

MELODY R. ALTSCHULER, PhD

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EDUCATION

- 2023 **University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis, MN
Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology
- Dissertation: “When Ways of Thinking and Acting Misalign: Childhood Social Compensation in the Community from a Developmental Psychopathology Framework”
- Committee: Drs. Susan Faja, Kathleen Thomas, Dante Cicchetti, and Robert Krueger
- 2021 **University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis, MN
M.A. in Developmental Psychology
- 2017 **Bates College**, Lewiston, ME
B.A. in Psychology, *summa cum laude*
- Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi in Psychology
- Minor: Anthropology
- Concentrations: “Children, Adolescents, School” and “Knowledge, Action, Public Good”

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 – **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY
Assistant Research Professor
Department of Health Management and Policy
Department of Psychology
Center for Innovation in Population Health
College of Public Health
- 2023 – 2024 **Berea College**, Berea, KY
Assistant Professor
Psychology Department
- 2022 **Augsburg University**, Minneapolis, MN
Adjunct Instructor
- 2020 – 2021 **College of Liberal Arts at Hamline University**, St. Paul, MN
Adjunct Instructor
- 2017 – 2019 **Yale Child Study Center at Yale University**, New Haven, CT
Sara S. Sparrow Fellow in Clinical Neuroscience

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024	UK-CARES Faculty Fellow in Science Communication, University of Kentucky
2017	Phi Beta Kappa, Academic Honor Society
2016	Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Society
2014 - 2017	Dana Scholar (awarded to 20 students for academics, leadership, and service), Bates College
2014 - 2017	Dean's List, Bates College
2015	Harvard Center Award for Community Volunteerism and Leadership
2015	Honorary Undergraduate Scholar Award, New England Psychological Association

Training Fellowships

2020 - 2023	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)
2017 - 2019	Sara S. Sparrow Fellowship in Clinical Neuroscience, Yale University (\$62,000)
2016 - 2017	Bates Student Research Grant, Boston Children's Hospital (\$800)
2016	Hoffman Research Support Grant, Boston Children's Hospital (\$1,000)
2016	Bates Summer Research Fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital (\$3,500)
2015	Phillips Fellowship, Max Planck Institute for Human Development (\$6,000)
2015	Bates Student Research Grant, Max Planck Institute for Human Development (\$1,000)
2014	Hoffman Research Fellowship, Yale University (\$3,500)
2013 - 2017	Bonner Leader Fellowship, Bates College (\$7,250)

Travel Awards

2022	International Society for Autism Research Travel Award (\$500)
2021	International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award (\$425)
2018	International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award (\$200)
2018	Yale University Postgraduate Research Associate Travel Award (\$500)
2018	Bates College STEM Travel Grant (\$2,000)
2018	International Society for Autism Research Travel Award (\$500)
2018	Bates College STEM Travel Grant (\$2,000)

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Funded Grants

2024	Gaines Center for the Humanities Mini Grant, University of Kentucky (\$500) Title: <i>The Inaugural International Day Against Harmful Anger: Pathways to Peace Event</i> Role: Principal Investigator
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Funded Contracts

2024	South Carolina Department of Social Services (\$217,703) Title: <i>SC-DSS Child Protective Services: CANS, Gateway Implementation Project</i> Role: Co-Investigator
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Submitted Under Review Grants

2024	Autism Science Foundation (ASF) Profound Autism Pilot Grant (\$35,000) Title: <i>Supporting Individuals with Profound Autism and Severe Behaviors through Communimetrics and Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM): A community-based participatory action research approach</i> Role: Principal Investigator
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Submitted Unfunded Grants

2024	University of Kentucky Achieving Success in Community-Engaged research to eliminate Disparities (UK ASCEND) (\$80,000)
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Title: *Centering neurodiverse experiences to reduce stigma and health disparities: A community-engaged approach to co-create the neurodiverse Family Advocacy and Support Tool (N-FAST)*

Role: Principal Investigator

- 2024 University of Kentucky Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence Faculty Fellow (\$4,000)
 Title: *Communitrics as a person-centered methodology for fostering undergraduate student excellence in mental, physical, and academic health: A Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) framework*
 Role: Principal Investigator

SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

* student trainee

6. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Krueger, B., Mohr, A., Faja, S. When ways of thinking and acting misalign: A longitudinal study of childhood social compensation in the community.
5. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Buboltz, E.*, Kala, S.*, Schichter, I.*, Nadwodny, N.*, Perumalla, S.*, Faja, S. The Social Attribution Task-Revised (SAT-R): Criterion validity and developmental sensitivity of a brief spontaneous theory of mind task in autistic children and adults.
4. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Schaefer, J. D., Malone, S. M., McGue, M., Iacono, W. G., Wilson, S. Testing the trait and scar developmental theories of depression using repeated, multimodal assessments of self-regulation from preadolescence into early adulthood.
3. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Lyons, J. Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM): A framework to bridge the gap between research, practice, and policy in health systems.
2. **Altschuler, M. R.** Compensation: a developmental psychopathology perspective.
1. Mergen, L. K.*, Rienne, G., Leon, S. C., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Lyons, J. S., Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) certification: Efficacy of person-centered assessment certification for asynchronous versus synchronous online training.

