

*Curriculum Vitae***KIRSTEN A. LESAGE**


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Department of Psychology  
University of California, Riverside  
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**Education**

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- Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, University of California, Riverside, *Riverside, CA*      *Exp. 2019*  
Committee: Rebekah A. Richert (Chair), Mary Gauvain, Andrew Shtulman, Jon Willits
- M.A., Developmental Psychology, University of California, Riverside, *Riverside, CA*      *2014 - 2016*  
Thesis: “*Can God make the impossible, possible? Children’s developing understanding of possibility and causal mechanisms.*”  
Committee: Rebekah A. Richert (Chair), Mary Gauvain, Rachel Wu
- B.A., Psychology and Spanish, Northwestern College, *Orange City, IA*      *2008 - 2013*  
Honor Thesis: “*The intrusion of intuitive concepts in an online processing task: The theological correctness effect.*”  
Advisor: Laird R. O. Edman

**Awards, Honors, & Fellowships**

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- Travel Grant, *Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development*      *2016*  
Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship, *University of California, Riverside*      *2014 - 2015*  
Travel Grant, *Association for Psychological Science*      *2013*  
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Psychology, *Northwestern College*      *2013*  
Honor Society, *Northwestern College*      *2009 - 2013*

**Research Interests**

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|---|------------------------------|
| ◆ Causal Mechanisms & Causal Explanations | ◆ Cognitive Development      |
| ◆ Linguistic Input and Cognition          | ◆ Religious Cognition        |
| ◆ Possibility Judgments                   | ◆ Concept Development        |
| ◆ Culture                                 | ◆ Social Cognition           |
| ◆ Mechanisms of Transmission of Beliefs   | ◆ Soul and Afterlife Beliefs |

**Publications**

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- Richert, R.A., Saide, A.R., **Lesage, K.A.**, & Shaman, N.J. (2016). The role of religious context in children’s differentiating between God’s mind and human minds. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*, *35*, 37-59.
- Richert, R.A., Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., & **Lesage, K.A.** (2016). Folding your hands helps God hear you: Prayer and anthropomorphism in parents and children. *Research in the Social Scientific*

## KIRSTEN A. LESAGE

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*Study of Religion*, 27, 140-157.

Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., **Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2016). Who cares if I stand on my head when I pray? Social cognition and ritual inflexibility in preschoolers. *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, 27, 122-139.

### **Paper Presentations**

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**Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2017, August – Accepted). *The “naturalness” of supernatural and scientific causal reasoning: A theoretical perspective*. In L. Edman (Chair), “The cognitive science of religion, culture, and individual differences: Examining the boundaries of the theory.” Paper to be presented at biennial International Association for the Psychology of Religion Conference, *Hamar, Norway*.

**Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2017, May). *Developmental differences in the efficacy of supernatural causality: What can God make possible?* In J. Clegg & A. Payir (Chairs), “Understanding what is and what is not possible: Examining the impact of cognitive biases and religious experiences on the understanding of possibility across cultures and individuals.” Paper presented at annual Association for Psychological Science Conference, *Boston, MA*.

**Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2017, March). *How do you know God can’t forget? Source monitoring in the development of God concepts*. Flash-talk presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Preconference on Religious and Spiritual Development of the biennial Society for Research in Child Development Conference, *Austin, TX*.

Edman, L.R.O., \*Sietstra, C., & **Lesage, K.A.** (2016, October). *Theory of mind, divine intimacy, and the experience of agentic evil*. In D. Buckley (Organizer), “Religion and cognition.” Paper presented at annual Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, *Atlanta, GA*.

Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., **Lesage, K.A.** & Richert, R.A. (2016, March). *Parental influences on children’s concepts of God*. Paper presented at American Psychological Association Division 36 (Psychology, Religion and Spirituality) Mid-Year Conference, *Brooklyn, NY*.

Richert, R.A., Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., & **Lesage, K.A.** (2015, October). *Prayer structures God concepts in Christian, Muslim, and Religiously Non-Affiliated children*. In R. Richert (Chair), “Ritual, religion, and cultural practices shape cognitive development.” Paper presented at biennial Cognitive Development Society Conference, *Columbus, OH*.

