

# JORDAN BIRKNER

Raleigh, NC | [jordanbirkner@gmail.com](mailto:jordanbirkner@gmail.com) | [jordanbirkner.com](http://jordanbirkner.com) | (336) 413-6368

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## SUMMARY

Interdisciplinary behavioral health researcher with expertise in diagnostics, epigenetics, and critical studies. Skilled in data analysis and project coordination. Demonstration of leadership in research and educational development.

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## EDUCATION

North Carolina State University   Raleigh NC	May 2025
Master of Arts in Behavioral Health	<b>GPA 4.0</b>
North Carolina State University   Raleigh NC	December 2023
Bachelor of Science in Understanding Biological Impacts on Neuropsychology	<b>GPA: 3.6, Magna Cum Laude</b>
Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Biology	Dean's List, 6 semesters.
Minors in Genetics; Health, Medicine, and Human Values	Undergraduate Certificate in Essentials of Business

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## EXPERIENCE

<b>Research Assistant</b>   North Carolina State University   Raleigh, NC	January 2021 – Present
Graduate Research Assistantship	January 2025 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Work to observe and improve agritourism practices under grant awarded by the US Department of Agriculture.</li><li>Analysis and review of data across North Carolina, Vermont, and Oregon.</li><li>Paper development to improve communication of livestock and farm safety, specifically disease transmission associated with poultry.</li></ul>	
Lab Manager, How We Argue	January 2021 – December 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assisted leading a team of student researchers and faculty to develop a critical thinking course.</li><li>Developed presentations to address inquiries related to the project and its accessibility.</li><li>Created lessons on argument visualization technology to enhance critical thinking skills.</li><li>Assisted in organizing a psychology study comparing traditional seminars and the developed course.</li><li>Established an extensive database documenting responses, facilitating AI training and documentation.</li></ul>	
Critical DAMN (Disability, Autism, Madness, and Neurodivergence) Studies Project	January 2021 – June 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducted research and critical analysis in the behavioral health field.</li><li>Prepared research papers, literature reviews, and social media informatics.</li><li>Created and organized an extensive Critical DAMN Studies database, encompassing over 300 articles.</li><li>Developed presentation for Raleigh Town Hall on COVID-19 and its intersections with mental health.</li></ul>	
<b>OUIP Intern</b>   North Carolina State University   Raleigh, NC	January 2025 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide direct support to the Provost's Office of University Interdisciplinary Programs, contributing to the development and implementation of innovative academic programs.</li><li>Coordination of internal and external communications, ensuring clear and consistent messaging about interdisciplinary initiatives and program developments.</li><li>Support of program evaluation by conducting surveys, analyzing feedback, and making recommendations for program improvement based on data insights.</li><li>Work to foster relationships across departments to enhance the reach and effectiveness of interdisciplinary programs and initiatives.</li></ul>	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>   North Carolina State University   Raleigh, NC	August 2024 – December 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Work developing lesson plans in multiple courses, including Environmental Ethics, Women and Health, and Science, Technology, and Society.</li><li>Reviewed lesson materials to ensure accuracy and accessibility.</li><li>Developed and distributed eIRB-approved research survey via Qualtrics for data utilized in student projects.</li><li>Created and referenced rubrics to assess student writing and provide specific feedback to ~200 students.</li><li>Developed and hosted lectures covering behavioral health disparities, presentation etiquette, critical thinking, and professional networking.</li></ul>	

**Mental Health and Wellbeing Group Coordinator***February 2025 – Present*

- Leads and coordinates a group of participants in a virtual setting, focusing on mental health and wellbeing topics under North Carolina State University's "Bridges to Belonging" initiative.
- Facilitates and hosts virtual group meetings, including preparing and taking meeting minutes to ensure clear communication and progress tracking.
- Communication with group members to identify and schedule a relevant speaker for the Fall 2025 "Bridges to Belonging Brown Bag Series," fostering a collaborative approach to event planning.
- Participated in regular project meetings with coordinators of other interdisciplinary focuses to enhance leadership skills and knowledge related to mental health and wellbeing initiatives in the community.

**Registered Behavior Technician | Autism Society of NC | Raleigh, NC***December 2022 – Present*

- Provided direct care to clients, implementing Applied Behavioral Analysis techniques to enhance communication and promote independence.
- Accumulated 1000+ clinical experience hours delivering behavioral interventions.
- Collected and analyzed data to inform and develop individualized behavioral care plans.
- Additional work completed through other company departments with Autistic individuals, such as direct care staff within Services and as a counselor for the largest year-round camp for those with autism, Camp Royall.

