

Isabella C. Brown
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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Special Education** In progress
Joint Doctoral Program (first year student)
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
GPA: 4.0
- Master of Arts in Special Education** May 2018
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
Concentration: Moderate to Severe Disabilities
Thesis: “Experiences of African American parents and students with autism and school partnerships”
GPA: 4.0

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- University Inclusion Pilot Program Coordinator/Researcher** August 2020-Present
PI: Kathleen Mortier, PhD
Program: Students with Extensive Support Needs
Department of Special Education, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- Recruitment of participants, collaboration with university partners to ensure the success of pilot students
- Graduate Student Researcher** January 2020-Present
PI: Stephen Hinshaw, PhD
Supervisor: Michelle Porche, EdD
Schwab Dyslexia and Neurodiversity Center
Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- Community outreach centered focus and research mandated distant learning supports for students with disabilities and their families
- Graduate Advisor’s Research Assistant** August 2019-May2020
PI: Travis Bristol, PhD
Graduate School of Education, University of California, Berkeley, CA
Basis of study: Implementation and impact of communities of practice for leaders of color in education designing more equitable policies and practices
- Conducting participant interviews
 - Preliminary coding and analyzing data
- Graduate Student Research Assistant** January 2018-May 2018
Supervisor and Co-PI: Dr. Pamela Wolfberg, Co-PI: Dr. Betty Yu
Department of Special Education & Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, San Francisco State University
Basis of study: Autism Language and Learning in Inclusive Educational Settings
Interdisciplinary Preparation of Highly Qualified Speech - Language Pathologists and Special Educators to Support Diverse Students on the Autism Spectrum with Significant Social-Communication Needs; Personnel Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention and Related Services
- Served on Project ALLIES advisory board

- Documented and facilitated grant recipient orientation
- Developed graduate student iLearn webpage for grant recipients

Research Analyst/Technician II

March 2016-August 2017

Supervisor and Co-PI: Dr. Pam Hunt

Department of Special Education, San Francisco State University

Basis of study: Implementation of Emergent Literacy Program for Students with Severe Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Within Inclusive Public School Environments

- Assessed student participants at designated school site
- Performed reliability on behalf of co-researcher
- Uploaded fidelity data for analysis
- Data transcription
- Adapted various literacy materials for teachers and students
- Formulated comprehension question documents for classroom staff

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2017-December 2017

SPED 791 The Nature of Autism

Supervisor: Dr. Pamela Wolfberg, San Francisco State University, CA

- Graded student assignments (case studies, group projects, reading summaries)
- Facilitated classroom discussions based on assigned readings
- Developed student groups and prepared guided discussions

Moderate/Severe Disabilities: Practicum Placement II

August 2016-December 2016

Mission High School, San Francisco CA

- Co-instructed photography class
- Created and delivered lesson plans for English language learners
- Adapted assignments and provided supplemental instruction as needed for focus students with autism and down syndrome

Moderate/Severe Disabilities: Practicum Placement I

January 2016-May 2016

Sequoia Elementary School, Oakland CA

- Created and delivered lesson plans for small group and whole group instruction
- Created and delivered ability awareness lesson to students
- Adapted assignments as needed for focus students
- Developed modified computer instruction for student accessibility
- Delivered lessons utilizing social stories for socialization during recess
- Facilitated peer socialization during inclusive lunch group

Substitute Teacher and Volunteer

October 2014-June 2015

Creative Growth Art Studio, Oakland CA

Art Gallery for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

- Instructed, guided, and motivated clients during initial project planning phases
- Supported clients by maintaining work station supplies and project materials

INTERNSHIPS

Retention Coordinator Assistant

August 2015- December 2015

Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC), San Francisco State University CA

- Presented information and offer support to various groups within DPRC

- Managed community outreach to improve autism awareness throughout university

LEADERSHIP

Autism Support Group Facilitator

August 2015-May 2018

San Francisco State University CA

- Leader of weekly discussions on student centered topics
- Updated and monitor student calendar and events in iLearn
- Presented on study skills and time management
- Facilitated opportunities for socialization and community building

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Professional Organization

- The California Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (CA-AFCA) – *Board member*
- American Education Research Association (AERA)
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Service

- Autism Art and Resource Center (co-creator), San Francisco State University

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Textbook and Manuscripts

Brown, I. (publication editing in process) A parent's story In Buron, K. & Wolfberg, P., *Learners on the autism spectrum: Preparing highly qualified educators and related practitioners* (Third ed.).