Richert, R.A., Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., & **Lesage, K.A.** (2014, November). *Concepts of God and prayer in Christian and Muslim children*. In J. Van Slyke (Chair), “Children’s concepts of Gods: Investigating cognitive and cultural variables.” Paper presented an annual American Academy of Religion Conference, *San Diego, CA*.

## KIRSTEN A. LESAGE

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\***Lesage (McConnel), K.A., & Edman, L.R.O.** (2013, November). *The relationship between practiced naturalness and theological correctness.* In A. Scott-Baumann (Convener), "Cognitive Approaches to Religion." Paper presented at annual Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, Boston, MA.

Edman, L.R.O., & \***Lesage (McConnel), K.A.** (2013, November). *The counterintuitiveness of theological concepts: The purpose of atonement, God's power and providence, and God's knowledge.* In D. Johnson (Convener), "Memory and memorialization." Paper presented at annual Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, Boston, MA.

Edman, L.R.O., & \***Lesage (McConnel), K.A.** (2013, September). *The counterintuitiveness of theological concepts: Current directions.* Paper presented at Cognitive Science of Religion Conference, Seattle, WA.

\***Lesage (McConnel), K.A.** (2013, April). *The intrusion of intuitive concepts on an online processing task: The theological correctness effect (study one).* Paper presented at annual Siouland Social Science Conference, Orange City, IA.

Edman, L.R.O., \*Bohr, C., \***Lesage (McConnel), K.A.,** \*Maurer, D., \*Culver, T., \*Ott, M., \*Reno, C., \*Rubel, B., & \*Thompson, E. (2011, April). *Will power, persistence, and the discrepancy between what one values and how one behaves.* Paper presented at annual Siouland Social Science Conference, Yankton, SD.

### Poster Presentations

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**Lesage, K.A.,** Richert, R.A., & Edman, L.R.O. (2017, June). *The relationship between prayer, internal locus of control, and views of God control in Protestants, Catholics, and Muslims.* Poster presented at The Cognition of Belief Conference, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

**Lesage, K.A.,** Stream, C.L., Saide, A.R., Shaman, N.J., & Richert, R.A. (2017, March). *The relationship between counterfactual reasoning, religious supernatural causality, and religious exposure.* Poster presented at biennial Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Austin, TX.

Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., **Lesage, K.A.,** Stream, C.L., & Richert, R.A. (2017, March). Who Can Pray and To Whom Can I Pray? Children's Concept of Prayer and Mental-State Reasoning. Poster presented at biennial Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Austin, TX.

Saide, A.R., Shaman, N.J., **Lesage, K.A.,** & Richert, R.A. (2017, March). Children's developing conception of God's reality status: age and religious context factors. Poster presented at

## KIRSTEN A. LESAGE

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biennial Society for Research in Child Development Conference, *Austin, TX*.

**Lesage, K.A.**, Richert, R.A., & Edman, L.R.O. (2017, January). *Do you let Jesus take the wheel? Locus of control and religiosity*. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Pre-Conference of Religion, *San Antonio, TX*.

Edman, L.R.O., **Lesage, K.A.**, \*Chambers, H., \*Kundert, C., \*Sietstra, C., \*Townsend, M., \*Vermeer, J., & \*Wiggers, T. (2016, May). *Theory of Mind and religiosity: The experience and types of personal prayer*. Poster presented at annual Association for Psychological Science Conference, *Chicago, IL*.

Stream, C. L., **Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2016, April). *The relationship between pretense and children's understanding of possibility*. Poster presented at annual Western Psychological Association Conference, *Long Beach, CA*.

**Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2016, January). *Mission improbable: Children's possibility judgments of improbable and impossible events across domains*. Poster presented at annual Budapest Central European University Conference on Cognitive Development, *Budapest, Hungary*.

