
AMIRAH SAAFIR, PH.D.

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Professional Appointments

California State University, Fullerton
Assistant Professor
Child and Adolescent Studies

August 2021—present

Education

University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA)
Ph.D.: Education (Human Development and Psychology)

September 2020

Howard University

BS: Psychology

May 2012

Research

Assistant Professor

2021-present

California State University Fullerton—Child and Adolescent Studies Department

- Exploring the impact of ethnic-racial contextual factors on psychosocial adjustment for Black children and adolescents.

Graduate Researcher

UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies

2013 to 2020

- Explored the impact of school ethnic context on school adjustment outcomes for 6-12th grade public and private school students from diverse backgrounds with an emphasis on students from marginalized backgrounds.

Relevant Teaching Experience

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF)

2021-present

Courses Taught:

- **CAS 301-** Inquiry and Methodology in Development
- **CAS 490T**—Senior Seminar: Ethnicity and Culture in Development
- **CAS 370**—African American Child Development
- **HONR 300**— Junior Honors Colloquium

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Summer Training for Excellence In Education Research

2014 to 2016

- Developed and taught 8-week education research curriculum for HBCU undergraduates leading to successful development and presentation of projects at national conferences.

Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program

2014 to 2016

- Designed and taught 8-week workshop curriculum on applying to graduate school; more than half of students went on to top graduate programs.

Relevant Mentorship Experience

Graduate Students

*Julia Guillen (Master's student at CSUF)
*Jessica Vivar (Master's student at CSUF)
Jada Augustine (PhD student at CSULA)

Audrey Devost (Ph.D. UCLA)
Carlisa Simon (Ph.D. UCLA)
Angelica Robinson (M.S. CSUF)

Undergraduates

*Jordyn Reese (CSUF, Af Am)
*Amirah Kembe (CSUF, Public Health)
Blanca Gutierrez (CSUF, CAS)
Isabella "Bella" Gandarilla (CSUF, CAS)
Bernadette Pinetta (Ph.D. University of Michigan Ann Arbor)

Precious Liam (M.S. UCLA)
Vanessa Lopez (M.S. Harvard)
Jerek Brown (M.S. Harvard, current PhD student at Columbia)
Chenyre Best (Ph.D Howard University)

**Current*

Selected Recent Publications

Saafir, A., & Graham, S. (2024). Perception matters: The influence of school ethnic racial context on ethnic racial identity development for Black adolescents. *Behavioral Sciences*, 14(10), 872.

Saafir, A., Graham, S. (in preparation) Black Identity Development from Middle School thorough High School

Saafir, A., Kambe, A., Reese, J. (in preparation)) The Influence of Barbie on Children's Understandings of Race and Racism.

Chen, X., Saafir, A., & Graham, S. (2020) Ethnicity, Peers, and Academic Achievement: Who Wants to be Friends with the Smart Kids? *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. 1-13.

Selected Recent Presentations

Saafir, A. (May 2024) The Influence of Barbie on Children's Understandings of Race and Racism. Poster will be presented at the Society for Research on Child Development's Anti-Racist Summit.

Saafir, A. & Graham, S. (presented April 2024) Perception Matters: Understanding the Role of School Context on Black Identity Development. Poster presented at Annual Society for Research on Adolescents Conference.

Saafir, A. & Johnson, E. (presented November 2023) A Black Girl Magic Conversation: Black Barbie, Consumerism, and Identity. Invited Talk presented at Tennessee State University.

Service

University Service

CSUF, Child and Adolescent Studies Department (CAS)

CAS 301 Course Coordinator

2023-present

- Served as the point person for all CAS 301 faculty. Responsibilities include supporting new faculty, reviewing course syllabi, fielding questions from faculty throughout the semester, and developing the course common final

CAS Program Assessment

2022-2024

- Worked on a small team of CAS faculty to evaluate student proficiency on department learning outcomes. Responsibilities included meeting regular, revising assessment tools, coding and scoring student work, and presenting findings to CAS faculty.

CAS 301 Learning Goals Revision Committee

2022-2023

- Met regularly with CAS department faculty teaching Research Inquiry and Methodology (CAS 301) to assess appropriate learning outcomes and goals for student and updated department standards for CAS 301.

CAS Program Performance Review Research Group

2021-2022

- Met regularly with CAS department faculty to assess the extent to which we met our long-term goals as a department in supporting faculty and student research.
- Developed recommendations for future CAS department goals in the areas of student and faculty research.

Professional/Community Service

Research Consultant

2021-present

The Black Barbie Documentary (Netflix)

- Developed focus group protocol for kids ages 8-12 on their perceptions of Barbie, race, and racism.
- Facilitated a conversation with an interdisciplinary panel of experts on the impact of Black Barbie on identity development.
- Ongoing engagement in public conversations about the implications of the documentary **including a panel at SXSW Conference 2023, a radio segment on IdeaStream, and as an invited guest on the Southern Circuit Film Screening Tour, The Power Table Podcast**

Journal of Marriage and Family Reviewer

2022

- Reviewed a manuscript on ethnic racial socialization for youth of color for the Journal of Marriage and family

Select Professional Service

Black Undergraduate Student Creative Activities and Research (BUSCAR) Fellowship Mentor

2024-present

Faculty Graduate Student Mentorship Program (UP Grads)

2023-present

HHD Student Research Showcase Judge

2021-present

Pan Afrikan Recognition Celebration Processional

May 2023

Coordinated Grad School Panel for CSUF African American Resource Center

April 2023