Brown, I. & Mortier, K. (accepted). "Watch your tone": the experiences of African American parents of students on the autism spectrum in parent-school partnerships.

Mortier, K., **Brown, I. C.**, & Aramburo, C. M. (2020). Cultural Brokers in Special Education. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1540796920975386>

Conferences and Lectures

Brown, I. (2020). A parent's perspective: Challenges in advocacy and management of Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Presented to graduate cohort in the Special Education and Communicative Disorders Department, San Francisco State University

Brown, I & Arias, E (2019) Perspectives on school collaboration, advocacy efforts, and the complexities of raising a child with extensive support needs from parents. Panel presentation for graduate cohort of credential students in the Extensive Support Needs program in the Special Education and Communicative Disorders Department, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.

Mortier, K., **Brown, I** & Arias, E. (2019). Navigating the unknown: Exploration of Latinx and African American parent experiences in special education. Research will be presented at 2019 CalTASH Annual Conference on Civil Rights: Equity, Opportunity, & Inclusion, San Diego, CA

Brown, I. (2018). A parent's perspective: Challenges in advocacy and management of Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Presented to graduate cohort in the Special Education and Communicative Disorders Department, San Francisco State University

Brown, I. (2018). Inequality and exclusion: Autistic African American students and the autism community. New research and the future of autism scholarship presented at the 2018 Autism Asperger Spectrum Coalition for Education Networking and Development (AASCEND) and San Francisco State University Conference, San Francisco, CA

Brown, I. (2018). Research on the experiences of African American parents of autistic students and school partnerships as well as recommendations for practice and future research. Presented at the 2018 California Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Burlingame, CA

Brown, I. (2018). Thesis: Experiences of African American parents of autistic students and school partnerships. Presented at the Graduate Research and Creative Work Showcase, San Francisco State University

Brown, I. (2018). Theoretical frameworks of DisCrit and Communities of Practice: Basis for outcomes of African American parents of autistic students when navigating partnerships in school communities. Thesis research presented for graduate course: SPED794, San Francisco State University

Brown, I. (2018). Exploring the experiences of African American parents of autistic students navigating parent-school partnerships. Thesis research presented for undergraduate course: SPED 630, San Francisco State University

Brown, I. (2017). Inclusive pedagogy: Ways to enhance equitable academic spaces for all students. Keynote presenter at the 2017 Family and Consumer Sciences Leadership Conference, California State University at Long Beach

Brown, I. (2016). Parent and caregiver roles in supporting individuals on the autism spectrum, SF Commons, public access television show "Life on the Spectrum", produced by Autism Asperger Spectrum Coalition for Education Networking and Development, San Francisco, CA

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- Parent trainings in special education advocacy, Lincoln Center, Oakland, CA
- Distribution of materials and discussions on resources for parents/caregivers of children with disabilities, mental health, and domestic violence at wellness retreat, Sequoyah Church, Oakland, CA
- Featured in campus publication for co-authoring a children's book, San Francisco State University's collaboration with Compass Children's Center supporting homeless families, San Francisco, CA

HONORS AND AWARDS

Fellowships and Scholarships

- Marcus A. Foster Fellow, **\$50,000**, University of California, Berkeley, 2020-2022
- Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program Fellow, California State Universities, 2020-2024
- Chris Larson Scholarship, awarded to outstanding students in the field of special education, **\$2,500**, San Francisco State University, 2020
- Crumpton, Baxter, Bonham Memorial Scholarship, awarded to outstanding students in the field of special education, **\$1,000**, San Francisco State University, 2020

- Research Poster and Presenter Competition Winner, California Council for Exceptional Children (CA CEC), **\$1,000** Scholarship, Burlingame, CA, 2018

Honors

- Distinguished Achievement Award, San Francisco State University, 2018
- Alumna of the Year Award, Family and Consumer Sciences and Dietetics, San Francisco State University, 2017