PUBLICATIONS

* student trainee

2023

8. Lee, C. M., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Esler, A. N., Burrows, C. A., Hudock, R. (2023). Why are only some children with autism spectrum disorder misclassified by the social communication questionnaire? An empirical investigation of individual differences in sensitivity and specificity in a clinic-referred sample. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*.

2022

7. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Faja, S. (2022). Brief report: test-retest reliability of cognitive, affective, and spontaneous theory of mind tasks among school-aged children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 52(4), 1890-1895.

2021

6. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Krueger, R. (2021). Towards a contemporary approach for understanding personality pathology in developmental context: an integrative model. *Development and Psychopathology*, 33(5), 1793-1802.

5. Burrows, C. A., Bodfish, J. W., Wolff, J. J., Teska, E. P., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Botteron, K. N., Dager, S. R., Estes, A. M., Hazlett, H. C., Pruett, J. R., Schultz, R. T., Zwaigenbaum, L., Piven, J., Elison, J. T. (2021). Cataloguing and characterizing interests in typically developing toddlers and toddlers who develop ASD. *Autism Research*, 14(8), 1710-1723.
4. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Trevisan, D. A., Wolf, J., Naples, A., Foss-Feig, J. H., Srihari, V. H., McPartland, J. C. (2021). Face perception predicts affective theory of mind in autism but not schizophrenia or typical development. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 30(4), 413-422.

2020

3. Kahan, T. A., Slowiaczek, L. M., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Harrison, A. C. M. (2020). Temporal negative priming. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 149(2), 274-289.

2019

2. Trevisan, D. A., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Bagdasarov, A., Carlos, C., Duan, S., Hamo, E., ... McPartland, J. C. (2019). A meta-analysis on the relationship between interoceptive awareness and alexithymia: distinguishing interoceptive accuracy and sensibility. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 128(8), 765-776.

2018

1. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Sideridis, G., Kala, S.*, Warshawsky, M.*, Gilbert, R., Carroll, D., Burger-Caplan, R., Faja, S. (2018). Measuring individual differences in cognitive, affective, and spontaneous theory of mind among school-aged children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48(11), 3945-3957.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* student trainee

Oral Presentations

9. Voit, M.*, Vsevolozhskaya, O., Turner, W. T., Lyons, J., Tong, X., **Altschuler, M. R.** (2025, May). Missed diagnosis or misdiagnosis? A Deep neural network machine learning approach for early detection of undiagnosed autism spectrum disorder. Oral presentation submitted for presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
8. Farrey., A.*, Tong, X., Lardner, M. McAllister, J., Vsevolozhskaya, O., Lyons, J., **Altschuler, M. R.** (2025, May). The enduring differential impact of family resources and needs on the strengths of children with intellectual and developmental delay: A longitudinal study of the Family Advocacy and Support Tool. Oral presentation submitted for presentation as part of a *Strength Identification and Building Among Neurodiverse Populations from a Developmental Lens: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice in Public Health Systems* Panel [chair] at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
7. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Tumlin, K. I., Vsevolozhskaya, O., Turner, W. T., Voit, M. R., Lyons, J. S., Tong, X. (2025, May). Strength building reduces autistic-related needs in child behavioral health systems: A supervised machine learning approach. Oral presentation submitted for presentation as part of a *Strength Identification and Building Among Neurodiverse Populations from a Developmental Lens: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice in Public Health Systems* Panel [chair] at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
6. Mergen, L. K.*, Rienne, G., Leon, S. C., Lyons, J. S., **Altschuler, M. R.** (2024, October). Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) Certification: Efficacy of

Person-Centered Assessment Certification for Asynchronous versus Synchronous Online Training. Oral presentation given at the Annual Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management Conference: Climbing the Hills of System Change, San Francisco, CA.

