

Alina Eunhae Ryu

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EDUCATION

Cornell University

M.A. in Psychology; Expected Graduation May 2027

- Special Committee Chair: Daniel Casasanto
- Minor Committee Member: Vivian Zayas

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

B.S. in Psychobiology; September 2023 - June 2026

- GPA: 3.80/4.00 | College Honors

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher, Experience and Cognition Lab, Cornell University

August 2026 - Present

- Conduct master's thesis research examining historical changes in how U.S. college students describe themselves using the Twenty Statements Test (TST), with a focus on institution- and impulse-based self-conceptions.
- Design the study, coding protocols, hypotheses, and statistical analyses for a contemporary U.S. college sample and comparison with historical TST data.
- Examine associations among self-concept, social media use, psychological well-being, and potential cross-cultural variation.

Undergraduate Researcher, Bickart Lab, UCLA

January 2024 - June 2026

- Evaluated peer-reviewed articles on brain health, mental health, and lifestyle-related topics and wrote independent research papers.
- Contributed to the Better Brain Podcast by identifying experts across disciplines and designing psychologically informed social media content.
- Assisted with Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation and MRI sessions as part of an ongoing research project.
- Coordinated two subgroups specializing in the interaction between music, sleep, and brain health.
- Used eye tracking and data-analysis tools to collect and process behavioral and neural measures.

Undergraduate Researcher, Ghiani/Colwell Lab, UCLA

May 2024 - December 2025

- Investigated molecular and cellular mechanisms of gene-environment interactions in psychiatric and behavioral neuroscience.
- Conducted mouse behavioral and molecular research using both wet-lab and dry-lab techniques in collaboration with graduate and postdoctoral investigators.
- Contributed to presentations at UCLA-based symposia, including the UCLA Sleep Medicine Day Symposium, supporting graduate student presenters.
- Acknowledged in the lab's 2025 manuscript for contributions to fluorescence staining analysis and participation in experimental design discussions.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Human Brain and Mind, Cornell University

August 2026 - Present

- Support instruction in an undergraduate cognitive neuroscience course focused on embodied cognition and relationships among the body, brain, perception, action, and thought.
- Guide students in developing original experimental proposals, including formulating research questions and hypotheses and evaluating experimental designs.
- Hold office hours and mentor student groups in critically evaluating empirical research and preparing conference-style scientific presentations.

Tutor, TutorHive, Ithaca, NY

May 2023 - Present

- Instruct 20+ international students online across multiple countries, specializing in Psychology, Biology, and Mathematics.
- Recognized as "Tutor of the Month" and featured in an interview as one of the top 3 tutors on the global platform TutorHive.
- Develop individualized teaching plans to support students' academic progress and communicate goals with parents.
- Maintain a professional tutoring portfolio by producing instructional materials, updates, and reflective learning journals.

Learning Assistant, Life Sciences Lab Course, UCLA

February 2025 - June 2026

- Facilitated mini lectures and one-on-one support sessions to help students develop research skills, scientific writing, experimental design, data analysis, and conceptual reasoning.
- Collaborated with faculty and TAs to refine lesson plans and foster inclusive, research-centered learning environments.
- Supported students through individualized guidance on lab reports, data interpretation, and course concepts.
- Contributed to the Mental Health Space Focus Group, advocating for student psychological well-being and peer support.

- Teacher, Vivian & Stanley Gangnam International Scholars, Seoul, South Korea** June 2025 - July 2025
- Delivered AP Psychology instruction to 15+ high school students during the summer session in person.
 - Led curriculum enhancements for AP Calculus and Precalculus, incorporating advanced strategies to better align with student performance trends.
- Teacher, Vivian & Stanley Gangnam International Scholars, Seoul, South Korea** July 2024 - August 2024
- Taught AP Biology and Psychology to high school students during the summer session in person.
 - Collaborated with the head of school to refine individualized lesson plans.
- Teacher, Vivian & Stanley Gangnam International Scholars, Seoul, South Korea** July 2023 - August 2023
- Led AP Psychology and Calculus courses for high school students during the summer session in person.
 - Participated in weekly staff meetings to develop teaching programs and instructional strategies.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Executive Producer, Korean Culture Night (KCN), UCLA** September 2023 - June 2026
- Coordinated logistics and production timelines by collaborating with cross-functional teams to meet performance deadlines.
 - Oversaw large-scale event operations for the annual Korean Culture Night, the largest student-run Korean American production in the United States.
- Vice President, Medicine and Arts, UCLA** September 2023 - June 2026
- Volunteered at Ronald Reagan Medical Center and The Tiverton Health and Wellness Hotel, providing mental health support to patients and families through live piano music.
 - Volunteered at Nazareth House to perform and build meaningful connections with seniors through conversation and playing board games.
- Professional Development Director, ALD|PES Academic & National Honor Society, UCLA** April 2024 - June 2026
- Organized and facilitated workshops on resume building, interview preparation, essay writing, graduate school applications, and research opportunities.
 - Implemented innovative programs and resources to support members in pursuing internships, careers, and academic goals.
- Finance Director, Life Sciences Student Association (LSSA), UCLA** September 2023 - June 2026
- Planned and executed annual fundraising initiatives while enhancing outreach and securing local sponsorships.
 - Strengthened organizational and leadership skills through weekly professional development initiatives.
- Community Representative, Resident Government Council (RGC), UCLA** September 2023 - June 2026
- Engaged residents in meeting community needs through Global Health Living Learning Community programs.
 - Promoted positive living and learning within the community by organizing programs focused on service, health, and the arts.

HONORS & AWARDS

- K. Wayne Lee Endowed Scholarship, Korean American University Professors Association** November 2025
- Selected as the sole recipient of KAUPA's \$1,000 endowed scholarship, awarded for academic excellence and community contribution among Korean American university students in North America.
- Anne J. Trow National Scholarship, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society** April 2025
- \$6,000 merit-based national scholarship awarded for academic excellence and leadership potential.
- UCLA ALD|PES Local Chapter Scholarship, Alpha Lambda Delta|Phi Eta Sigma, UCLA** April 2025
- \$1,000 award given to outstanding members demonstrating academic excellence and service to the UCLA chapter.
- Dean's Honors List, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** December 2023; March, June, and December 2024
- Recognized quarterly for high academic distinction and sustained scholarly performance.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Languages: Korean, native; Indonesian, intermediate; Vietnamese, intermediate.
- Technical: R; Qualtrics; Prolific; eye tracking; MRI; TMS; data analysis.
- Teaching & Leadership: Discussion facilitation; mentoring; student support; psychology advocacy.
- Research Interests: Self-representation; social and cultural cognition; social connection and well-being; digital environments.