

# **Bianca P. Acevedo, Ph.D.**

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## **EDUCATION**

Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

Ph.D. in Social/Health Psychology, (August, 2008).

New York University, New York, NY

B.A. in Psychology (May, 2000, magna cum laude).

*Study abroad: Italy 1999*

## **SUMMARY**

As a Researcher and Consultant, I have designed and conducted qualitative and quantitative studies for 10+ years, from start to finish. I have extensive experience in research methods, survey development, interviewing participants, and writing reports and peer-reviewed articles. In addition, I have taught courses in numerous topics; have successfully managed teams; served on committees; provided media interviews; obtained funding for my research; and served as a reviewer for the academic community. Finally, I co-authored and edited, "The Highly Sensitive Brain" (Elsevier), finalist of the 2021 PROSE Award.

## **COMPUTING AND ANALYTIC SKILLS**

- SPSS
- MS OFFICE
- QUALTRICS
- MATLAB
- ADOBE
- SAS
- fMRI analysis
- CORRELATION
- REGRESSION
- ZOTERRO

## **LANGUAGES**

- Fluent in Spanish
- Conversational in Italian

## **APPOINTMENTS & EMPLOYMENT**

<b>Assistant Researcher</b> Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences University of California, Santa Barbara, CA	02/2016 – present
<b>Senior Research Consultant</b> Cora Group Inc. New York, NY	09/2013 – present
<b>Research Fellow</b> Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior University of California, Los Angeles, CA	09/2015 - 08/2016
<b>Senior Research Scientist</b> New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene New York City, NY	11/2013 – 12/2014
<b>Instructor</b> Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences University of California, Santa Barbara, CA	09/2012 – 08/2013
<b>Postdoctoral Associate</b> Department of Public Health Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY	04/2011 – 04/2013
<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> Department of Psychology and Brain Sciences University of California, Santa Barbara, CA	01/2009 – 12/2010

<b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> Department of Neurology & Neuroscience Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY	08/2008 – 07/2010
<b>Visiting Research Fellow</b> Interpersonal Relationships Free University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL	06/2005 – 08/2005
<b>Visiting Research Fellow</b> Psychophysiology Laboratory Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA	06/ 2004 – 08/2004

## **GRANTS**

Mitsui LTD	Acevedo (PI), Collins (Co-PI)	01/2021 to 03/2022
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**Effects of Cognitive Training Exercises**  
The aim of this study to assess whether a neuro-feedback based cognitive intervention using wearable brain sensors to track brain activity would improve cognitive function among healthy older individuals.

AARFD-16-443273	Acevedo (PI)	12/2016 to 01/2019
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**Caregiving, Empathy and Alzheimer’s Disease: A Pilot Study**  
The aim of this study was to examine the effects of a 6-week meditation intervention on caregivers (of partners with Mild Cognitive Impairment) health and empathy, and associations with brain connectivity.

R01 DA023437 (NID	Botvin (PI)	09/2008 to 02/2013
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**A Collaborative System Approach for the Diffusion of Evidence-Based Prevention Program**  
The goal of this NIDA-funded project was to increase our understanding of how to effectively promote the dissemination, adoption, implementation, and sustained utilization (DAIS) of evidence-based substance use prevention programs for adolescents.

Seed Grant, University of California Santa Barbara	Acevedo (PI)	03/2009 – 08/2010
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**The Neural Basis of Bonding in Newlyweds**  
The goal of this research was to elucidate the neural correlates of pair-bonding (and their changes) among newlyweds over the first year of marriage.

National Science Foundation 958171	Acevedo (PI)	08/2008 – 08/2010
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**Changes in Neural Circuits Underlying Pair-bonding in Humans during the Transition to Marriage**  
The aim of this research was to establish the neural systems underlying pair-bonding, in a group of first-time newlyweds without children upon the transition to marriage.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2021	Finalist for PROSE Award in Neuroscience
2021	Nominated for the annual USERN Award for junior scientists
2012	Woman in Science Award, International Women in Science Society
2008	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
2008	Neuroscience Postdoctoral Fellowship, American Psychological Association
2006	Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Minority Fellowship, Honorable Mention
2005	Positive Psychology Summer Institute, Award Recipient
2004-2007	Summer Research Award, W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship, Stony Brook University
2003-2008	W. Burghardt Turner Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Stony Brook University
1996-2000	University Scholarship for Academic Achievement, New York University

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Professor: New York University*