5. **Altschuler, M. R.** (2024, October). Is a Developmental Psychopathology Framework the Future of Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management? Oral presentation given at the Annual Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management Conference: Climbing the Hills of System Change, San Francisco, CA.
4. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Buboltz, E.*, Kala, S.*, Schichter, I.*, Nadwodny, N.*, Perumalla, S.*, Faja, S. (2022, May). The social attribution task-revised (SAT-R): criterion-oriented validity and feasibility of a brief spontaneous theory of mind task in children with autism spectrum disorder. Oral presentation given at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
3. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Trevisan, D. A., Wolf, J., Naples, A., Foss-Feig, J. H., Srihari, V. H., McPartland, J. C. (2021, May). Face perception predicts affective theory of mind in autism but not schizophrenia or typical development. Oral presentation given at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
2. Duan, S., Lee, M., Winkelman, T., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Stahl, D., Jarzabek, E., Wolf, J., Naples, A., McPartland, J. (2019, May). Influence of depressive symptoms on adaptive functioning in children with autism. Oral presentation given at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
1. Kahan, T. A., Slowiaczek, L. M., **Altschuler, M. R.** (2017, November). Temporal negative priming. Oral presentation given at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Poster Presentations

25. **Altschuler, M.R.**, Faja, S. (2025, May). When ways of thinking and acting misalign: Childhood social compensation from a developmental psychopathology framework. Poster accepted for presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
24. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Faja, S. (2023, May). Neural, cognitive, and behavioral predictors of social compensation among children with autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and typical development. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden.
23. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Clarkson, T., MacNaughton, G. A., Nikolaeva, J. I., Nelson Darling, L., Faja, S. (2023, March). Parsing heterogeneity of childhood executive function: a latent profile analysis and event-related potential (ERP) study. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
22. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Faja, S. (2021, November). Predictive validity of the N2 and P3 ERP components to executive function in neurodevelopmental disorders: a latent-variance analysis in 7-11 year-old children with autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and typical development. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
21. **Altschuler, M.R.**, Michelini, G., Elison, J., T., Wilson, S. (2021, May). The hierarchical taxonomy of psychopathology as the next frontier for understanding comorbidity in autism: an

empirically based approach to delineating the structure of autism, internalizing, and externalizing symptoms. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

20. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Schaefer, J., McGue, M., Iacono, W. G., Wilson, S. (2021, April). Multimodal indicators of risk for and consequences of depression: executive function from preadolescence into adulthood. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
19. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Stallworthy, I., Elison, J. T. (2021, April). Theory of mind, autistic traits, and prosocial behavior in 2-6 year old children. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
18. **Altschuler, M. R.** (2020, May). Phenotypic resemblance between autism spectrum disorder and schizophrenia spectrum disorder. Poster accepted for presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA (Conference canceled).
17. Burrows, C. A., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Wolff, J., Botteron, K., Dager, S. R., Estes, A., Hazlett, H. C., Pruett, J., Schultz, R. T., Zwaigenbaum, L., Piven, J., Elison, J. T. (2020, May). Intense interests in relation to later autism symptoms and internalizing problems in typically developing toddlers and toddlers who develop ASD. Poster accepted for presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA (Conference canceled).
16. Zhou, M., Naples, A., Jackson, S. L., Bagdasarov, A., Carlos, C., Kala, S., Cummings, E., **Altschuler, M. R.**, McNair, M. L., McAllister, T., Cukar-Capizzi, C. C., Wolf, J., McPartland, J. (2020, May). Intermittent theta burst stimulation over the posterior superior temporal sulcus modulates neural response and visual attention to faces in autism spectrum disorder. Poster accepted for presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA (Conference canceled).
15. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Trevisan, D. A., Wolf, J., Naples, A., Winkelman, T., Stahl, D., Jarzabek, E., McPartland, J. (2019, May). Neural and behavioral predictors of friendship in children with autism spectrum disorder. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
14. Chan, L.* , **Altschuler, M. R.**, McNair, M., Wolf, J., Jarzabek, E., Naples, A., Winkelman, T., McPartland, J. (2019, May). Sex differences in toy preference in children with autism spectrum disorder and typical development. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
13. Singer, L.* , Winkelman, T., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Hamo, E., Jarzabek, E., Wolf, J., Lewis, B., Naples, A., McPartland, J. (2019, May). Sex differences in neural responses to emotional faces in children with ASD. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
12. Trevisan, D. A., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Bagdasarov, A., Carlos, C., Duan, S., Hamo, E., Kala, S., McNair, M., Parker, T., Stahl, D., Winkelman, W., Zhou, M., McPartland, J. (2019, May). Alexithymia is associated with impaired interoceptive accuracy but not interoceptive signal perception in ASD and other populations. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
11. Zhou, M., Naples, A., Winkelman, T., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Stahl, D., Jarzabek, E., Wolf, J.,

