

# Sylvia Havadtoy Branca

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of Texas at Austin**  
2005 Human Development and Family Sciences  
Committee: Dr. Theodore Dix, Dr. Aletha C. Huston, Dr. Edward Anderson  
*Understanding How Parenting and Authoritarian Beliefs Affect Perceptions of Parenting*
- M.A. **San José State University**  
1999 Psychology (Developmental)  
Committee: Dr. Robert Cooper, Dr. Mary Masters, Dr. Amy Strage  
*The Effect of Instruction Manipulation on the Academic Performance of Children*
- B.A. **San José State University**  
1996 Psychology (Minor in Child Development), *cum laude*

## CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2015-present **Adjunct Lecturer:** Child and Adolescent Development  
San José State University
- 2018-present **Adjunct Lecturer:** Psychology  
San José State University

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-2021 **Primary Investigator:** Child and Adol. Development, San José State University  
With Dr. Slusser, conducted IRB-approved research examining undergraduate experiences.  
*Study Title: Through a More Discerning Lens: Understanding College Student Expectations and Experiences Over the Course of a Semester*
- 2018-2020 **McNair Faculty Mentor:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University  
Advisor to McNair Student/LCOE Student Research Award Recipient, Melody Mann  
*Study Title: Understanding Teacher-Child Interactions in Early Care Settings*
- 2017 **Primary Investigator:** Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University  
Conducted RSCA-funded research examining parental attributions and emotion regulation  
*Study Title: Does Parental Emotion Regulation Mediate the Relationship Between Authoritarian Beliefs and Attributions for Children's Behavior?*
- 2011-2012 **Research Associate:** Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory, UT Austin  
Provided research/grant writing support to the director of the laboratory school  
*Authored Essay: Lab School Explores Innovative Outdoor Play Space*  
Supervisor: Rhonda Hauser, M.A.
- 2005-2007 **Research Consultant:** VSA Arts of Texas  
Provided research/evaluation for a nonprofit agency promoting accessible arts education  
*Authored Report: Teacher Survey Final Report – Arts Alive*  
Supervisor: Celia Hughes, M.A.

- 2001      **Research Assistant:** Psychology, University of Texas at Austin  
Parenting and Family Violence Research Lab  
Conducted research examining the effectiveness of a parent education program  
*Poster Presentation: Evaluating Middle Way: Lasting Change in Parent Education*  
Supervisor: Dr. George Holden
- 1996-2000      **Research Technician/Research Assistant:** Psychology, San José State University  
Social-Emotional Research Lab  
Performed all duties of a working lab (data collection, coding, analyses, documentation)  
*Research Focus: The Socialization of Emotion in Children*  
Supervisor: Dr. Mildred Alvarez
- 1999-2003      **Research Assistant:** Human Development & Family Sciences, UT Austin  
Center for Public Policy Research  
Performed all aspects of research (data collection, coding, analyses, documentation)  
*Research Focus: Evaluation of a Work-Based, Anti-Poverty Demonstration Program*  
Supervisor: Dr. Aletha Huston

#### HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### Instructor

<b>Child Development (w/Service Learning)</b> Child & Adolescent Development 60	F21, S21, F20, S20, F19, S19, F18, S18, F17, S17, F16, S16, F15 San José State University
<b>Writing Workshop (upper division)</b> Psychology 100W	F21, S21, F20, S20, F19, S19 San José State University
<b>Psychology of Aging (upper division)</b> Psychology 114	F21, S21, F20, S20, F19, S19 San José State University
<b>Lifespan Development in the 21st Century</b> Child & Adolescent Development 70	F19, S19, S18, F17 San José State University
<b>General Psychology</b> Psychology 001	F18 Evergreen Valley College
<b>Child Development</b> Family and Consumer Studies 70	S18 Evergreen Valley College
<b>Ethical, Philosophical, &amp; Professional Dev. Issues (upper division)</b> Human Development and Family Sciences 340	F10 University of Texas at Austin
<b>Developmental Psychology</b> Psychology 33	S04 Southwestern University
<b>Child Development (lab component)</b> Human Development and Family Sciences 313	S11, S03 University of Texas at Austin

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Branca, S. H. & Slusser, E.** (in press). Through a more discerning lens: Understanding college student expectations and experiences over the course of a semester. *College Student Journal*.

Dix, T. & **Branca, S. H.** (2003). Parenting as a goal-regulation process. In L. Kuczynski (Ed.), *Handbook of the dynamics in parent-child relations* (pp. 167-187). Sage Publications.

**EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

**Special Education Tutor**, Dartmouth Middle School, San Jose, CA 2017

- Provided one-on-one tutoring and executive function skill development to middle school student diagnosed with Autism

**Substitute Teacher (Regular & Spec. Education)**, Alta Vista Elementary School, Los Gatos, CA 2016-2017

- Taught in K-3 classrooms as a substitute regular and special education teacher

**Evaluation Specialist**, Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT), San Jose, CA 2014-2015

- Led focus groups with K-8 teachers regarding development and implementation of hands-on Common Core lessons and teacher professional development trainings
- Designed and implemented quantitative and qualitative evaluation measures for classroom-based K-12 hands-on STEAM activities
- Performed data entry, data analyses, synthesized evaluation findings for dissemination

**Response to Intervention Tutor**, Alta Vista Elementary School, Los Gatos, CA 2013-2014

- Created and implemented original classroom-based literacy intervention activities for students struggling with reading skills including problems with phonemic awareness
- Documented children's developmental progress using grade-level academic assessment measures
- Worked closely with classroom teachers to monitor and assess children's literacy skills and academic progress

