

Curriculum Vitae (December, 2008)

LISA E. SZECHTER

Assistant Professor

Department of Psychology

Tulane University

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EDUCATION

- December 2003 Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, Developmental Psychology
Dissertation: *Artistic experience, parent-child interaction, and the
development of aesthetic sensitivity*
Advisor: Lynn S. Liben, Ph.D.
- December 1999 M.S., The Pennsylvania State University, Developmental Psychology
Thesis: *The role of parent-child picture book reading in children's
understanding of graphics*
Advisor: Lynn S. Liben, Ph.D.
- May 1997 A.B., Oberlin College, High Honors in Psychology, Phi Beta Kappa

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- July 2005 - Present Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Tulane University
- November 2005 – Present Visiting Research Associate, Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave
Observatory (LIGO) Livingston Science Education Center, An NSF-
funded collaboration of Caltech and MIT
- 2003 - 2005 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Informal Learning and Schools, An NSF-
funded collaboration of the Exploratorium Museum, San Francisco, the
University of California, Santa Cruz, and King's College, London
Mentor: Maureen A. Callanan, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS¹

Szechter, L. E., & ***Carey, E. J.*** (in press). Gravitating toward science: Parent-child interactions at a gravitational-wave observatory. To appear in *Science Education*.

¹ Student authors in bold italics throughout

- Szechter, L. E., & Liben, L. S. (2007). Children's aesthetic understanding of photographic art and the quality of art-related parent-child interactions. *Child Development, 78*, 879-894.
- Liben, L. S., & Szechter, L. E. (2007). Children's photographic eyes: A view from developmental psychology. *Visual Arts Research, 33*, 71-83. Translated and reprinted in *Cultuur + Educatie*.
- Szechter, L. E., & Liben, L. S. (2004). Parental guidance in preschoolers' understanding of spatial-graphic representations. *Child Development, 75*, 869-885.
- Liben, L. S., & Szechter, L. E. (2002). A social science of the arts: An emerging organizational initiative and an illustrative investigation of photography. *Qualitative Sociology, 25*, 385-408.
- Tanaka, J., Kay, J., Grinnell, E., Stansfield, B., & Szechter, L. (1998). Face recognition in young children: When the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, *Visual Cognition, 5*, 479-496.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Szechter, L. E. (in preparation). A multidimensional measure of attitudes toward science.
- Szechter, L. E., & Callanan, M. A. (in preparation). Parent-child interactions in museum settings: How exhibits can foster scientific collaborations.
- Triona, L. M., Szechter, L. E., & Callanan, M. A. (in preparation). Parents and children navigating visual representations through conversation at a museum exhibit.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Szechter, L. E., **Rosen, J. B., & Gooch, A.** (in progress). Children's attitudes toward science and their questioning, explaining, demonstrating, and predicting at museum exhibits.
- Szechter, L. E., & **Disston, E. T.** (in progress). How reflections on a visit to an informal science education center predict students' attitudes toward science.
- Szechter, L. E., & **Libby, C. B.** (in progress). How children learn from one another at a science museum exhibit.
- Szechter, L. E., & **Naglick, K. E.** (in progress). The effects of book reading strategies on children's spatial-graphic comprehension.

PRESENTATIONS

- Szechter, L. E., & **Carey, E. J.** (2009, April). *Informal learning in science museums: Exhibit qualities and individual differences matter*. In B. N. Frazier (Chair), *Family conversations in museum settings: How do they contribute to children's science learning?* Symposium to be conducted at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Denver, CO.
- Szechter, L. E., **Carey, E. J., Disston, E. T., Libby, C. B., Naglick, K. E.,** & Holt, K. D. (2009, April). *Children's personal reflections on an informal science learning experience: Implications for attitude and behavior*. Poster to be presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Denver, CO.
- Liben, L. S., Myers, L. J., & Szechter, L. E. (2008, April). *Learning about maps in a children's museum*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Boston, MA.
- Szechter, L. E., & Thacker, J. R. (2008, March). *Informal learning and students' attitudes toward science*. In *Informal science education: Assessing learning, attitudes, family inquiry, and K-12 reform*. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. New York, NY.
- Carey, E. J.,** & Szechter, L. E. (2007, October). *Encouraging young scientists: Parent-child interactions at an informal science education center*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Santa Fe, NM.
- Liben, L. S., Szechter, L. E., & Myers, L. J. (2007, October). *Parent-child interactions at a museum map exhibit: Developmental change and individual differences*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Santa Fe, NM.
- Rosen, J. B.,** & Szechter, L. E. (2007, October). *Gender, science, and informal learning*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Santa Fe, NM.
- Szechter, L. E., **Diamond, E. E., Rosen, J. B.,** & Thacker, J. R. (2007, March). *Who wants to be a scientist? The impact of informal learning on students' scientific aspirations*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Boston, MA.
- Triona, L. M., & Szechter, L. E. (2007, March). *Families navigating visual representations through conversation at a museum exhibit: Cultural similarities and differences*. In M. A. Callanan and M. M. Chouinard (Chairs), *Learning through conversations: Children's conceptual development in the context of parent-child talk*. Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Boston, MA.
- Triona, L. M., Szechter, L. E., & Callanan, M. A., (2006, October). *Talking through visual representations: Parents' labeling of visible and non-visible objects at a museum exhibit*.

- Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. St. Louis, KY.
- Siegel, D. R., & Szechter, L. E. (2006, June). *Are photographs snapshots or works of art?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society. Baltimore, MD.
- Triona, L. M., Szechter, L. E., & Callanan, M. A. (2006, April). *Steering children's understanding of maps and aerial photographs: Connecting spatial-graphic representations to first-person video at a museum exhibit.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA.
- Szechter, L. E., & Liben, L. S. (2005, June). *Parents' explanations of photographs as artistic representations: Implications for children's aesthetic development.* In G. Braswell (Chair), *Social aspects of symbolic development.* Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society. Vancouver, Canada.
- Dyer-Seymour, J. R., & Szechter, L. E. (2005, May). *Photographers intend to depict irony but viewers often don't see it.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society. Los Angeles, CA.
- Szechter, L. E. (2004, November). *Artistic experience, parent-child interaction, and the development of aesthetic sensitivity.* Talk given at the Visual Culture of Childhood Conference. State College, PA.
- Szechter, L. E., & Liben, L. S. (2003, October). *Parent-child discussions of photography.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Park City, UT.
- Szechter, L. E., & Liben, L. S. (2003, May). *Parent-child interaction and the development of aesthetic awareness.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society. Atlanta, GA.
- Liben, L. S., & Szechter, L. E. (2002, June). *Distinguishing appearance (four-year-old mastery) from reality (even adults struggle).* In L. S. Liben (Chair), *The one miracle view of theory of mind: The devil is in the details.* Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society. Philadelphia, PA.
- Liben, L. S., & Szechter, L. E. (2001, October). *Understanding the spatial qualities of photographs.* In L. S. Liben (Chair), *Cognitive development: A photographic view.* Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Virginia Beach, VA.
- Liben, L. S., & Szechter, L. E. (2001, May). *Human development and art: A photographic perspective.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the UCLA LeRoy Neiman Center for the Study of American Society and Culture. Los Angeles, CA.

- Szechter, L. E. (2001, April). *Parents' explanations of pictures in joint picture-book reading: Implications for children's understanding of spatial graphics*. In D. Uttal & M. Blades (Chairs), *Representing and communicating spatial information: Developmental perspectives*. Poster symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Minneapolis, MN.
- Liben, L. S., & Szechter, L. E. (2000, June). *Developing an understanding of representational surfaces*. In H. M. Trautner (Chair), *Children's knowledge and judgments about drawings and drawing processes*. Poster workshop conducted at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society. Montreal, Canada.
- Liben, L. S., Carlson, R. A., Szechter, L. E., & Mararra, M. T. (1999, August). *Understanding geographic images*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association. Boston, MA.
- Szechter, L. E., & Liben, L.S. (1999, April). *Joint picture-book reading: Early lessons in pictorial comprehension*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Albuquerque, NM.
- Szechter, L. E., Liben, L. S., & Rogers, J. D. (1998, August). *Children's understanding of photographs: Interventions and implications*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association. San Francisco, CA.
- Szechter, L. E. (1998, February). *Effects of relationships between pictures and text on children's memory for new words*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. Boston, MA.
- Tanaka, J., Szechter, L., & Vastine, K. (1996, October). *The expertise of object and face recognition*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Chicago, IL.
- Beinstein Miller, J., Carey, P., Gerteis, J., Pailler, M., & Szechter, L. (1995, October). *Gender portrayals: A study of identity and behavior*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender. Minneapolis, MN.
- Tanaka, J., Giles, M., Szechter, L., Stone, A., & Lantz, J. (1995, October). *Expertise in parts and wholes recognition*. Invited symposium presentation to Theoretical and Experimental Neuropsychology / Neuropsychologie Expérimentale et Théorique (TENNET), Montreal, Canada.