*Departments of Psychology and Engineering, 2022-2023*

- Social Neuroscience
- Introduction to Engineering, Writing Professor

*Instructor: Rutgers University*

*Graduate School of Professional Psychology, 2022*

- Cognitive and Affective Psychology

*Lecturer: University of California, Santa Barbara*

*Department of Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology, 2022*

- Human Physiology

*Instructor: University of California, Santa Barbara*

*Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, 2012-2013*

- Research Methods, Close Relationships, & Positive Psychology

*Graduate Teaching Assistant: Stony Brook University*

*Department of Psychology, 2006-2008*

- Human Development
- Research Methods and Writing
- Statistics for Psychology
- Graduate course on Correlations & Regression
- Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences

## **PUBLICATIONS** Note: \* Indicates student(s) co-author(s).

### ***Book(s)***

**Acevedo, B. (2020).** *The Highly Sensitive Brain.* Amsterdam: Elsevier.

### ***Peer-reviewed Articles***

Sperati, A., Acevedo, B.P., Dellagiulia, A., Fasolo, M., Spinelli, M., D'Urso, G., Lionetti, F. (2024). The contribution of Sensory Processing Sensitivity and internalized attachment representations on emotion regulation competencies in school-age children. *Frontiers in Psychology, 15*, DOI=10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1357808.

Jaggiellowicz, J., Acevedo, B.P., Tilmann, T., Aron, A., Aron, E.N. (2024). The relationship between sensory processing sensitivity and medication sensitivity: brief report. *Frontiers in Psychology, 14*, DOI=10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1320695

\*Sadeghzadeh, N., Farajzadeh, N., Dattatri, N., **Acevedo, B.P.** (2023). SPS Vision Net: Measuring Sensory Processing Sensitivity via an Artificial Neural Network. *Cognitive Computation. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12559-023-10216-6>*

\***Acevedo, B.P.**, Aron, E.N., Aron, A., Cooper, T., Marhenke, R. (2023). Sensory processing sensitivity and its relation to sensation seeking. *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences, 4*:100.

\***Acevedo, B.P.**, Dattari, N., Marhenke, R. (2023). Sensory processing sensitivity, memory, and cognitive training with neurofeedback. *Behavioural Brain Research, 16* (6). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2023.114601>.

\*Marhenke, R., **Acevedo, B.P.**, Sachse, P., Martini, M. (2023). Individual differences in sensory processing sensitivity amplify effects of post-learning activity for better and for worse. *Scientific Reports, 13*, 4451. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-31192-9>

\***Acevedo, B.P.**, Dattari, N., Lappinga, C., Le, J., & Collins, N. (2022). Cognitive training with neurofeedback using fNIRS improves cognitive function in older adults. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 19*, 5531. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19095531>

\***Acevedo, B.P.**, Marhenke, R., Kosik, K.S., Zarinafsar, S., Santander, T. (2021). Yoga improves older adults' affective functioning and resting-state brain connectivity: Evidence from a pilot study. *Aging and Health Research, 1*,3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ahr.2021.100018>.

