

**Christopher Bell**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**University of Georgia**

May 29<sup>th</sup> 2026

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## Education

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<b>Ph.D. in Psychology (ongoing)</b>	Anticipated 2027
<i>University of Georgia</i>	
Department of Behavioral and Brain Sciences	
<b>M.S. in Psychology</b>	2024
<i>University of Georgia</i>	
Department of Behavioral and Brain Sciences	
<b>B.A. in Psychology (with honors)</b>	2018
<i>Grinnell College</i>	
Department of Psychology	

## Publications, Presentations, and Datasets

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\* = equal contribution

**Bell, C.**, Steffen, G., Jerry, C., Lindig, K., Franchak, J., Abney, D. (2026) *Myoclonic twitches and waking motor development across the first year of life*. [Conference Presentation]. International Conference for Perception & Action Meeting, Omaha, NE.

**Bell, C.**, Gartland, E., Varahala, S. (in analysis). Meta-analysis on the relationship between movement synchrony and prosocial behaviors and outcomes.

**Bell, C.**, Fyan, M., Brand, D. Clonnan, S., Leckfor, C. (in analysis). Movement synchrony and prosocial outcomes between strangers after a 30-minute conversation.

- Kretch, K., Enriques, F., Franchak, J., **Bell, C.**, Jerry, C., Abney, D. (2026). Body position classification using wearable sensors in infants with cerebral palsy. *Infant Behavior and Development Special Issue*.
- Steffen, G., Lindig, K., Howard, C.J., Jerry, C., **Bell, C.**, Morrow, K., Gallegos, D., Oshri, A., Suveg, C., Kello, C., & Abney, D. (In Press). Coupling of rhythms in prefrontal cortex and autonomic nervous system in school-age children. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.70203>
- \*Steffen, G., \*Jerry, C., Morrow, K., Aytuglu, A., **Bell, C.**, Collins, S.A., Brown, G., Suveg, C., & Abney, D. (Under Review). Quantifying Complex Multimodal Interactions Between Mother-Child Dyads: A Dynamic Network Approach. *Developmental Psychobiology*.
- Steffen, G., **Bell, C.**, Jerry, C., Suveg, C., & Abney, D. (Under Review). Methods Matter: Divergent Neural Synchrony and Behavioral Correlates in Co-Regulating Dyads. *Developmental Psychology*.
- Steffen, G., Lindig, K., Howard, C.J., Jerry, C., **Bell, C.**, Morrow, K., Gallegos, D., Oshri, A., Suveg, C., Kello, C., & Abney, D. (2025). Coupling of rhythms in prefrontal cortex and autonomic nervous system in school-age children. Poster presented at Converge: Leveraging One Health, AI, and Precision Medicine for a Smarter, Healthier Future. Precision One Health, University of Georgia. Athens, GA.
- Perno, N., **Bell, C.**, **Steffen, G.**, Jerry, C. & Abney, D. (2025). Connecting Respiratory Sinus Arrhythmia and Emotional Regulation in Infants. Poster presented at Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium. University of Georgia. Athens, GA.
- Steffen, G., **Bell, C.**, Jerry, C., Morrow, K., Suveg, C., & Abney, D. (2025). *Multiple timescales of RSA synchrony explain variability in stress reactivity in different ways*. [Conference Presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- Jerry, C.M., Steffen, G., **Bell, C.**, Kolberg, A., Patel, B., & Abney, D. (2024). The operationalization of coordinated attention and the relations to language development: A meta-analysis [Poster presentation]. International Conference of Infant Studies (ICIS), Glasgow, Scotland.

- Steffen, G. M., Jerry, C. M., **Bell, C.**, Kolberg, A. R., Patel, B., & Abney, D. H. (2024). The operationalization of coordinated attention and the relations to language development: A meta-analysis. *Advances in child development and behavior*, 66, 81-107. [OSF]
- Bell, C.** (2024). Contributions of physiological and behavioral synchrony to the prediction of task performance in a mother-child dyadic puzzle task. (unpublished master's thesis). University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- Bell, C.**, Carver, N., Zbaracki, J., & Kelty-Stephen, D. (2019). Nonlinear amplification of variability through interaction across scales supports greater accuracy in manual aiming: Evidence from a multifractal analysis with comparisons to linear surrogates in the Fitts task. *Frontiers in Physiology*.
- Bell, C. A.\***, Carver, N. S.\*, Zbaracki, J.\*, & Kelty-Stephen, D. G. (2019). Data from: Nonlinear amplification of variability through interaction across scales supports greater accuracy in manual aiming: Evidence from a multifractal analysis with comparisons to linear surrogates in the Fitts task. Open Science Framework <http://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/S8BHV>

## Current Research

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### Infant Sleep and Movement Study

*University of Georgia*

Longitudinal Data being collected from infant (aged 4-, 6-, 8-, and 12-months) at each age during a guided period of play and a nap. Data includes 5+ hours of accelerometry, video recordings of play and sleep, ECG, respiration, and actigraphy during the nap. Primary tasks were overseeing and running data collection and cleaning across data modalities. Data collection and cleaning are nearly complete. Funded by the James S. McDonnell Foundation.

### Systematic Review of Movement Synchrony and Prosociality

*University of Georgia*

Work on a systematic review of synchrony literature as part of UGA's comprehensive exams, while simultaneously working towards publication. The review will cover both the effects of movement synchrony on prosocial behaviors and attitudes and the ways movement and synchrony are operationalized and used across literature. Data collection will soon be underway.

### **Masking During Social Interaction Study**

*University of Georgia*

Pre-registered study on the effects of physical comfort in a mask when forming a new relationship. Primary tasks included assistance with data collection, prediction of body movement using OpenPose, and analysis of movement synchrony. Data is currently being analyzed.

[https://osf.io/qv9m7/?view\\_only=5011c5668f754c21a37d6b6ee4bd932d](https://osf.io/qv9m7/?view_only=5011c5668f754c21a37d6b6ee4bd932d)

## **Teaching Experience**

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**Psychometrics (PSYC 4210)**

Spring 2025; Fall 2024

*University of Georgia*

Taught using a combination of lecture and lessons in RStudio. Focus on reliability, validity, utility, and the relationship between data and error in tests. Students make their own midterm and spend the second half of the semester in a project to edit their midterm into a final using psychometric knowledge.

**Sensation and Perception (PSYC 4120)**

Fall 2025

*University of Georgia*

## **Awards, Honors, & Certifications**

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University of Georgia Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

2023

Segal Education Award

2019

QuestBridge Match Scholarship

2014

## Mentorship

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- Eliana Gelman (2021-2022)
- Bhumy Patel (2021-2024)
- Abby Davis (2022-2023)
- Fiona Cashin (2022-2023)
- Avery Hughes (2022-2024)
- Ava McDonald (2023-2024)
- Jemeya Thomas (2023-2024)
- Neelie Perno (2023-2024)
- Sarah Jane Ellington (2023-2025)
- Emma Gartland (2023-*Present*)
- Casey Holman (2024)
- Sathvika Varahala (2024-*Present*)
- Lola Russell (2025-*Present*)
- Kenny Chan (2025-*Present*)

## Skills

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- Programming: R, Python, Bash, Ruby, MATLAB, SPSS, Java
- Instruments: Banjo, Cello
- Tools/Programs: Git, Linux, Databrary