RESEARCH SUPORT

Extramural Funding

Creating Scientists: Tutoring Effects in the Context of the Classroom

Co-Investigators: Barbara Moely, Ph.D., Monica Ponoroff, Sharon Clark

Agency: William T. Grant Foundation

Period: June 2007 – May 2011

Direct Costs: \$325,000

Status: Declined

Investigating Map Understanding and Learning in the Context of a Family Museum Exhibit

Co-Investigators: Lynn S. Liben, PhD.

Agency: National Science Foundation – Small Grants for Exploratory Research

Period: September 2006 – August 2007

Direct Costs: \$81,492

Status: Funded

Encouraging young scientists: Parent-child interactions at an informal science education center

Agency: National Science Foundation – Informal Science Education

Period: August 2009 – August 2012

Direct Costs: \$133,094

Status: Pending

Intramural Funding

Impact of Tutoring Program in New Orleans Charter School

Source: Tulane University Research Enhancement Fund

Period: November 2006 – August 2008

Direct Costs: \$15,000

Parent-Child Interactions at an Informal Science Center

Source: Tulane University H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College Institute

Barbara A. Greenbaum Fellowship

Period: July 2008 – June 2009

Direct Costs: \$2,000

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewing for Journals

Consulting Editor *Child Development*, 2003-2007

Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development, 2004

Ad hoc Reviewer *Child Development*

Developmental Science

Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology

Journal of Cognition and Development

Journal of Developmental Processes

New Ideas in Psychology

Reviewing for Funding Agencies, Professional Meetings and Division Awards

External Reviewer NSF Developmental and Learning Sciences Program

Reviewer 2007 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development
Panel 3: *Childhood: Biological and Cognitive Processes*

 2008 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence
Panel 3: *Cognitive Development, Decision-Making, and Problem-Solving*

 2009 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development
Panel 14: *Education and Development*

Events and Awards American Educational Research Association

Co-Coordinator Informal Learning Environments Special Interest Group, 2008-2010

Memberships

American Educational Research Association; American Psychological Association; Association of Psychological Science; Cognitive Development Society; Society for Research in Child Development

Mentoring

Senior Mentor Society for Research in Child Development Millennium Scholars Program,
2007

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

University Appointments

Member Tulane University Center for Public Service Executive Committee, 2007-2009

Departmental Appointments

Member Colloquium Committee, Fall 2006-present
Search Committee, School Psychology Faculty Position, Fall 2007

COURSES TAUGHT AT TULANE²

Undergraduate

Psyc 320: Educational Psychology with Mandatory Service Learning

Spring 2006 (56); Lagniappe 2006 (14); Fall 2006 (25); Spring 2007 (26); Spring 2008 (32)

Psyc 465 (formerly offered as Psyc 380): Cognitive Development

Spring 2006 (37); Fall 2006 (26); Spring 2007 (30); Fall 2008 (10)

Graduate

Psyc 662: Informal Learning and Schools

Fall 2007 (10)

DIRECTED RESEARCH

Honors Thesis Chair

Rachel Horvath (2007). *Children's Understanding of Pictures*.

Jenna Rosen (2008). *Gender, Science and Informal Learning*.

Emily Disston (anticipated May 2009). *The Relation Between Student Reflections and Attitudes Toward Science: Implications of a Science Museum Visit for How Students Feel About Science*.

Andree Gooch (anticipated May 2009). *Informal Learning*.

Honors Thesis Second Reader

Katianne Lucey (2007). *Repressive Adaptive Style in Children Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes*.

Masters Thesis Chair

Elizabeth Carey (2008). *Encouraging Young Scientists: Parent-Child Interactions at an Informal Science Education Center*.

Kathryn Naglick (anticipated May 2009). *Children's Understanding of Graphic Representations and Parental Book Reading Strategies*.

Corinne Libby, School Psychology Doctoral Student (*in progress*).

Masters Thesis Committee Member

Danielle (Annie) Weiss (2006). *Longitudinal Contribution of Effortful Control for School Readiness*.

Dissertation Committee Member

Rebecca Salvato Ruberg (2008). *In or out? Predictors of educational attainment in American Indian youth*.

Danielle (Annie) Weiss (2009). *Academic achievement in Native American middle-school children*.

Sarah Fontenelle (*in progress*). *The effect of adult demonstration on Chinese and American infant object-to-surface affordance discovery*.

² Enrollments in parentheses

Independent Study Students

Alex Buckner
Elliot Busch
Elizabeth Carey
Elizabeth Diamond
Emily Disston
Maura Donnelly
Courtney Gould
Paige Gowin
Cynthia King
Daniel Kupersmit
Angela Lee
Corinne Libby
Katieanne Lucey
Daniel McGinnis
Kathryn Naglick
Rachel Patton
Jenna Rosen
Alison Terry
Jessica Seedyke
Claire Yanta
Jessica Weiner