

EDUCATION

- Drexel University** Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology expected, Jun. 2021
Major Area of Study: Forensic Psychology (GPA: 4.0)
M.S., Clinical Psychology Jul. 2018
- Cornell University** Ithaca, NY
B.S., Human Development Jan. 2013
Concentrations: Law, Psychology, & HD • Social & Personality Development
Academic Distinctions: Bachelor of Science with Distinction (GPA: 4.05)
Henry Ricciuti Award for Outstanding Seniors

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- Corp. Michael J. Crescenzo Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center** July 2019 – present
Opioid Treatment Program
Practicum Student Philadelphia, PA
Supervisor: A. Tanner Benson, PsyD
- Provide evidence-based trauma-informed individual and group (e.g., Anxiety Coping Skills) psychotherapy to veterans with comorbid mental illness and opioid use disorder in an outpatient Opioid Treatment Program (OTP).
 - Provide Prolonged Exposure (PE) therapy as part of an ongoing clinical trial examining the impact of biometric feedback (e.g., brainwaves) on veteran trauma-related outcomes.
 - Conduct assessments to monitor veteran outcomes and develop individualized treatment plans.
 - Participate in weekly individual supervision and in treatment team meetings to promote a multidisciplinary approach to treatment.
- Forensic Assessment Clinic** June 2019 – present
Practicum Student Philadelphia, PA
Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, ABPP
- Conduct forensic assessments for justice-involved individuals (e.g., juvenile resentencing, risk for sexual offending).
 - Conduct testing and write integrated reports incorporating assessments of intellectual and cognitive functioning, personality, psychosocial factors, and criminogenic risk and needs.
- Mood and Anxiety Team, Drexel Psychological Services Center** June 2019 – present
Peer Supervisor Philadelphia, PA
Supervisor: Jennifer Schwartz, PhD
- Supervise clinicians-in-training who are conducting evidence-based individual therapy to address symptoms of mood and anxiety disorders.
 - Oversee management of supervisee's client caseloads (3-5 clients), including assisting with case conceptualization, treatment planning, intervention administration, and report writing.
- Reentry Project, Drexel Psychological Services Center** June 2019 – present
Peer Supervisor Philadelphia, PA
Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, ABPP
- Supervise clinicians-in-training who are conducting evidence-based group and individual therapy with federal offenders on supervised release.
 - Oversee management of supervisee's client caseloads (3-5 clients), including assisting with criminogenic risk assessment and interpretation, intervention administration, and report writing.

Mentorship Program of Philadelphia Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology **June 2019 – present**
Mentee Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: Edward Moon, PsyD

- Engage in monthly mentorship – including theory, research, and assigned readings – focused on psychoanalytic theory and practice.
- Apply psychodynamic theory to clinical material and to inform case conceptualization.

Private Practice of Dr. David DeMatteo **Dec. 2016 – present**
Forensic Assistant Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: David DeMatteo, JD, PhD, ABPP

- Assist Dr. DeMatteo with privately contracted forensic assessments (e.g., juvenile decertification, competence to stand trial, mitigation, diminished capacity) in correctional and office settings, including legal and clinical file review and psychometric testing (WASI-II, MAYSI-2, WRAT-5, MMPI-A, MMPI-2-RF).
- Write forensic integrated reports, including detailed psychosocial history, assessment interpretation, and treatment recommendations.

Center City Clinic for Behavioral Medicine, Drexel U. College of Medicine **July 2018 – June 2019**
Practicum Student Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: Virginia O'Hayer, PhD

- Provide evidence-based individual (including full-model DBT) and group psychotherapy (Seeking Safety, ACT, DBT Skills Training) to adult outpatients with co-occurring serious mental illness, substance abuse, trauma, ongoing environmental stressors, and chronic medical conditions.
- Provide evidence-based individual therapy (ACT) as part of research studies examining ACT for individuals with HIV.
- Conduct comprehensive intake assessments and develop individualized treatment plans for clients.
- Participate in weekly individual and group supervision and treatment team meetings.

New Beginnings Veterans Clinic, Drexel University **Nov. 2018 – May 2019**
Practicum Student Philadelphia, PA

Supervisors: Arthur Nezu, PhD, ABPP & Christine Nezu, PhD, ABPP

- Provide evidence-based individual skills training (Emotion-Centered Problem-Solving Therapy) to veterans in an outpatient setting.
- Conduct intake assessments and develop case conceptualizations and individualized treatment plans.
- Participate in weekly supervision.

Mood and Anxiety Team, Drexel Psychological Services Center **June 2017 – May 2019**
Practicum Student Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: Jennifer Schwartz, PhD

- Provide evidence-based individual therapy (CBT, exposure-based therapies, ACT) to adult outpatients with mood and anxiety disorders.
- Conduct comprehensive intake assessments, including diagnostic evaluations, and develop individualized treatment plans.
- Participate in weekly group and individual supervision.