**Chair of Quality Improvement Committee | Autism Society of NC | Raleigh, NC***February 2023 – Present*

- Reviewed external communications and media for accuracy, accessibility, and cultural competence.
- Developed and implemented an action plan to improve and ensure measurable progress.
- Developed Annual Employee Satisfaction surveys, achieving a 37% completion rate among 1,000+ employees.
- Analyzed survey data to identify patterns over time, implementing strategies to address regional disparities.

**Mental Health Technician | Universal Mental Health Care | Raleigh, NC***October 2024 – Present*

- Provide emotional and psychological support to individuals with mental health conditions, ensuring safety and well-being during respite care.
- Monitoring and assessment of client behavior, identifying potential triggers or crises and responding appropriately.

**Staff Writer | Technician | Raleigh, NC***September 2022 – Present*

- Writing focuses on addressing social issues and disparities, mental health and well-being, challenging societal norms and stereotypes, and implementing structural changes.
- Copy-editing, news writing, and research performed for 30+ article publications.
- Experience developing opinion arguments, including satire and dueling columns.

**Cook | Case Dining Hall at North Carolina State University | Raleigh, NC***August 2021 – December 2023*

- Effectively managed and executed a range of routine and repetitive tasks, maintaining consistency and attention to detail in a fast-paced environment.
- Enhanced accuracy in food preparation by reviewing measurements through comprehensive data collection.
- Prioritized food safety and allergen controls, monitoring potential contaminants and temperature.
- Contributed positively to team dynamics as a cook while collaborating with kitchen staff and student workers.
- Demonstrated multitasking ability by overseeing various tasks with attention to detail and accuracy.

**Consultant and Web Designer | Jordan Birkner, LLC | Triad and Triangle Areas, NC***October 2018 – Present*

- Developed and published tools to address and improve accessibility in educational or personal-use materials.
- Created and revised website content, presentations, and advertising materials for various businesses.
- Conducted research to identify effective strategies and improve clients' business outcomes.
- Utilized skills in Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Social Media Optimization (SMO), customer service, marketing, logo design, software development, and project management.

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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Association for Women in Science

*September 2023*

American Psychological Association Campus Ambassador

*August 2023*

American Psychological Association of Graduate Students

*June 2023*

Cognitive Neuroscience Society

*June 2023*

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

*June 2023*

Diversity and LGBT Advocate, North Carolina State University

*November 2020*

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## PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PROJECTS

### Publications:

Comstock, G., & **Birkner, J. A.** (2025). Valorizing Autism: Conceptualizing ASD as Instrumentally Valuable. [Symposium paper presentation]. Dimensions of Difference: Exploring Diversity, Complexity, and Connection in Thought and Practice, Beacon College, Leesburg, FL.

### Presentations:

**Birkner, J.** (2024, November). Effectively Communicating Research. *Instructor lecture for Science, Technology, and Society course at North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.** (2024, September). Gender and diagnoses: Disparities seen within the DSM-5. *Research presentation as guest lecture for Women and Health course at North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.** (2024, September). Environmental Responsibility. *Instructor lecture developed for Environmental Ethics course at North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.,** Carter, M., & Wallace, J. D. (2024, April). Pathway to Success and Growth Mindset in College for People with Disabilities. *Featured speaker at "Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair for Students with Disabilities."*

**Birkner, J.** (2024, April). Exploring Lipid Hormone Structures: Mechanisms and Impacts. *Table presentation at "Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair for Students with Disabilities," The Science House.*

**Birkner, J.** (2024, March). RBT CEU: Two Perspectives. *Training developed and administered to clinical employees of the Autism Society of North Carolina, offering Behavioral Analyst Certification Board Continuing Education Units.*

**Birkner, J.,** Hnatuck, R., Jervay, H., & Voss, C. (2024, March). Building the Foundation: Best Practices in Autism. *Panel presentation, Autism Society of North Carolina Annual Conference.*

**Birkner, J.,** Davidson, L., & Dunbar, P. (2024, March). Anti-Ableism in Practice. *Diversity Lunch & Learn, Autism Society of North Carolina.*

**Birkner, J.** (2023, November). Assessing the Impact of a Critical Thinking Course: Instrument Development and Preliminary Findings. *2023 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship, Randolph College.*

**Birkner, J.** (2023, September). Reviewing Neuroscience Publications Using Critical Thinking. *Poster presented at the 2023 College of Sciences Excellence Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.** (2023, September). Assessing Effectiveness of the DSM-5 in Informing Biological Mechanisms. *Research presentation at the Fall 2023 OUR Sidewalk Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.** (2023, July). Developing the How We Evaluate pilot study. *Poster presentation at the OUR Summer Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.** (2023, April). Revisions to Relias RBT Training. *Poster presented at Self Design Capstone Presentation, North Carolina State University.*

**Birkner, J.** (2023, April). Moral Enhancement Technologies and ASD: Ethical Gentrification of a Population. *Oral Presentation at the OUR Spring Symposium, North Carolina State University.*

