

**Desiree R. Jones**  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
800 W Campbell Rd, GR 41, Richardson TX 75080  
[desi.jones@utdallas.edu](mailto:desi.jones@utdallas.edu) | <https://sites.google.com/view/desireejones/>

## EDUCATION

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- PhD in Psychological Sciences** 2023  
School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas  
Advisor: Dr. Noah Sasson  
*Dissertation:* Intersectional Experiences of Stigma and their Relation to Mental Health Outcomes among Black and White Autistic Adults
- MS in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience** 2020  
School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas  
Advisor: Dr. Noah Sasson  
*Thesis:* Effects of Autism Acceptance Training on Explicit and Implicit Biases Towards Autism
- BA in Neuroscience and Psychology** 2016  
Department of Neuroscience & Department of Psychology, Wellesley College  
Advisors: Dr. Jonathan Cheek  
*Thesis:* The Broad Autism Phenotype: Evaluating Autistic Traits and Their Effects on Social Functioning in a College Population.

## RESEARCH TRAINING

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- Postdoctoral Associate** 2023  
Developmental Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, The University of Maryland, College Park  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Redcay
- Graduate Student Researcher** 2018-2023  
Social Cognition and Interaction in Autism Lab, The University of Texas at Dallas  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Noah Sasson
- Clinical Research Assistant** 2016-2018  
Department of Allied Health Sciences, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Principal Investigators: Dr. Brian Boyd & Dr. Clare Harrop
- Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2015  
Early Childhood Cognition Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Laura Schulz
- Intern** 2015  
Developmental Medicine Center, Boston Children's Hospital  
Mentor: Dr. Ellen Hanson

## FUNDING

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- 09/2023-09/2025      **President's Postdoctoral Fellowship**  
The University of Maryland, College Park  
Project Title: Intra- and Inter-personal Contributors to Loneliness in Autistic Adolescents

Role: Postdoctoral Fellow  
Award Amount: \$10,000

- 10/2022-09/2023 **American Psychological Foundation Visionary Grant**  
Project title: Examining the Relationship between Stigma, Victimization, Exclusionary Attitudes, and Poor Mental Health Experiences in Black and White Autistic Adults  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Total Direct Costs: \$18,350
- 09/2022-09/2023 **Carol L. and Maynard S. Redeker Fellowship**  
University of Texas at Dallas Departmental Research Fellowship  
Award Amount: \$5,000
- 09/2021-09/2022 **James C. Bartlett Fellowship**  
University of Texas at Dallas Departmental Research Fellowship  
Award Amount: \$2,500
- 09/2020-09/2021 **Carol L. and Maynard S. Redeker Fellowship**  
University of Texas at Dallas Departmental Research Fellowship  
Award Amount: \$5,000
- 09/2019-09/2020 **James C. Bartlett Fellowship**  
University of Texas at Dallas Departmental Research Fellowship  
Award Amount: \$2,000
- 08/2018-08/2021 **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Autism Grant Program**  
Project Title: Improving Social Outcomes for Adolescents with Autism during the Transition to Adulthood via Neurostimulation and Inclusion Training  
Role: Graduate Research Assistant  
PI: Noah J. Sasson, PhD  
Total Direct Costs: \$305,130
- 09/2019-09/2020 **National Institute of Mental Health Research Project Grant**  
Grant Number: R01MH116902  
Project Title: Social Cognition and Suicide in Psychotic Disorders  
Role: Consultant  
PI: Colin Depp, PhD
- 07/2016-07/2018 **National Institute of Mental Health Research Project Grant**  
Grant Number: R01HD082127  
Project Title: Behavioral Inflexibility in IDD Outcome Measurement  
Role: Research Assistant  
PI: Brian A. Boyd, PhD

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Articles in Refereed Journals**

1. McVey, A.J., **Jones, D.R.**, Waisman, T.C., Raymaker, D.M., Nicolaidis, C., & Maddox, B.B. (In Press). Mindshift in autism: A call to professionals in research, clinical, and educational settings. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.