Reentry Project, Drexel Psychological Services Center **Oct. 2016 – May 2019**
Practicum Student + Project Coordinator Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, ABPP

- Provide individual and group CBT (26-session, manualized treatment) designed to reduce risk for future criminal behavior to adult outpatient offenders reentering the community post-incarceration.
- Conduct intake assessments and motivational enhancement sessions for justice-involved individuals enrolled in the Pennsylvania federal reentry court.
- Participate in weekly group and individual supervision.
- Write integrated reports and discharge summaries to be furnished to the court.
- Assist in the coordination and execution of the program and intervention, including serving as a liaison between clinicians and the court, coordinating referrals, and periodic program evaluation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections

Nov. 2018 – present

Co-Investigator

Principal Investigator: David DeMatteo, JD, PhD

- Research project involving development of study measures and data analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of crisis intervention training for parole and probation officers in Pennsylvania.

DeMatteo Lab, Drexel University

Sept. 2016 – present

Research Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: David DeMatteo, JD, PhD, ABPP

- Research projects investigate the intersection of psychology, law, and the criminal justice system, including examinations of adversarial allegiance, emotional memory, and false confessions.
- Assist with coordination and development of research projects, including preparing IRB submissions and developing study measures.

Doctoral Dissertation, Drexel University

June 2019 – Nov. 2019

Title: Criminal Prosecution of Substance Use During Pregnancy:

Philadelphia, PA

An Examination of Judicial and Public Perceptions

Committee Chairperson: David DeMatteo, JD, PhD

Committee Members: Pam Geller, PhD, Naomi Goldstein, PhD, Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, John Rotrosen, MD

- Examine the relationship between type of substance use during pregnancy (opioid, alcohol, benzodiazepine) and judges' and the general public's recommendations regarding criminal and child welfare outcomes following the birth of a newborn in active drug withdrawal.

Heilbrun Research Lab, Drexel University

Jul. 2018 – Jul. 2019

Research Assistant

Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, ABPP

- Research projects focus on data collection/analysis and program evaluation for the Drexel Reentry Project, a CBT-based intervention for individuals on federal supervised release.
- Assist with ongoing program development to tailor treatment to clients' needs.

Master's Thesis, Drexel University

Oct. 2017 – Jul. 2018

Title: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and the Criminal Defendant:

Philadelphia, PA

The Impact of Substance Type on Judges' Sentencing Recommendations

Committee Chairperson: David DeMatteo, JD, PhD

Committee Members: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD, John Rotrosen, MD

- Examined differences in sentencing outcomes among defendants convicted of a robbery as a function of type of substance abuse (prescription opioids, heroin, alcohol, marijuana, none) reported.

Inst. of Law, Psychiatry, & Public Policy, UVA

May 2017 – Mar. 2018

Research Assistant

Charlottesville, VA

Supervisor: Janet Warren, DSW

- Research project examined the effectiveness of youth protection measures utilized by the Boy Scouts of America.

Forensic Mental Health Research, Montclair State University

Nov. 2016 – Jun. 2017

Research Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: Christopher King, JD, PhD

- Research project investigated case law references to forensic mental health assessments.

Addiction Medicine Research Inst., NYU School of Medicine

Jan. 2016 – Apr. 2016

Research Assistant

New York, NY

Supervisor: John Rotrosen, MD

- Qualitative research study investigated patient perspectives on hospital-based opioid detoxification and induction onto extended-release naltrexone.

Div. of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, NYU Langone Medical Center

Aug. 2013 – Apr. 2016

Research Associate

New York, NY

Supervisors: John Rotrosen, MD; Stephen Ross, MD

- Multi-center NIDA-funded clinical trial (CTN-0051) investigated the comparative effectiveness, over a 6-month period, of Suboxone and Vivitrol for the treatment of opioid dependence.
- Managed patient recruitment from Bellevue Hospital's detoxification unit and conducted weekly study treatment visits, including off-site visits at Rikers Island jail complex.
- Administered cognitive and risk assessments and monitored investigational drug accountability.
- Coordinated clinical care across various community services (e.g., shelters, residential treatment).

Dept. of Population Health, NYU School of Medicine

Feb. 2015 – Jun. 2015

Research Assistant

New York, NY

Supervisor: Babak Tofighi, MD

- Pilot randomized-control trial investigated the use of text messaging to support smoking cessation among substance using populations.

