

NAYANTARA KURPAD, Ph.D
Assistant Professor of Cognitive Psychology (tenure-track)
Ross Fellow
Department of Psychology
St. Mary's College of Maryland
nkurpad@smcm.edu

Education

University of Massachusetts Lowell Ph.D., Applied Psychology and Prevention Science Track: Cognitive Psychology	August 2022
University of Texas at Austin M.Ed., Educational Psychology	May 2017
Jain University, India M.Phil., M.Sc., Psychology	July 2014
Christ College (Affl. Bangalore University), India B.A., Psychology	May 2010

Publications

*undergraduate student

- Karaca, M., Geraci, L., **Kurpad, N.**, Lithander, P.G.M., & Balsis, S. (2023). Low-performing students confidently over predict their grade performance throughout the semester. *Journal of Intelligence*, 11(10), 188.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/jintelligence11100188>
- Geraci, L., **Kurpad, N.**, Tirso, R., *Gray, K., & Wang, Y. (2023). Metacognitive errors in the classroom: The role of variability of past performance on exam prediction accuracy. *Metacognition and Learning*, 1-18, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11409-022-09326-7>
- Shen, J., Wang, Y., **Kurpad, N.**, & Schena-II, D. (2022). The impact of hot and cool executive functions on preventing injury-related risk-taking behaviors among children and adolescents: A meta-analytic structural equational modelling approach. *Prevention Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-021-01271-2>
- Karaca, M., **Kurpad, N.**, Wilford, M. M., & Davis, D. S. (2020). Too much of a good thing: frequent retrieval can impair immediate new learning?, *Memory*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09658211.2020.1826526>

Wilford, M. M., **Kurpad, N.**, *Platt, M., & Weinstein, Y. (2020). Lecturer fluency can impact students' judgments of learning and actual learning performance, *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3724>

Manuscripts in Preparation

*undergraduate student

Kurpad, N., Wilford, M. M., & Karaca, M. (in preparation). Interventions designed toward understanding lecturer fluency.

Kurpad, N., Wilford, M. M., & Kornell, N. (in preparation). Impact of lecture modality on students' performance.

Fang, W., Zepeda, D. C., **Kurpad, N.**, & Butler, C. A. (in preparation). The effects of question difficulty order during a test on metacognitive judgments.

Kurpad, N., Karaca, M., Davis, D.S., & Wilford, M.M. (in preparation). Does retrieval practice reduce the task-switching cost?

Kurpad, N., Geraci, L., & *Lacasse, L. (in preparation). Perspective taking—understanding metacognition among younger and older adults.

Conference Presentations

*Lonnberg, N., **Kurpad, N.**, & Harrison, E. (2025, Nov 20-23). *Popular media usage and its impact on learning*. [Poster Presentation]. Psychonomic Society 66th Annual Meeting.

*Poissant, E., & **Kurpad, N.** (2025, Nov 20-23). *The CSI effect and its impact on jury decision making*. [Poster Presentation]. Psychonomic Society 66th Annual Meeting.

Kurpad, N., *Lonnberg, N., *Lopez, K., & *Grzymalski, S. (2024, Nov 21-24). *Teachers and students perceptions, utilization, and advocacy of students' learning strategies* [Poster Presentation]. Psychonomic Society 65th Annual Meeting.

Kurpad, N., Geraci, L. & Tirso. R. (2023, Nov 19-22). *Self and Other Metacognitive Awareness of Young and Older Adults* [Poster Presentation]. Psychonomic Society 63rd Annual Meeting.