2. Harrop, C., Bodfish, J., Lecavalier, L., Dallman, A.R., **Jones, D.R.**, Pritchett, J., Whitten, A., & Boyd, B.A. (2023). Refining our understanding of anxiety in autistic youth: Examining the role of behavioral inflexibility. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*.
3. Boyd, B.A., Howard, W., Bodfish, J.W., Lecavalier, L., Harrop, C., **Jones, D.R.**, Dallman, A.R., Kalburgi, S., & Hollway, J. (2022). Examining sensitivity to developmental changes on the Behavioral Inflexibility Scale. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.
4. Dallman, A.R., Harrop, C., Lecavalier, L., Bodfish, J., Kalburgi, S., **Jones, D.R.**, Hollway, J., & Boyd, B.A. (2022). Brief report: replication of the psychometric characteristics of the behavioral inflexibility scale in an independent sample. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.
5. **Jones, D.R.**, Dallman, A., Harrop, C., Whitten, A., Pritchett, J., Lecavalier, L., Bodfish, J.W., & Boyd, B.A. (2022). Evaluating the feasibility of the NIH Toolbox Cognition Battery for autistic children and adolescents. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 52(2), 689-699.
6. Kaku, S.M., McVey, A.J., Gerber, A.H., Pretzsch, C.M., **Jones, D.R.**, Kodakkadan, F.M., Lei, J., Singer, L., Chitehwe, L., Poulsen, R.E., & Coffman, M. (2022). Experiences of student and trainee autism researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Autism Research*, 15(3), 413-420.
7. **Jones, D.R.**, DeBrabander, K.M., & Sasson, N.J. (2021). Effects of autism acceptance training on explicit and implicit biases toward autism. *Autism*, 25(5), 1246-1261.
8. **Jones, D.R.**, Morrison, K.E., DeBrabander, K.M., Ackerman, R.A., Pinkham, A.E., & Sasson, N.J. (2021). Greater social interest between autistic and non-autistic conversation partners following autism acceptance training for non-autistic people. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 4026.
9. Den Houting, J., Botha, M., Cage, E., **Jones, D.R.**, Kim, S.Y. (2021). Shifting stigma about autistic young people. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, 5(12), 839-841.
10. Fletcher-Watson, S., Bölte, S., Crompton, C. J., **Jones, D.**, Lai, M.C., Mandy, W., Pellicano, L., Stahmer, A., Taylor, J., & Mandell, D. (2021). Publishing standards for promoting excellence in autism research. *Autism*, 25(6), 1501-1504.
11. **Jones, D.R.**, Nicolaidis, C., Ellwood, L.J., Garcia, A., Johnson, K.R., Lopez, K., & Waisman, T.C. (2020). An expert discussion on structural racism in autism research and practice. *Autism in Adulthood*, 2(4), 1-9.
12. **Jones, D.R.**, & Mandell, D.S. (2020). To address racial disparities in autism research, we must think globally, act locally. *Autism*, 24(7), 1587-1589.
13. DeBrabander K.M., Pinkham A.E., Ackerman R.A., **Jones D.R.**, Sasson N.J. (2020). Cognitive and social cognitive self-assessment in autistic adults. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 51(7), 2354-2368.
14. Lecavalier, L., Bodfish, J., Harrop, C., Whitten, A., **Jones, D.**, Pritchett, J., Faldowski, R., Boyd, B. (2020). Development of the Behavioral Inflexibility Scale for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. *Autism Research*, 13(3), 489-499.
15. Morrison, K. E., DeBrabander, K. M., **Jones, D. R.**, Ackerman, R. A., & Sasson, N. J. (2020). Social cognition, social skill, and social motivation minimally predict social interaction outcomes for autistic and non-autistic adults. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11.
16. Morrison, K.E., DeBrabander, K.M., **Jones, D.R.**, Faso, D.J., Ackerman, R.A., Sasson, N.J. (2020). Outcomes of real-world social interaction for autistic adults paired with autistic compared to typically developing partners. *Autism*, 24(5), 1067-1080.
17. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.R.**, Sasson, N.J., Zheng, S., Nowell, S.W., Parish-Morris, J. (2020). Social and object

attention is influenced by biological sex and toy gender-congruence in children with and without autism. *Autism Research*, 13(5), 763-776.

