North Carolina, offering Behavioral Analyst Certification Board Continuing Education Units.*

Birkner, J., Hnatuck, R., Jervay, H., & Voss, C. (2024, March). Building the Foundation: Best Practices in Autism. *Panel presentation, Autism Society of North Carolina Annual Conference.*

Birkner, J., Davidson, L., & Dunbar, P. (2024, March). Anti-Ableism in Practice. *Diversity Lunch & Learn, Autism Society of North Carolina.*

Birkner, J. (2023, November). Assessing the Impact of a Critical Thinking Course: Instrument Development and Preliminary Findings. *2023 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship, Randolph College.*

Birkner, J. (2023, September). Reviewing Neuroscience Publications Using Critical Thinking. *Poster presented at the 2023 College of Sciences Excellence Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J. (2023, September). Assessing Effectiveness of the DSM-5 in Informing Biological Mechanisms. *Research presentation at the Fall 2023 OUR Sidewalk Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J. (2023, July). Developing the How We Evaluate pilot study. *Poster presentation at the OUR Summer Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J. (2023, April). Revisions to Relias RBT Training. *Poster presented at Self Design Capstone Presentation, North Carolina State University.*

Birkner, J. (2023, April). Moral Enhancement Technologies and ASD: Ethical Gentrification of a Population. *Oral Presentation at the OUR Spring Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

Comstock, G. & Kestigian, A. (2023, March). Does College Teach Students to Think Critically? Philosophers' Responsibilities and General Education Requirements. **Panel presentation at the North Carolina Philosophical Society's Annual Conference, Durham, NC.**

Projects:

Birkner, J. (2021-2023). NC State Libraries Readability Widget. *North Carolina State University.*

Notable Technician Articles:

1. [A Modest Proposal on abortion](#) November 2024
2. [Tedious intakes are beneficial](#) December 2023
3. [Allyship is performative, solidarity and involvement can drive real change](#) October 2023
4. [Positive change doesn't rely on a diagnosis](#) April 2023
- Brought [national recognition](#) regarding coverage of neurodiversity, was republished by [The Ableist](#) in October 2023 and the [Autism Society of North Carolina](#) in October 2024.
5. [STEM students need creative expression](#) October 2022
- Led to data visualization software being directly provided to STEM professors at North Carolina State University.

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Registered Behavior Technician, Behavior Analyst Certification Board 2023 – 2025
- CITI Conflicts of Interest (NC State University), CITI Program 2023 – 2027
- CITI Responsible Conduct of Research (NC State University), CITI Program 2023 – 2026
- Adult and Child CPR/First Aid, Red Cross 2023 – 2026

PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

Service Volunteer | *Rutherford Housing Project* | Rutherford, NC March 2025

Verified Peer Reviewer | *Philosophical Psychology* | Remote May 2024 – Present

Biology Judge; Senior Division | *NC Science and Engineering Fair* | Raleigh, NC March 2024
Selected Special Award recipient, "American Psychological Association, Achievement in Psychological Science"

Student Volunteer | *Summer Creativity and Research Symposium* | North Carolina State University July 2023

Student Volunteer | *Equity Research Symposium* | North Carolina State University March 2023

Crisis Counselor Training | *The Trevor Project* | Remote July 2022 – October 2022

Service Volunteer | *Service for Peace (Service pour la Paix)* | Dominican Republic March 2021 – April 2021

Service Volunteer | *Highland Support Project* | Guatemala April 2021 – May 2021

Social Media Marketing Manager | *American Cancer Society* | Remote December 2019 – May 2020

Leader | *Christ United Methodist Church Mission Trip* | Hollywood, SC June 2019 – Present

HONORS, AWARDS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

- Feature focus of articles:
 - ["Understanding Masking: A Neurodiversity-Affirming Perspective"](#) – Autism Society of North Carolina, November 2024.

- [“Lights, Camera, Analysis”](#) – Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of North Carolina State University, November 2024.
- [“Technician Recognized For Coverage of Disability Issues”](#) – Division of Academic and Student Affairs at North Carolina State University and The Ableist, December 2023
- [“College of Sciences Honors Outstanding Alumni. Student Achievements with 2023 Awards”](#) – College of Sciences News, Honors and Awards at North Carolina State University, December 2023.
- [“Triple Academic Success”](#) – College of Humanities and Social Sciences at North Carolina State University, Accolades, April 2023.
- [“Meet Alex, Jordan, and Matthew”](#) – Campus Enterprises Employee Spotlight, August 2021
- Featured as thinkARGUMENTS researcher in the Harvard University Philosophy Department’s ThinkerAnalytix October 2024 videography.
- Named as Bob Patterson Fellow in Fall 2023.
- Gave Student Address at North Carolina State University’s Fall 2023 Interdisciplinary Commencement Ceremony.
- College of Sciences Representative from September 2020 – May 2021.
- Completion of North Carolina State University’s GLBT + STEM, Career Identity, and SAFE Ally Training programs.
- Officer of North Carolina State University’s Genetics Club, member of its Arts and Psychology clubs.
- Historian of Beta Delta chapter of Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity, completing Leadership in Action program and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion specialization.