Comstock, G. & Kestigian, A. (2023, March). Does College Teach Students to Think Critically? Philosophers' Responsibilities and General Education Requirements. **Panel presentation at the North Carolina Philosophical Society's Annual Conference, Durham, NC.**

### Projects:

**Birkner, J.** (2021-2023). NC State Libraries Readability Widget. *North Carolina State University Libraries.*

### Notable Technician Articles:

1. [Tedious intakes are beneficial](#) December 2023
2. [Allyship is performative, solidarity and involvement can drive real change](#) October 2023
3. [Positive change doesn't rely on a diagnosis](#) April 2023
  - Brought [national recognition](#) regarding coverage of neurodiversity. Republished by [The Ableist](#) in October 2023 and the [Autism Society of North Carolina](#) in October 2024.
4. [STEM students need creative expression](#) October 2022
  - Led to direct availability of data visualization software for STEM professors at North Carolina State University.

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## LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Registered Behavior Technician, Behavior Analyst Certification Board

2023 – 2025

- CITI Conflicts of Interest (NC State University), CITI Program 2023 – 2027
- CITI Responsible Conduct of Research (NC State University), CITI Program 2023 – 2026
- Adult and Child CPR/First Aid, Red Cross 2023 – 2026

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## PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

<b>Provost Interdisciplinary Student Advisory Board</b>   <i>NC State University</i>   Raleigh, NC	<i>January 2025 – Present</i>
<b>Newspaper Advisory Board</b>   <i>NC State University</i>   Raleigh, NC	<i>February 2025 – Present</i>
<b>Service Volunteer</b>   <i>Rutherford Housing Project</i>   Rutherford, NC	<i>November 2024 – March 2025</i>
<b>Verified Peer Reviewer</b>   <i>Philosophical Psychology</i>   Remote	<i>May 2024 – Present</i>
<b>Biology Judge; Senior Division</b>   <i>NC Science and Engineering Fair</i>   Raleigh, NC	<i>March 2024</i>
<i>Selected Special Award recipient, "American Psychological Association, Achievement in Psychological Science"</i>	
<b>Student Volunteer</b>   <i>Summer Creativity and Research Symposium</i>   North Carolina State University	<i>July 2023</i>
<b>Student Volunteer</b>   <i>Equity Research Symposium</i>   North Carolina State University	<i>March 2023</i>
<b>Crisis Counselor Training</b>   <i>The Trevor Project</i>   Remote	<i>July 2022 – October 2022</i>
<b>Service Volunteer</b>   <i>Service for Peace (Service pour la Paix)</i>   Dominican Republic	<i>March 2021 – April 2021</i>
<b>Service Volunteer</b>   <i>Highland Support Project</i>   Guatemala	<i>April 2021 – May 2021</i>
<b>Social Media Marketing Manager</b>   <i>American Cancer Society</i>   Remote	<i>December 2019 – May 2020</i>
<b>Leader</b>   <i>Christ United Methodist Church Mission Trip</i>   Hollywood, SC	<i>June 2019 – Present</i>

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## HONORS, AWARDS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

- Treasurer of Graduate Student Association from August 2024 – present. Responsible for organizing events, developing presentations, managing budget, and distributing communications at North Carolina State University.
- Feature focus of articles:
  - "[Understanding Masking: A Neurodiversity-Affirming Perspective](#)" – Autism Society of North Carolina, November 2024.
  - "[Lights, Camera, Analysis](#)" – Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of North Carolina State University, November 2024.
  - "[Technician Recognized For Coverage of Disability Issues](#)" – Division of Academic and Student Affairs at North Carolina State University and The Abelist, December 2023
  - "[College of Sciences Honors Outstanding Alumni, Student Achievements with 2023 Awards](#)" – College of Sciences News, Honors and Awards at North Carolina State University, December 2023.
  - "[Triple Academic Success](#)" – College of Humanities and Social Sciences at North Carolina State University, Accolades, April 2023.
  - "[Meet Alex, Jordan, and Matthew](#)" – Campus Enterprises Employee Spotlight, August 2021
- Featured as thinkARGUMENTS researcher in the Harvard University Philosophy Department's ThinkerAnalytix October 2024 videography.
- Named as Bob Patterson Fellow in Fall 2023.
- Gave Student Address at North Carolina State University's Fall 2023 Interdisciplinary Commencement Ceremony.
- College of Sciences Representative from September 2020 – May 2021.
- Completion of North Carolina State University's GLBT + STEM, Career Identity, and SAFE Ally Training programs.
- Officer of North Carolina State University's Genetics Club, member of its Arts and Psychology clubs.
- Historian of Beta Delta chapter of Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity, completing Leadership in Action program and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion specialization.