Kurpad, N., Geraci, L. & Tirso. R. (2023, Aug 3-5). *Self and Other Metacognitive Awareness of Young and Older Adults* [Data Blitz]. APA Convention.
<https://www.xcdsystem.com/apa/program/pbf12ke/index.cfm?pgid=760>

Kurpad, N., & Wilford, M.M. (2022, Nov 17-20). *What Matters When Lectures Move Online?: The Impact of Modality and Feedback on Students' Learning Performance and Metacognitive Judgments* [Conference presentation]. Psychonomic Society 63rd Annual Meeting. <https://www.psychonomic.org/page/2022program>

- Karaca, M., Geraci, L., **Kurpad, N.**, Lithander P.G.M., & Balsis, S., (2022, May 23-26). *Examining Students' Performance Predictions and Confidence over Time* [Poster presentation]. 2022 APS Annual Convention.
<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/conventions/2022-aps-annual-convention>
- Kurpad, N.**, Wilford, M.M., & Kornell, N. (2021, Nov 4-7). *Impact of Lecture Modality and Visuals on Students' Learning Performance and Metacognitive Judgments* [Poster presentation]. Psychonomic Society 62nd Annual Meeting.
<https://www.psychonomic.org/page/2021annualmeeting>
- Kurpad, N.**, Karaca, M., Wilford, M.M., & Davis, D.S. (2021, July 21-23). *Can retrieval practice eliminate the cost of task-switching, even after a delay?* [Paper presentation]. Virtual SARMAC 2021. <http://www.sarmac.org/vsarmac-2021>
- Kurpad, N.**, Geraci, L., Tirso, R., & *Gray. K. (2020, November 19-22). *Does student's variability in metacognitive judgments affect their performance?* [Poster presentation]. Virtual Psychonomic 2020. <https://www.psychonomic.org/page/2020annualmeeting>
- Kurpad, N.**, Geraci, L., Tirso, R., & *Gray. K. (2020, October 2-3). *Does student's variability in metacognitive judgments affect their performance?* [Poster presentation]. Virtual Armadillo.
- Kurpad, N.**, Sutherland, K., & Wilford, M.M. (2019, November 14-17). *The impact of "good" and "bad" lecturing on students' judgments of learning and actual learning.* [Poster presentation]. 60th Annual Meeting Psychonomic Society, Montreal, Canada.
<https://www.psychonomic.org/page/2019program>
- Karaca, M., **Kurpad, N.**, Wilford. M.M., & Weinstein, Y. (2019, June 5-9). *The dark side of interpolated testing: Does retrieval practice protect against the task switching cost?* [Poster presentation]. SARMAC, Cape Cod, MA. <https://osf.io/meetings/SARMAC2019/>
- Karaca, M., **Kurpad, N.**, Wilford. M.M., & Weinstein, Y. (2019, May 1). *The dark side of interpolated testing: Does retrieval practice protect against the task switching cost?* [Poster presentation]. UML Research Symposium 2019, Lowell, MA.
<https://www.uml.edu/Research/events/StudentResearchSymposium/past-symposia/>
- Kurpad, N.** (2012). *The influence of profession and gender on moral judgment: An exploratory study.* [Poster presentation]. Psychological well-being: "building bridges for tomorrow", Chandigarh, India.

Talks

- Colvett, J., Karanian, J., Kumar, A., & **Kurpad, N.**, (2024, Nov 20-23). *Encouraging Future Scientists: Supporting Undergraduates at Psychonomics* [Lunchtime Workshop]. 66th Annual Meeting Psychonomic Society, Denver, USA

Covington, M., Ehman, A., **Kurpad, N.**, & Leffers, L. (2025, May 21 -25). No grad students? no problem!: The role of academics at primarily undergraduate teaching institutions [Symposium]. APS Annual Convention. Washington D.C., USA

Karanian, J., Kumar, A., **Kurpad, N.**, Umanath. S. (2025, Nov 21-24). *Encouraging Future Scientists: Supporting Undergraduates at Psychonomics* [Lunchtime Workshop]. 65th Annual Meeting Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, USA

Kurpad, N. (2024, May). *SURF Faculty Presentation*, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Kurpad, N. (2023, Aug). *SMCM 3I Conference*, Organized by CITL, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Kurpad, N., Zepeda, C., Boylston, P. (2023, May). *Candidates Perspective on the Job Market*, Organized by Div 3, American Psychological Association

Kurpad, N. (2023, April 14). Psi Chi Guest Speaker. Organized by PsiChi Honor Society, St. Mary's Chapter.