- \***Acevedo, B.**, Santander, T., Marhenke, R., Aron, A., & Aron, E. (2021). Sensory processing sensitivity predicts individual differences in resting-state functional connectivity. *Neuropsychobiology*, *80*:185–199.
- Canas-Aghedu, F., Sarlo, M., Zappasodi, F., **Acevedo, B.**, Bisiacchi, P. (2021). Romantic love affects emotional processing of love-unrelated stimuli: an EEG/ERP study. *Brain and Cognition*, *151*, 105733. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bandc.2021.105733>
- Acevedo, B.**, Poulin, M., Collins, N., Brown, L. (2020). After the honeymoon: Neural and genetic correlates of romantic love in newlywed marriages. *Frontiers in Psychology*, *11* (634), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00634>
- Acevedo, B.**, Geher, G., Poulin, M., Grafton, S. Brown, L. (2019). The neural and genetic correlates of satisfying sexual activity in heterosexual pair-bonds, *Brain and Behavior*, *6*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1002/brb3.1289>
- Acevedo, B.**, Poulin, M., Brown, L. (2019). Beyond romance: Neural and genetic correlates of altruism in pair-bonds, *Behavioral Neuroscience*, *133*(1), 18-31. <https://doi.org/10.1037/bne0000293>
- Greven, C., Booth, C., Lionetti, F., **Acevedo, B.**, et al., J. (2019). Sensory processing sensitivity in the context of environmental sensitivity: A critical review and development of research agenda. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, *98*, 287-305.
- Griffin, K.W., Lowe, S.R., Botvin, C., **Acevedo, B.**, (2019). Patterns of adolescent tobacco and alcohol use as predictors of illicit and prescription drug abuse in minority young adults, *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, *47*(3). 228-242. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10852352.2019.1603672>.
- \***Acevedo, B.**, Aron, E., Pospos, S., Jessen, D. (2018). The functional highly sensitive brain: A review of the brain circuits underlying sensory processing sensitivity and seemingly related disorders. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B.*, doi:10.1098.
- Botvin, G. J., Griffin, K. W., Botvin, C. M., Murphy, M., & **Acevedo, B.** (2018). Increasing implementation fidelity for school-based drug abuse prevention: Effectiveness of enhanced training and technical assistance. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, *9*, 1-15.
- Acevedo, B.** Jagiellowicz, J., Aron, E., Aron, A., Marhenke, R., Aron, A. (2017). Sensory processing sensitivity and childhood quality's effects on neural responses to emotional stimuli. *Clinical Neuropsychiatry*, *14*, 359-373.
- Eyre, H.A., Siddharth, P., **Acevedo, B.**, Lavretsky, H. (2017). A randomized control trial of Kundalini yoga in mild cognitive impairment. *International Psychogeriatrics*, doi.org/10.1017/S1041610216002155.
- Griffin, K.W., Lowe, S.R., Botvin, C., **Acevedo, B.**, (2017). Cigarette smoking and alcohol use during adolescence: Links to illicit and prescription drug abuse among urban minority young adults. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*.
- Acevedo, B.**, Pospos, S. & Lavretsky, H. (2016). The neural mechanisms of meditative practices: Novel approaches for healthy aging. *Current Behavioral Neuroscience Reports*, *3*: 328. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40473-016-0098-x>
- Eyre, H.A., Acevedo, B., Yang, H., Van Dyk, K., Leaver, A.M., St. Cyr, N., Narr, K., Baune, B.T., Siddharth, P., Khalsa, D.S., Lavretsky, H. (2016). Changes in functional connectivity and cognition following a yoga intervention for older adults: a pilot study. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, *52*, 673-684. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-150653>
- Griffin, K. W., Lowe, S. R., **Acevedo, B.**, Botvin, G. J. (2015). Affective self-regulation trajectories during secondary school predict substance use among urban minority young adults. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse*, DOI:10.1080/1067828X.2013.812530.
- \***Acevedo, B.**, Aron, E., Aron, A., Sangster, M., Collins, N., Brown, L. (2014). The highly sensitive brain: An fMRI study of sensory processing sensitivity. *Brain and Behavior*, *4*, 580-594.
- Acevedo, B.**, Lowe, S. R., Griffin, K. W. & Botvin, G. J. (2013). Predictors of intimate partner violence among multi-ethnic urban youth. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *28*, 3004-3022.
- Acevedo, B. P.**, Aron, A., Fisher, H. E., & Brown, L. L. (2012). Neural correlates of marital satisfaction and well-being: Reward, empathy, and affect. *Clinical Neuropsychiatry*, *9*(1), 20–31.
- Griffin, K.W., Scheier, L.M., **Acevedo, B.**, Grenard, J.L., Botvin, G.J. (2012). Long-term effects of self- control on alcohol use and sexual behavior among urban minority young women. *International Journal of Environmental research of Public*

Health, 9, 1-23.

Lowe, S. R., **Acevedo, B.**, Griffin, K. W. & Botvin, G. J. (2012). Longitudinal relationships between self-management skills and substance use in an urban sample of predominantly minority adolescents. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 43, 103-118.

Xu, X., Brown, L., Aron, A., **Acevedo, B.**, Cao, G., Feng, T., & Weng, X. (2012). Brain activations during early stage intense romantic love associated with relationship outcomes 40 months later. *Neuroscience Letters*. 526,33-38. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2012.08.004>

**Acevedo, B.**, Aron A., Fisher, H., Brown, L. (2011). Neural correlates of long-term intense romantic love. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Journal*. 7,145-59. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsq092>

O'Leary, K.D., **Acevedo, B.**, Aron, A., Huddy, L., Mashek, D. (2011). Is long-term love more than a rare phenomenon? If so, what are its correlates? *Social Psychology and Personality Science*, 3(2):241-249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550611417015>

Riela, S., Rodriguez, G., Aron, A., Xu, X., & **Acevedo, B.** (2010). Experiences of falling in love: Similarities and differences in culture, ethnicity, gender, and speed. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 27, 473-493.

**Acevedo, B.** & Aron, A. (2009). Does a long-term relationship kill romantic love? *Review of General Psychology*, 13, 59-65.