- McPartland, J. (2019, May). Externalizing behaviors in autism spectrum disorder modulate neural responses during a novel interactive social paradigm. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
10. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Naples, A., Day, T., McNaughton, K., Winkelman, T., Stahl, D., Hasselmo, S., Halligan, T., Lewis, B., Wolf, J., Jarzabek, E., Ellison, K., McPartland, J. (2018, November). Neural response to direct and averted gaze in children with autism spectrum disorder during a gaze contingent social simulation. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
 9. **Altschuler, M. R.**, McNaughton, K., Day, T., Winkelman, T., Stahl, D., Hasselmo, S., Halligan, T., Lewis, B., Wolf, J., Jarzabek, E., Ellison, K., Naples, A., McPartland, J. (2018, November). Anxiety facilitates affective theory of mind in typically developing adults but not adults with autism spectrum disorder. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
 8. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Naples, A., Lewis, B., Dawson, G., Bernier, R., Jeste, S., Nelson, C., Chawarska, K., Webb, S., Shic, F., Sugar, C., Wang, Q., Murias, M., McPartland, J. (2018, May). Modulation of emotional face processing by visual attentional flexibility and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms in ASD: results from the ABC-CT feasibility study. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
 7. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Gilbert, R., Vaidyanathan, A., Kala, S., Warshawsky, M., Carroll, D., Faja, S. (2018, May). Individual differences in distinct aspects of executive function predict theory of mind in school-aged children with ASD. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
 6. Stahl, D., Naples, A., Wolf, J., McNaughton, K. A., Day, T. C., Lewis, B., Jarzabek, E., Ellison, K. S., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Hasselmo, S., Halligan, T., Winkelman, T., Hamo, E., Foss-Feig, J. H., Srihari, V., Anticevic, A., McPartland, J. (2018, May). Effect of eye contact and anxiety symptoms on ERPs in autism spectrum disorder and schizophrenia. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
 5. Mathis, K. M., Kahan, T.A., **Altschuler, M. R.** (2017, November). Magnified continuous flash suppression. Poster presented at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
 4. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Kala, S.*, Faja, S. (2017, May). Task related differences in the theory of mind profile of school-aged children with ASD. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
 3. **Altschuler, M. R.** Fox, C., Futamura, R., Koven, N. S. (2016, October). Emotion regulation style as a predictor of affective flexibility. Poster presented at New England Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Worcester, MA.
 2. Prioli, S. C., **Altschuler, M. R.**, Kahan, T. (2015, November). Emotional valence influences reaction times in opposite ways for words seen in continuous flash suppression and binocular viewing: Evidence for Cognitive Aftereffects. Poster presented at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
 1. **Altschuler, M. R.**, Wynn, K., Mayes, L. C., Mackinnon, S. (2014, October). Social preferences of at-risk infants: a pilot study. Poster presented at the New England Psychological Association

ADVANCED STATISTICAL TRAINING

- 2022 **Center Stat**, Mixture Modeling and Latent Class Analysis workshop
- 2021 **University of Minnesota**, Structural Equation Modeling course
- 2020 **University of Minnesota**, Advanced Multiple Regression Analysis course
- 2020 **Center Stat**, Structural Equation Modeling workshop
- 2020 **University of Minnesota**, Big Data, Systematic Reviews, and Meta-Analysis course

CLINICAL TRAINING

- 2021 – 2022 **Child Neuropsychology**, Department of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota
Role: APA-Accredited Clinical Science and Psychopathology Research Practicum Student
Supervised by Dr. Jeff Wozniak, LP
- 2019 – 2021 **Elison Lab for Developmental Brain and Behavior Research**, University of Minnesota
Role: APA-Accredited Clinical Science and Psychopathology Research Practicum Student
Supervised by Dr. Casey Burrows, LP
- 2019 – 2021 **Autism and Neurodevelopmental Clinic**, University of Minnesota
Role: APA-Accredited Clinical Science and Psychopathology Research Practicum Student
Supervised by Dr. Rebekah Hudock, LP
- 2017 – 2019 **Developmental Disabilities Clinic**, Yale Child Study Center, Yale University
Role: Sara S. Sparrow Fellow in Clinical Neuroscience Postbaccalaureate Fellow
Supervised by Drs. James McPartland, LP, Ela Jarzabek, LP, and Julie Wolf, LP

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2024 – **University of Kentucky**, College of Public Health Research Committee Member
- 2023 – 2024 **Berea College**, Center for Teaching and Learning Committee Member
- 2020 – 2022 **University of Minnesota**, R Coding/Statistics Group Founder, Organizer, and Member
- 2020 – 2021 **University of Minnesota**, Virtual Events/Community Building Committee Member
- 2019 – 2020 **University of Minnesota**, Grievance Committee Member

Ad Hoc Reviewer

- BMC Psychiatry* (since 2024)
- Cortex* (since 2022)
- Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* (since 2022)
- Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment* (since 2022)
- Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* (since 2019)