18. DeBrabander, K.M., Morrison, K.E., **Jones, D.R.**, Faso, D.J., Chmielewski, M., Sasson, N.J. (2019). Do first impressions of autistic adults differ between autistic and nonautistic observers? *Autism in Adulthood*, 1(4), 250-257.
19. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.**, Zheng, S., Nowell, S., Schultz, R., Parish-Morris, J. (2019). Visual attention to faces in children with autism spectrum disorder: are there sex differences? *Molecular Autism*, 10(1), 1-10.
20. Nowell, S.W., **Jones, D.R.**, Harrop, C. (2019). Circumscribed interests in autism: are there sex differences? *Advances in Autism*, 5(3), 187-198.
21. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.**, Zheng, S., Nowell, S., Boyd, B., & Sasson, N. (2018). Circumscribed interests and attention in autism: The role of biological sex. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48(10), 3449-3459.
22. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.**, Zheng, S., Nowell, S., Boyd, B., & Sasson, N. (2018). Sex differences in social attention in autism. *Autism Research*, 11(9), 1264-1275.

### Articles Under Review or In Preparation

1. **Jones, D.R.**, Botha, M., & Sasson, N.J. (In Prep). Intersectional experiences of stigma Among Black and White autistic adults.
2. **Jones, D.R.** & Sasson, N.J. (Under Review). A mixed method comparison of stigma towards autism and schizophrenia.
3. **Jones, D.R.**, Botha, M., Ackerman, R., & Sasson, N. (Under Review). Non-autistic observers both detect and demonstrate the Double Empathy Problem when evaluating interactions between autistic and non-autistic adults.
4. Dunn, D.D., de la Garza, J., **Jones, D.R.**, & Sasson, N.J. (Under Review). Awkward but so what: Differences in social trait preferences between autistic and non-autistic adults.

### Opinion Pieces Written for the Popular Press

1. **Jones, D. R.**, Mandell, D.S. (2020). [How to Support Black Scientists and Clinicians in Autism Research](#). *Spectrum Autism Research News*.

### Invited Workshops and Talks

1. *How Do Prejudice and Stigma Impact the Experiences of Black Autistic Adults?* (November 2022). Therapist Neurodiversity Collective Virtual Lecture Series.
2. *Intersectionality & Stigma: Understanding the Impact of Racial and Disability Biases on Black Autistic People*. (October 2022). Black Scholars on Black Lives Virtual Lecture Series, California State University Channel Islands.
3. *Supporting Neurodiversity Inside and Outside of the Classroom*. (April 2022). Center for Teaching and Learning, The University of Texas at Dallas.
4. *Racial Disparities in Autism & The Role of Anti-Black Biases*. (April 2022). Speaker Series to Promote Anti-Racism in ASD Research, Stony Brook University.
5. *Neurodiversity Panel* (April 2022). Graduate Student Assembly Diversity Lunch Series, The University of Texas at Dallas.

6. *Effects of Autism Acceptance Training on Explicit and Implicit Biases Towards Autism* (April 2021). STAR Journal Club, Stirling University.
7. *An Introduction to Neurodiversity*. (April 2021). Graduate Student Assembly Diversity Lunch Series, The University of Texas at Dallas.
8. *Diversity and Inclusion in Autism Research*. (March 2021). Let's Talk about Autism: Diversity and Inclusion, U21 Autism Research Group Virtual Panel.
9. *Effects of Autism Acceptance Training on Explicit and Implicit Biases Towards Autism*. (November 2020). Psychology Lecture Series, University of Texas at Dallas.
10. *Promoting Social Relationships in Autistic Adults*. (March 2020). Sensory Aware Saturday, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Fort Worth, Texas, USA.

### Refereed Conference Panels and Symposia

1. **Jones, D.R.**, DeBrabander, K., Sasson, N.J. (May 2022). *The Effects of Biases Toward Autism on Social Interaction and the Perception of Autistic Abilities*. Invited panel presentation presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
2. **Jones, D.R.**, Morrison, K., DeBrabander, K., Sasson, N.J. (April 2021). *Effects of Autism Acceptance Training on Explicit and Implicit Biases Towards Autism*. Panel presentation presented at the INSAR 2021 Virtual Meeting.
3. DeBrabander, K.M., **Jones, D.R.**, & Sasson, N.J. (May 2022). Perceptions of Autistic Adults across Personal and Professional Contexts. Panel presentation presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.