**Parent Educator**, Parents of Newborns Project, Family Connections, Austin, TX 2004-2005

- Provided in-hospital visits to teen-aged mothers on maternal and child well-being including infant health and safety, breast-feeding, and attachment
- Conducted weekly phone consultations with mothers and connected mothers to local resources for help with infant care, development, parenting, and social support

**Parent Trainer**, The Middle Way Program, Family Forward, Austin, TX 2001-2002

- Taught a mandatory, 16-week parent-education program for court-mandated parents seeking renewed custody of their children
- Prepared and delivered lectures on child development, attachment, developmental milestones, emotion-regulation, and positive parenting
- Facilitated support-group discussions with parents regarding parenting challenges and well-being

**Program Evaluation Assistant**, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX Summer, 2002

- Managed and organized administrative data including children's academic achievement and teachers' professional development records
- Interviewed school principals regarding the implementation and success of summer school programs designed to promote at-risk children's academic achievement
- Developed observational measures for gathering data in classroom settings
- Synthesized qualitative data for dissemination

## GRANTS

2016 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) Award – San José State University  
*Does Parental Emotion Regulation Mediate the Relationship Between Authoritarian Beliefs and Attributions for Children's Behavior?*

## SELECTED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

*Note: Presented under maiden name Havadtoy and married name Branca. \*Denotes student author.*

\*Vargas, K., & **Branca, S.H.** (2021). *Machismo and Its Relationship with Violence Against Women in Latinx Societies*. Poster presented at the virtual (remote) Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference, San José, CA.

**Branca, S.H.** & Slusser, E. (2019). *Understanding Student Expectations and Experiences in Large Classes*. Session presented at the Lilly Conference: Teaching for Active and Engaged Learning, San Diego, CA.

\*Mann, M. & **Branca, S.H.** (2019). *Understanding teacher-child interactions in early care settings*. Poster presented at University of New Mexico McNair Scholars Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

**Branca, S.H.** (2017). *Authoritarian beliefs affect mothers' appraisals of real-time parent-child interaction*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Western Psychological Association (WPA), Sacramento, CA.

**Branca, S.H.** (2016). *How to think critically about any topic*. Poster presented at the Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Project Showcase, San José State University, San Jose, CA.

Mistry, R. S., Bos, J., Shim, M., **Branca, S. H.**, & Cummings, J. (2003). *Examining the relations of parents' employment and income source to youth risk and resilience: Does family process matter?* In R. S. Mistry (Chair) *Employment, Welfare, Income, and Adolescent Outcomes in the Context of Welfare Reform*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Tampa, FL.

Huston, A. C., Mistry, R., Bos, J., **Branca, S. H.**, & Shim, M. (2002). *Parental employment and adolescent well-being: Are parents' employment and income source related to youth risk and resilience?* Paper presented for a panel at the 24th annual conference of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Dallas, TX.

Hawk, K. C., **Branca, S. H.**, Ragan, J., & Holden, G. (2002). *Evaluating middle way: Lasting change in parent education*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Southwestern Society for Research in Human Development (SWSRHD), Austin, TX.

**Havadtoy, S.** (2001). *The relationship between maternal well-being and child well-being: Comparing a direct and an indirect effects model in a low-income sample*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Minneapolis, MN.

**Havadtoy, S.**, Alvarez, M. M., Ruggles, V., Teerman, G. C., & Marquez, H. (1999). *Socialization of emotion in children: The relationship between maternal self-expressiveness and emotion language*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Albuquerque, NM.

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Mental Health First Aid**, Certified – National Council for Mental Well Being  
San José State University, July 2021

**Faculty Partner**, SJSU Peer Connections – ChAD 60/ChAD 70  
San José State University, F18, S19, F19, S20, F20, S21, F21

**Faculty Participant**, Teach Online Summer Certificate Program  
San José State University, June 12, 2020

**Faculty Participant**, FLIP Workshop – First in the World Grant  
San José State University, May 31, 2019

**Active Learning Certification**, Center for Faculty Development/eCampus  
San José State University, June 8, 2018

**Invited Speaker**, Engaging for Success: An Inclusive Dialogue with Students, Faculty, and Staff  
*A Place for All: The Importance of Classroom Climate in Fostering Inclusion*  
San José State University, May 1, 2018

**Parent Education Workshop Presenter**, Associated Students Child Development Center  
*Promoting Positive Parent-Child Interactions: and Helping Children Learn Valuable Skills Along the Way*  
San José State University, April 19, 2017

**Invited Speaker**, Graduate Seminar of MA Research and Experimental Psychology (Psy 280)  
*Navigating the Path Through Graduate School and Beyond*  
San José State University, Sept 20, 2016

**SJSU Faculty Delegate**, CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning Summer Institute  
*What Works: Designing Teaching for Diverse Learners*  
California State University Long Beach, Chancellor's Office, July 12-14, 2016

**Faculty Participant**, Professional Development Training  
*Strategies for Addressing (and Avoiding) Classroom Behavior Management Issues*  
San José State University, Dec 4, 2015

## AWARDS

- 2016 AANAPISI Faculty Writing Workshop Award – San José State University
- 2004 College of Natural Sciences Special Fellowship Award – University of Texas at Austin
- 2003 Continuing Bruton Fellowship – University of Texas at Austin
- 2000 Professional Development Travel Award – University of Texas at Austin (& 2001, 2003)
- 1998 Ronald G. Rabedeau Memorial Scholarship for Achievement in Psychology – San José State University
- 1999 Alumni Association Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Accomplishment – San José State University

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association  
Center for Faculty Development, SJSU  
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity  
Society for Research in Child Development | Western Psychological Association