

# ALISHA R. DESAI

---

*Alisha.R.Desai@gmail.com*

**EDUCATION:** **Drexel University** **expected, Jun. 2021**  
**Ph.D., Clinical Psychology** Philadelphia, PA

**Cornell University** **Jan. 2013**  
**B.Sc., Human Development** Ithaca, NY  
*Concentrations:* Law, Psychology, & HD • Social & Personality Development  
*Academic Distinctions:* Bachelor of Science with Distinction (GPA: 4.05/4.30)  
Henry Ricciuti Award for Outstanding Seniors in Human Development

## RESEARCH

**EXPERIENCE:** **NYU School of Medicine: Dept. of Psychiatry** **Jan. 2016 – Apr. 2016**  
**Addiction Medicine Research Institute** New York, NY  
*Research Assistant*

- Qualitative research study (PI: John Rotrosen, M.D.) investigated patient perspectives on hospital-based opiate detoxification and induction onto extended-release naltrexone.
- Recruited participants, administered and transcribed interviews, and conducted coding analysis.

**NYU Langone Medical Center: Dept. of Psychiatry** **Aug. 2013 – Apr. 2016**  
**Addiction Medicine Research Institute** New York, NY  
*Research Associate*

- Multi-center NIDA-funded clinical trial (CTN-0051; PI: John Rotrosen, M.D.; Site PI: Stephen Ross, M.D.) investigated the comparative effectiveness, over a 6-month period, of Suboxone® and Vivitrol® for the treatment of opiate dependence.
- Managed daily patient recruitment from Bellevue Hospital's drug and alcohol detoxification unit and conducted weekly study treatment visits.
- Administered cognitive and risk assessments, ensured data integrity, and monitored investigational drug accountability.
- Conducted off-site visits at Rikers Island jail complex for incarcerated participants.
- Coordinated clinical care across various community services (e.g., shelters, residential treatment programs, hospitals).
- Developed Standard Operating Procedures and contributed to protocol and case report form revisions.

**NYU School of Medicine: Dept. of Population Health** **Feb. 2015 – Jun. 2015**  
*Research Assistant* New York, NY

- Pilot randomized-control trial (PI: Babak Tofighi, M.D.) investigated the use of text messaging to support smoking cessation among substance using populations.
- Recruited patients from Bellevue Hospital's drug and alcohol detoxification unit and administered surveys regarding technology use and drug treatment strategies.

**Cornell University: Dept. of Human Development** **Jun. 2011 – May 2013**  
**Memory & Neuroscience Laboratory** Ithaca, NY  
*Research Assistant*

- Longitudinal panel studies (PI: Charles Brainerd, Ph.D.) focused on memory and decision-making processes across the lifespan.
- Recruited and scheduled research participants, and administered memory tests and clinical assessments.
- Drafted lab protocols, identified and resolved discrepancies with existent data, and created new data management, tracking and retention organization systems.

*Lab Coordinator*

**May 2012 – Dec. 2012**

- Research project (PI: Charles Brainerd, Ph.D.) aimed at developing a measure of pre-clinical cognitive impairment.
- Supervised a team of 16 research assistants. Responsibilities included interviewing, training, and evaluating undergraduate research assistants, ensuring the progress and completion of project tasks, and leading weekly lab meetings.
- Contributed to IRB amendments, managed finances for subject compensation, and served as liaison to testing sites in New York City.

**Cornell University: Dept. of Human Development  
Laboratory for Rational Decision Making**

**May 2012 – Aug. 2012**  
Ithaca, NY

*Research Assistant*

- NIH-funded intervention research project (PI: Valerie Reyna, Ph.D.) investigated the effectiveness of a gist-based risk-reduction program for transforming adolescent decision-making.
- Taught a sexual education course (“Gist-Enhanced Reducing the Risk”) to adolescents, incorporating student feedback into lesson plans and fostering open peer communication regarding risky health behaviors.
- Conducted outreach and tracking for completion of online follow-up surveys, and coded participant responses.
- Trained research assistants and managed participant databases.