### Poster Presentations

1. **Jones, D.R.**, Debrabander, K., & Sasson, N.J. (May 2022). *How Does Stigma Towards Autism Compare to Other Clinical Conditions?* Poster session presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
2. Castillo, A., Stack, E., DeBrabander, K. M., **Jones, D.R.** & Sasson, N. J. (May 2022). *Conversational Dynamics during Interactions between Autistic and Non-Autistic Partners*. Poster session presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
3. **Jones, D.R.**, DeBrabander, K., & Sasson, N.J. (May 2020). *Autism Inclusion Training Improves First Impressions of Autistic Adults*. Poster session presented at the INSAR 2020 Virtual Meeting.
4. DeBrabander, K., **Jones, D.R.**, & Sasson, N.J. (May 2020). *Social and Non-Social Self-Assessment in Autistic Adults*. Poster session presented at the INSAR 2020 Virtual Meeting.
5. **Jones, D.R.**, Morrison, K.E., DeBrabander, K., & Sasson, N.J. (May 2020). *The effect of knowledge and diagnostic labels on stigma towards autism*. Poster session presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Montreal, CA.
6. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.**, Zheng, S., Nowell, S., Boyd, B., & Sasson, N. (May 2018). *Sex differences in social attention and motivation in Autism: An eye tracking study*. Poster session presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
7. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.**, Zheng, S., Nowell, S., & Parish-Morris, J. (May 2018). *Social attention in ASD females: The same, yet different*. Paper presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
8. **Jones, D.**, Dallman, A., Harrop, C., & Boyd, B. (May 2018). *Using the NIH Toolbox Cognition Battery to characterize the cognitive profile of children with Autism*. Poster session presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

9. **Jones, D.**, Dallman, A., Harrop, C., Pritchett, J., Whitten, A., & the BIDD Team. (April 2018). *Using the NIH Toolbox Cognition Battery to characterize the cognitive profile of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster session presented at The Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disorders, San Diego, CA.
10. **Jones, D.**, Harrop, C., Dallman, A., Boyd, B., & the BIDD Team (February 2018). *The NIH Toolbox: An integrated cognitive battery for children with autism*. Data Blitz presented at the North Carolina Cognition Conference, Chapel Hill, NC.
11. Harrop, C., **Jones, D.**, Zheng, S., Nowell, S., Boyd, B., & Sasson, N. (September 2017). *Using eye tracking to examine attention to social stimuli and circumscribed interests in girls with autism spectrum disorder*. Poster session presented at NIH Research Festival, Bethesda, USA.
12. Harrop, C., Zheng, S., Nowell, S., **Jones, D.**, Parish-Morris, J., Boyd, B., & Sasson, N. (May 2017). *Using eye tracking to examine attention to social stimuli and circumscribed interests in girls with ASD*. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Francisco, CA.
13. Harrop, C., Zheng, S., Nowell, S., **Jones, D.**, & Sasson, N. (April 2017). *Using eye tracking to examine social motivation in girls with ASD*. Poster session presented at the North Carolina Triangle Society for Neuroscience Spring Conference, Cary, NC.
14. Harrop, C., Sethi, C., Zhang, W., Whitten, A., Pritchett, J., **Jones, D.**, & the BIDD Team (March 2017). *Using focus groups to guide measure development for behavioral inflexibility in developmental disabilities*. Poster session presented at The Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disorders, San Antonio, TX.
15. **Jones, D.** (April 2016). *The Broad Autism Phenotype: Evaluating autistic traits and their effects on social functioning in a college population*. Poster session presented at The Ruhlman Conference, Wellesley, MA.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Awards and Honors

2023	Forbes 30 Under 30, Science List
2022	40 Under 40, Spectrum Autism Research News
2018	Diversity Travel Award, International Society for Autism Research

### Professional Affiliations

2020-present	Member, Society for Black Brain and Behavioral Scientists
2017-present	Member, International Society for Autism Research

### University Service

2022-present	Graduate Student Representative, Committee on Campus Climate and Culture, The University of Texas at Dallas
2021-present	Academic Equity and Accessibility Initiative Leader, Graduate Student Assembly, The University of Texas at Dallas
2020-2021	Member, Psychology Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Committee, The University of Texas at Dallas