**Lesage, K.A.**, Shaman, N.J., Saide, A.R., & Richert, R.A. (2015, October). *Developmental differences in children's views of God and the effects of prayer*. Poster presented at biennial Cognitive Development Society Conference, *Columbus, OH*.

**Lesage, K.A.**, Saide, A.R., Shaman, N.J., \*Hirawala, I., & Richert, R.A. (2015, March). *With God, all things are more possible: Differences in possibility judgments of children*. Poster presented at biennial Society for Research in Child Development Conference, *Philadelphia, PA*.

\***Lesage (McConnel), K.A.**, & Edman, L.R.O. (2013, May). *The theological correctness effect and afterlife beliefs*. Poster presented at annual Association for Psychological Science Conference, *Washington D.C.*

\***Lesage (McConnel), K.A.**, & Edman, L.R.O. (2013, May). *The theological correctness effect in online and offline processing tasks*. Poster presented at annual Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, *Chicago, IL*.

Edman, L.R.O., \*Maurer, D.\* **Lesage (McConnel), K.A.**, & \*Rubel, B. (2013, May). *Too weird or just weird enough? The counterintuitiveness of theological concepts*. Poster presented at annual Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, *Chicago, IL*.

\*denotes undergraduate student

## KIRSTEN A. LESAGE

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### Invited Academic Talks

- Lesage, K.A.** (2016, November). *Parenting styles and the effects of parenting on child development*. Guest lecturer for psychology undergraduate course, Lifespan Development (Psych160), at University of California, Riverside, *Riverside, CA*.
- Lesage, K.A., & Richert, R.A.** (2016, January). *Can God make a chair float in the air? An examination of children's change in possibility judgments*. Colloquium presented at Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck (BBK), University of London, *London, UK*.

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### University and Department Service

#### Psychology Outreach @ UCR, University of California, Riverside

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|---|----------------|
| Presenter at community events in Riverside and university events at UCR | 2016 – Present |
| Board Member  | 2016 – Present |
| Co-Developer of Psychology Outreach Program                             | 2015           |

#### Student Mentorship, University of California, Riverside

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|--|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Graduate Students | 2015 – Present |
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Graduate Supervisor of Posters Presented at UCR Undergraduate Research Symposium

- ◆ Claudio Torres, A.B., Beshay, Y.M., **Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2017, May). *Children don't cite their sources: Source monitoring in concepts of God*.
- ◆ Posada, L.M., Lopez, J., **Lesage, K.A.**, & Richert, R.A. (2017, May). *A comforting God is almighty: How positive and negative God concepts relate to God making the impossible, possible*.

#### Psi Chi, Northwestern College

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| Co-President | 2012 - 2013 |
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### Professional Service

#### American Psychological Association Division 36, Psychology of Religion & Spirituality

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|---------------------------|----------------|
| Student Co-Representative | 2016 - Present |
|---------------------------|----------------|

#### Association for Psychological Science (APS)

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|---|------------|
| Submission Reviewer for the Student Grant Competition | 2016       |
| Submission Reviewer for the Student Research Award    | 2016, 2017 |

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### Teaching Experience

#### Graduate Teaching Assistant:

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| Psych 001 – Introductory Psychology: Experimental Science | Summer 2015 |
| Psych 002 – Introductory Psychology: Social Sciences      | Winter 2016 |
| Psych 011 – Statistics                                    | Summer 2016 |

## KIRSTEN A. LESAGE

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Psych 012 – Research Methods  
Psych 160 – Lifespan Development

Summer 2017  
Fall 2016, Winter 2017

### **Undergraduate Teacher Assistant:**

Psychology  
Spanish

2012 – 2013

2009 – 2012

### **Professional Affiliations**

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- ◆ American Psychological Association (APA) – Divisions 7 & 36
- ◆ Association for Psychological Science (APS)
- ◆ Cognitive Development Society (CDS)
- ◆ International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR)
- ◆ Psi Chi
- ◆ Society for Research in Cognitive Development (SRCD)
- ◆ Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
- ◆ Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

### **Languages**

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- ◆ Spanish: *Advanced reading, writing, speaking*