### **Book Chapters**

**Acevedo, B.P.** (2022). Love for one? Romantic love and altruism in pair-bonds. In Pismenny, A. & Berit, B., (Eds.). *The moral psychology of love*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Rosenberg, K., Carnes, P., & **Acevedo, B.** (2021). Clinical evaluation of compulsive sexual behavior disorder. In Balon, R. and Briken, P. (Eds.). *Compulsive sexual behavior disorder: Understanding, assessment, and treatment*. American Psychiatric Association.

**Acevedo, B.** (2020). Love for one? The special case of romantic love in pair-bonds. *Sabah Ulkesi*.

**Acevedo, B.** (2017). The positive psychology of romantic love. In Warren and Donaldson (Eds). *Toward a Positive Psychology of Relationships: New Directions in Theory and Research*. ABC-Clio.

**Acevedo, B.**, Aron, A., Xu, X., Lewandowski, G. (2017). Foundations for couples: Love and self- expansion. In J. Fitzgerald (Ed.) *Foundations for couples' therapy: Research for the real world*. Routledge.

**Acevedo, B.** (2015). Neural correlates of human attachment: Evidence from fMRI studies of adult pair- bonding. In Zayas, V. & Hazan, C. (Eds.). *Bases of adult attachment: From brain to mind to behavior*. Springer.

**Acevedo, B.** & Aron A. (2013). Romantic love, pair-bonding, and the dopaminergic reward system. In M. Mikulincer & P.R. Shaver (Eds.). *Nature and development of social connections: From brain to group*. American Psychological Association.

Aron, A., Fisher, H., Strong, G., **Acevedo, B.**, Riela, S., & Tsapelas, I. (2008). Falling in love. In S. Sprecher, A. Wenzel, & J. Harvey (Eds.), *Handbook of Relationship Initiation*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

### **CERTIFICATIONS & WORKSHOPS**

- 2014 NYC HANES analysis training, NYC Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene, New York, NY.
- 2014 Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute, Columbia University, NY, NY.
- 2014 SUDAAN Workshop, NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, New York, NY.
- 2012 Brain Connectivity Workshop, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada.
- 2012 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Special Populations Research Development Seminar Series Workshop, Bethesda, MD.
- 2012 Life Skills Training Workshop, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY, NY.
- 2011 Achieving Successful and Productive Academic Research Careers (SPARC) Conference, Rockefeller University, New York, NY.

2011 Domestic Violence Workshop: A Move Towards Recognition, Prevention and Intervention, Brooklyn Regional Perinatal Forum, SUNY Downstate Medical College

2009 fMRI Operators Training, Brain Imaging Center, UC Santa Barbara

2009 Social Bonds Workshop, UCLA Interdisciplinary Relationship Science Program

2009 Bio-Pac Training, Dept. of Psychology, UC Santa Barbara

2007 fMRI Operators Training, Center for Brain Imaging, New York University

2006 Adult Attachment Interview Training, Dept. of Psychology, Stony Brook University

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Ad –hoc reviewer:** 2008-present *Journal of Human Brain Mapping, Science, Journal of Clinical Neuropsychiatry, Journal of Attachment & Human Development, Journal for Psychological Science, Journal of Evolutionary Psychology, Journal of Comparative Neurology, Social Neuroscience, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, PLOS ONE Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine, Experimental Brain Research, International Journal of Yoga Therapy, Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, Nature, Neuropsychologia, PLOS ONE, Psychoneuroendocrinology, Social Neuroscience, Human Brain Mapping.*

**Media interviewee:** 2008-present **TV Shows/Networks:** *The Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel, BBC, Brink (Science Channel), Canal Plus (French TV), CBS News, Dateline NBC, ABC News, Fox News, NY Channel One, RTL German TV, Univision Aqui y Ahora, NPR, BBC, Canal+ French television, BBC Hulu.*

**Newspaper Articles:** *The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Boston Globe, The Chicago Tribune, The Seattle Times, The Washington Post, The NY Post, The NY Daily News, NY Newsday, Taipei Times, and The Times of India, The New Yorker.*

**Magazines:** *The AARP, New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, Cosmopolitan, Elle, Glow, Self, WebMD, Health Day, (MedicineNet.Com), Men's Health, Monitor on Psychology, Psychology Today, Brain World, Science News Magazine, Women's Health, and Parade.*

**Editorial member:** 2018-present *Journal of Behavioral Neuroscience, Frontiers in Psychology, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.*

**Grant reviewer:** 2017- present The National Science Foundation, Research Foundation Flanders, European Research Council, John Templeton Foundation, and the Alzheimer's Association.