Kurpad, N. (2023, Feb). WiSH Tea Guest Speaker. Organized by Women in STEM housing, St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Kurpad, N. (2022, Nov 9). *Faculty Lecture Series*. Organized by St. Mary's College of Maryland, USA

Kurpad, N. (2021, July 29). *21st Century Skills for Human Excellence: Strategizing a Paradigm Shift in School Education*. Keynote speaker. Sponsored by Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Grants

- HHMI IE3 Small Grant, *Developing an Interdisciplinary Inclusive Syllabus Review Tool*, **Kurpad, N.**, & Howansky. K (Summer 2024; Summer 2025) \$16,000, \$12,086
- HHMI IE3 Small Grant, *Student Feedback on Teaching*, Mirable. S., **Kurpad, N.**, Williams. L. (Summer 2024) \$16,000
- Psi-Chi Undergraduate Research Grant, *Navigating Learning: A Fusion of Metacognitive Awareness and Self-regulation Skills*, *Boone. C., & **Kurpad, N** (Rejected, Summer 2024)

Awards

- Psi Chi, & APA. (2025). Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Award Spring 2025 [Pop Cultural Videos and Their Impact on Multimedia Learning]. (*Lonnberg, N., **Kurpad, N**) \$1471
- Psi Chi, & APA. (2025). Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Award Spring 2025 [Mentor Stipend]. (**Kurpad, N**) \$1500

- 2024 Fellow, CourseKata Summer Institute for Teaching of Introductory Statistics.
- Faculty Success Program Scholarship Recipient Spring 2024 (\$5,150)
- Faculty Development Grant FY24, Round 2 (\$2080)
- Teaching Excellence Award (2021-2022), Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Lowell (\$500)
- Women in Cognitive Science Networking Award (2021), WiCS (\$500)
- Richard Siegel Endowment Fund, University of Massachusetts Lowell, “Understanding study strategies of high- and low- performing younger and older adults”, *DiFava. R., *Engdahl. M., **Kurpad. N.**, & Wilford. M. M. (\$500)
- Dean’s Travel Award Program, University of Massachusetts Lowell, 2019 & 2020 (\$500).
- Psychology Department Travel Grant Award, University of Massachusetts Lowell, 2019 & 2020 (\$500).
- Research symposium 2019, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lightning talk speaker “The dark side of interpolated testing: Does retrieval practice protect against task-switching cost?”, 1st Place (\$250).

Teaching Experience

St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Assistant Professor

Fall 2022 – Present

Courses Taught

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| ● Introduction to Psychology | Fall 2022, Spring 2023 |
| ● Cognitive Psychology | Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2025 |
| ● Directed Research | Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025 |
| ● Research Methods and Statistics | Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025 |
| ● Lights, Camera, Psychology! | Winter 2023 |
| ● Cognition in the Real World | Spring 2024, Fall 2024 |

University of Massachusetts Lowell, Instructor of Record

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| ● Introduction to Psychological Science | Spring 2020 (hybrid),
Fall 2020 (virtual),
Spring 2021 (virtual),
Fall 2021 (online),
Spring 2022 (online) |
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Teaching Assistant

University of Massachusetts Lowell

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| ● Research II: Statistics | Fall 2018, Spring 2019 |
| ● Research II: Statistics | Spring 2019 |
| ● Research III: Methods | Spring 2019 |

- Cognitive Psychology Fall 2019
- Psychology of Decision-Making Fall 2019

University of Texas at Austin

- SDS 306 Statistics in Market Analysis Spring 2017
- PSY 458 Experimental Psychology Spring 2016
- SDS 304 Statistics in Health Care Fall 2016

Guest lectures/Co-teaching

- Cognitive Psychology: Topic: Visual Knowledge, University of Massachusetts Lowell. (Fall, 2019)
- Psychology of Decision-Making: Topic: Jeopardy review session, University of Massachusetts Lowell. (Fall, 2019)
- Research II: Statistics, Topic: Independent samples t-test, University of Massachusetts Lowell. (Spring, 2019)
- Research II: Statistics, Topic: Correlation, University of Massachusetts Lowell. (Fall, 2018)
- Research II: Statistics, Topic: Conducting inferential statistics using SPSS, University of Massachusetts Lowell (Fall, 2018; Spring, 2019)