Memory & Neuroscience Lab, Cornell University

Jun. 2011 – May 2013

Research Assistant

Ithaca, NY

Supervisor: Charles Brainerd, PhD

- Longitudinal studies focused on memory, including pre-clinical cognitive impairment, and decision-making processes across the lifespan.

Lab Coordinator

May 2012 – Dec. 2012

- Supervised a team of 16 research assistants, including interviewing, training, and evaluating undergraduate research assistants, ensuring the progress of projects, and leading lab meetings.
- Contributed to IRB amendments, managed finances for subject compensation, and served as liaison to testing sites in New York City.

Lab. for Rational Decision Making, Cornell University

May 2012 – Aug. 2012

Research Assistant

Ithaca, NY

Supervisor: Valerie Reyna, PhD

- NIH-funded intervention research project investigated the effectiveness of a gist-based risk-reduction program ("Gist-Enhanced Reducing the Risk") for transforming adolescent decision-making.

Adolescent Attachment Research, Cornell University

Jan. 2011 – May 2011

Research Assistant

Ithaca, NY

Supervisor: Daphna Ram, PhD

- Qualitative research project investigated adolescent cognitions surrounding romantic relationships.

GRANTS

Funded

Impact of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training in Community

Nov. 2018 – Sept. 2020

Corrections Settings

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (subcontract)

Role: Co-Investigator

Total Costs: \$128,413

Submitted, But Not Funded

2018 APF Visionary Grant: The Drexel Reentry Project

American Psychological Foundation (submitted Apr. 2018)

Role: Co-Investigator

Total Costs: \$19,640

AWARDS

AP-LS 2019 Conference Student Travel Award
American Psychology-Law Society
Award Value: \$500

Mar. 2019

2018-2019 Teck-Kah Lim Graduate Student Domestic Travel Award
Drexel University Graduate College
Award Value: \$600

Mar. 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Desai, A., DeMatteo, D., Heilbrun, K., & Rotrosen, J. (2019). Opioid use disorder (OUD) and the criminal defendant: The impact of defendants' opioid dependence on judges' sentencing recommendations. *Journal for Advancing Justice*, 2, 55-70.

Heilbrun, K., Thornewill, A., **Desai, A.**, & Pietruszka, V. (2019). The importance of evidence on interventions to reduce risk of violence. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, e12284.

Heilbrun, K., Giallella, C., Wright, H. J., DeMatteo, D., Griffin, P. A., Locklair, B., & **Desai, A.** (2019). Treatment for restoration of competence to stand trial: Critical analysis and policy recommendations. *Psychology, Public Policy, & Law*. doi:10.1037/law0000210

Tofighi, B., **Desai, A.**, Grov, C., & Lee, J.D. (2016). Craigslist as a source for heroin: A report of two cases. *Journal of Substance Use*, 21, 543-546.

Books

DeMatteo, D., Fairfax-Columbo, J., & **Desai, A.** (2019). *Becoming a forensic psychologist*. New York, NY: Routledge.

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.

Encyclopedia Entries

DeMatteo, D., **Desai, A.**, & Tansey, A. (under contract). Psychopathy. In R. A. R. Gurung (Ed.), *Routledge encyclopedia of psychology in the real world*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Heilbrun, K., **Desai, A.**, Rizzo, M., McPhee, J., Zapotocky, H., & Loggia, S. (under contract). Forensic mental health assessment. In R. A. R. Gurung (Ed.), *Routledge encyclopedia of psychology in the real world*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Other Publications (non peer-reviewed)

Arnold, S., **Desai, A.**, & DeMatteo, D. (2018, September). Keeping guns away from potentially dangerous people: A growing number of states are embracing laws that restrict gun possession – What is the psychologist's role? *Monitor on Psychology*, 49(8), 27.

Published Abstracts

Tofighi, B., Grazioli, F., Thomas, A., **Desai, A.**, Pinguello, A. C., Greco, P., & Lee, J. D. (2017). Technology-based intervention preferences to enhance self-management of substance use disorders, HIV, and hepatitis c among patients in inpatient detoxification. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Abstracts*, 171, e203.

PRESENTATIONS

Symposia & Paper Presentations

Desai, A., Thornewill, A., Fairfax-Columbo, J., Arnold, S., O'Hayer, V., & Heilbrun, K. (2019, March). *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) with reentry: A theoretical overview and proposed addition to the Drexel Reentry Project*. Paper presented at the 2019 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div. 41), Portland, OR.

Desai, A., Lankford, C., & DeMatteo, D. (2019, March). *Substance use disorder (SUD) and the criminal defendant: The impact of substance type on judicial sentencing recommendations*. Paper presented at the 2019 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div. 41), Portland, OR.