### Editorial and Scientific Service

2020-present	Social Media Editor, <i>Autism: The International Journal of Research and Practice</i>
2020-2022	Initiative Leader, Student and Trainee Committee, International Society for Autism Research
2018-present	Member, Communications Committee, International Society for Autism Research

## Ad Hoc Peer Reviewing

*Autism in Adulthood, Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Autism: The International Journal of Research and Practice, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*

## INSTRUCTIONAL AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

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- 2021-present      **Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Dallas**
- Assist with grading and student support for classes on Introductory Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Experimental Projects in Psychology
  - Review and assist with the understanding of course materials through office hours
- Summer 2022      **Course Instructor, Experimental Projects in Psychology, The University of Texas at Dallas**
- Instructed a class of 18 students, including many non-traditional students
  - Integrated a combination of lectures and group activities to teach students about designing, conducting, and reporting research related to psychology
  - Mentored small student groups on the collection and analysis of data through online psychology research studies
  - Received positive student evaluations (average 5 out of a possible 5)
- Fall 2021      **Guest Lecturer, Abnormal Psychology, The University of Texas at Dallas**
- Provided two interactive lectures to a class of 95 students, and two virtual lectures for an online section of 220 students
  - Used a neurodiversity lens to teach students about autism and other developmental disabilities
  - Assigned in-class activities to highlight common misconceptions about autism
- Winter 2015      **Class Facilitator, MLK Design Seminar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
- Mediated discussions on race, gender, and civil rights in groups of 10-20 college undergraduates
  - Organized projects to teach students about equity, diversity, and inclusion
  - Created and installed a public art fixture to spread awareness of systemic racism
- 2013-2014      **Academic Tutor, Cardinal Scholars, Boston, MA**
- Provided individual science tutoring to children in grades K-12
  - Created lesson plans and study guides to assist students in chemistry, biology and the sciences

## Students Mentored

Master's students: Alejandra Castillo, Jay De La Garza, Kathryn King

Undergraduate research assistants: Danny Dunn, Isabel Magaña, Monica Mallavarapu, Emma McQueen, Gareth Shannon, Hulon Sherard, Evan Stack, Mattie Watts

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

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1. [“Researchers Work to Dispel Myths by Studying How Ethnicity & Gender Affect How Autism Is Diagnosed”](#), *KERA News*, September 28, 2021.
2. [“A 25-Minute Training Can Help Reduce People's Autism Biases”](#), *Verywell Health*, March 16, 2021.
3. [“Towards Autism Acceptance: An Interview with Researcher Desi Jones”](#), *Thinking Person's Guide to Autism*, March 12, 2021.
4. [“Study: Reducing Biases About Autism May Increase Social Inclusion”](#), *UT Dallas News Center*, February 5, 2021.

5. [“What it’s Like to be a Black Autism Researcher”](#), *Spectrum News Podcast*, October 22, 2020.

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

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### **Training Undertaken**

2020	Statistics and R Programming with IBIS, UNC Chapel Hill
2019	Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training, UT Dallas
2018	Mental Health First Aid, School of Social Work, UNC Chapel Hill
2017	Data Matters: Data Science Short Course Series, UNC Chapel Hill
2016	ADOS Clinical Training, TEACCH Autism Program, UNC Chapel Hill

### **Assessment Skills**

- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2)
  - Modules 3 and 4 (site reliable)
- Brief Observation of Social Communication Change (BOSCC)
- Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)
- Differential Ability Scales (DAS)
  - School Age and Early Years Core tests
- Modified Scale for Suicidal Ideation (MSSI)
- Mullen Scales of Early Learning (MSEL)
- NIH Toolbox - Cognition Battery
- Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS)
- Sensory Processing Assessment (SPA)
- Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales, Fifth Edition (SB-5)
  - Abbreviated Assessment
- Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI)
- Wide Range Achievement Test 3 (WRAT-3)

### **Programming and Technical Skills**

- R Programming Environment - figure preparation, multilevel modeling
- SPSS Statistics – ANOVA, regression, multilevel modeling, dyadic analysis
- MATLAB – basic programming
- Python – basic programming; figure preparation
- Qualtrics Survey Platform – survey creation and dissemination
- REDCap – data management; survey creation
- QDA Miner Lite – qualitative analysis, data coding