**Cornell University: Dept. of Human Development  
Adolescent Attachment Research**

**Jan. 2011 – May 2011**  
Ithaca, NY

*Research Assistant*

- Qualitative research project (PI: Daphna Ram, Ph.D.) investigated adolescent cognitions surrounding romantic relationship break-ups.
- Conducted pilot tests, coded subject responses, and developed online surveys using Qualtrics software.
- Evaluated subject responses, and implemented subsequent research design and survey revisions.

**PUBLICATIONS &**

**PRESENTATIONS:** *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

Tofighi, B., Perna, M., **Desai, A.**, Grov, C., & Lee, J.D. (in press). Craigslist as a source for heroin: A report of two cases. *Journal of Substance Use*.

*Book Chapters*

Gomes, C.F.A., Cohen, B.R., **Desai, A.**, Brainerd, C.J., & Reyna, V.F. (2014). Aging and false memory: Fuzzy-trace theory and the elderly eyewitness. In M.P. Toglia, D.F. Ross, J. Pozzulo, & E. Pica (Eds.), *The elderly eyewitness in court* (pp. 137-166). New York: Psychology Press.

*Posters*

Cohen, B.R., Corbin, J., **Desai, A.**, Drucker, M., Gomes, C., Gross, C., Kim, J., MacDonald, J., Meyers, N., Nanda, S., Shen, J., Wilhelms, E., & Wood, A. (2012, April). *Aging, memory, & cognitive decline*. Poster presented at the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Research Forum, Ithaca, NY.

Tofighi, B., Sherman, S., Thomas, A., Grazioli, P., **Desai, A.**, Greco, P., Augustson, E., & Lee, J.D. (2015, October). *Text message-based smoking cessation for patients with substance use disorders*. Poster presented at NYU Langone Medical Center's Health Disparity Symposium, New York, NY.

## TEACHING

### EXPERIENCE:

#### **eCornell, Online Learning Team**

**Aug. 2015 – Jul. 2016**

*Teaching Assistant* (Project Leadership & Systems Design)

Ithaca, NY

- Worked in conjunction with Professor Robert Emborski, serving as liaison between the instructor and students enrolled in Cornell University online certificate courses.
- Provided remote academic and technical support to students, and graded assignments.
- Monitored and encouraged student success using Canvas Learning Management System.

#### **The Petey Greene Program, Metropolitan Correctional Center**

**Oct. 2015 – May 2016**

*Tutor* (GED Prep)

New York, NY

- Tutored inmates enrolled in GED and pre-GED courses at NYC federal facility, Metropolitan Correctional Center, on a weekly basis.
- Provided one-on-one support for pre-trial students who are engaged in independent study.

#### **Cornell University, Cornell Prison Education Program (CPEP)**

**Jan. 2013 – May 2013**

*Co-Instructor* (Writing Workshop)

Ithaca, NY

- Conducted a weekly writing workshop tutorial, exploring the fundamentals of grammar and argument construction through the critical evaluation of literature, offered to inmates at maximum-security prison Auburn Correctional Facility (Auburn, NY).
- Developed lesson plans and assignments, and taught lectures.
- Managed individual student caseload, including grading assignments, addressing areas of needed improvement, and evaluating students' progress throughout the semester.

#### **Cornell University, Cornell Prison Education Program (CPEP)**

**Aug. 2010 – Dec. 2010**

*Teaching Assistant* (Fiction Writing)

Ithaca, NY

- Worked alongside Professor Edward Hower in teaching a weekly creative writing course offered to inmates at maximum-security prison Auburn Correctional Facility (Auburn, NY).
- Provided feedback on writing drafts and graded students' assignments.
- Conducted group workshops to evaluate and discuss students' work in a constructive intellectual environment.

**ORGANIZATIONS:** Association of Clinical Coordination and Research Management (ACCRM)