Gauthier, P., Greco, P., Meyers-Ohki, S., **Desai, A.**, & Rotrosen, J. (2018, March). *Patient perspectives on attaining and maintaining abstinence for successful induction onto extended-release naltrexone (XR-NTX): A qualitative content analysis*. Paper presented at the 2018 CTN Annual Scientific Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Haney-Caron, E., April, K., Goldstein, N., DeMatteo, D., Bomysoad, R., Fishel, S., Moore, C., Singer, S., McKibben, K., **Desai, A.**, & Ratkalkar, M. (2018, March). *False confession in the lab: Questions raised from use of a novel paradigm*. Paper presented at the 2018 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div. 41), Memphis, TN.

Haney-Caron, E., Goldstein, N. E. S., DeMatteo, D., Bomysoad, R., Fishel, S., Singer, S. C., Lankford, C. M., **Desai, A.**, Ratkalkar, M., McKibben, K., & April, K. (2019, March). *Ecological validity of a measure of self-reported likelihood of false confession*. Paper accepted for presentation at the 2019 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div. 41), Portland, OR.

King, C., **Desai, A.**, Fishel, S., Moore, C., & DeMatteo, D. (2017, June). *A multi-country snapshot of test usage in forensic mental health assessment using case law references*. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services, Split, Croatia.

Thornewill, A., **Desai, A.**, & Pietruszka, V. (2018, March). *The Drexel Reentry Project: Filling a Treatment Gap for Returning Citizens*. In Heilbrun, K.H. (Chair), Developing and operating a reentry problem-solving court: A national model. Symposium conducted at the 2018 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (APA Div. 41), Memphis, TN.

Poster Presentations

Arnold, S., **Desai, A.**, Lankford, C.M., & DeMatteo, D. (2018, March). *Factors that influence sentencing decisions in capital cases for defendants with mental illness*. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Memphis, TN.

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 27th Annual Spring Research Forum, Ithaca, NY.

Desai, A., & DeMatteo, D. (2017, March). *Medication-assisted treatment for opiate-dependent inmates: A closer examination*. Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.

Fairfax-Columbo, J., **Desai, A.**, Arnold, S., Haney-Caron, E., & DeMatteo, D. (2017, August). *Assessing addiction severity using the DSM-5: Limitations to clinical utility*. Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Lankford, C.M., **Desai, A.**, DeMatteo, D., & Heilbrun, K. (2018, March). *Forensic mental health assessment of youth involved in terrorism*. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Memphis, TN.

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

Drexel University, Department of Psychology **Sept. 2017 – present**
Teaching Assistant (Doctoral-Level: Data Analysis) Philadelphia, PA

- Provide support for full-year doctoral-level statistics courses (Data Analysis I, II, III).
- Prepare and guest lecture one 3-hour statistics lecture per term.
- Grade assignments and exams and provide assistance to students as needed.

Drexel University, Department of Psychology **Sept. 2016 – Dec. 2016**
Teaching Assistant (Undergraduate-Level: Intro to Psychology) Philadelphia, PA

- Provided support to Douglas Chute, PhD, for undergraduate-level introductory psychology courses.
- Assisted in grading weekly discussion posts and providing assistance to students as needed.
- Served as a guest lecturer for abnormal psychology portion of the course.

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.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

Association for Contextual Behavioral Science

First Student Representative, Pennsylvania Chapter

May 2018 – present

Philadelphia, PA

- Help coordinate trainings, networking, peer consultation, and supervision opportunities related to acceptance- and mindfulness-based therapies around Pennsylvania.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Psychological Association (APA)

American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS)

Association of Clinical Coordination and Research Management (ACCRM)

Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS)

Association for Psychological Science (APS)

SELECTED WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) for Managing Suicidal Behavior Workshop. October 15, 2018 & May 6, 2019. Philadelphia, PA.

Exposure Therapy Training Workshop. October 8, 2017. Philadelphia, PA.

Getting to the Heart of Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) Workshop. May 18, 2018. Philadelphia, PA.

Motivational Interviewing Training Workshop. March 3 - 4, 2016. New York, NY.

Prolonged Exposure Training Workshop. September 3 - 5, 2019. Philadelphia, PA.

Radically Open Dialectical Behavior Therapy (RO-DBT) Workshop. April 7, 2018. Philadelphia, PA.

Treating OCD from an ACT/RFT Perspective. July 19, 2019. Philadelphia, PA.

EDITORIAL & REVIEWER POSITIONS

Ad Hoc Reviewer, *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, 2018

Proposal Reviewer, American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) annual convention, Division 41, 2017

American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) annual convention, Division 41, 2018

American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) annual convention, Division 41, 2019

Proposal Reviewer, Association for Psychological Science (APS) Student Research Award, 2017

-- References available upon request --