Mentoring

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Honors Thesis Advising

Hermila Tamegn	Fall 2024- Spring 2025
Nadia Lonnberg	Fall 2024- Spring 2025
Elizabeth Poissant	Fall 2024- Spring 2025
Maria Mandrugina	Fall 2024- Spring 2025
Zoe Picker	Fall 2024- Spring 2025
Caroline Boone	Spring 2024- Fall 2024
Tessa Newton	Fall 2023- Spring 2024
Savanna Hendricks	Fall 2023- Spring 2024
Aryn Wilson	Fall 2023- Spring 2024
Regan Farrar	Fall 2023- Spring 2024

SURF

Nadia Lonnberg	Summer 2024
Bianca Falby (co-advisor)	Summer 2023

Directed Research

Evan Harrison	Spring 2025 – Present
Katie Thomas	Spring 2025
Alba Gonzalez	Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
Nadia Lonnberg	Spring 2023 – Spring 2025
Kyren Lopez	Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
Sadie Grzymalski	Spring 2024 – Fall 2024
Savanna Hendricks	Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Aryn Wilson	Spring 2023
Caitlin Jones	Spring 2023
Sydney Haur	Spring 2023

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Alex Lacasse

Spring 2020

Service to the College and Department

St. Mary's College of Maryland

CITL Advisory Board	Spring 2023- Present
Psychology 204/206 committee member	Fall 2024- Present
Organizing committee for Holi and Diwali with APAC	Present
Summer advisor	Summer 2024, 2025
Institutional Review Board Reviewer	Fall 2023 - Present
Informal International Student Advisor	Spring 2024 – Present
Assessment Club committee member	Fall 2022 – Present
Assistant Professor of Computer Science search committee member	Fall 2024
Assistant Professor of WGSX search committee member	Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
St. Mary's Presentation Award committee member	Spring 2023, Spring 2024
HHMI Learning Community member	Spring 2024
Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology	

and Neuroscience search committee member

Fall 2024- Spring 2024

AAVP for Inclusion & Belonging search committee member

Fall 2024

Ross Fellow

Fall 2022- Spring 2024

Leadership

- Organizing committee member SARMAC 2019
- Represented Educational Psychology department at UT Austin's Graduate Student Assembly (2016-2017)
- Led the monthly newsletter initiative as the chief editor of 'Thinklet' CERSSE, Bangalore (2013-2015)

Skills

- SPSS, R, STATA, JAMOVI, Google Analytics, Microsoft Office Suite, Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, Mturk, Prolific Academic.

Professional Affiliations

Memberships

- The Psychonomic Society
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Division 3 APA, Membership Committee
- Women in Cognitive Science (WiCS)
- SPARK Society
- PsiChi Honor Society
- SARMAC
- Advancing Cognitive Research with Undergraduates (ACRU)

Reviewer

- Memory and Cognition
- Metacognition and Learning
- Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition
- Behavioral Sciences
- PsiChi Reviewer

Outreach

Workshop on Learning Sciences for Special Educators and Career Tech teachers at Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, Massachusetts, August 2023 (Virtual)

Other Research Experience

Lab Manager <i>Applied Cognition Research Lab</i> , PI – Dr. Miko M. Wilford <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-lab manager with Kelly T. Sutherland	Spring 2019- Summer 2022
Graduate Research Assistant <i>Applied Cognition Research Lab</i> , PI – Dr. Miko M. Wilford <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>NSF CAREER: A system of pleas: Using a role-playing simulation to test plea decision models.</i>	Summer 2020 & 2021
<i>Weinstein Lab</i> Research Assistant	Fall 2018
<i>SmartStart Evaluation and Research, California</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed evaluation on multiple nationwide, international projects• Developed experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation designs• Monitored project progress using benchmark/milestone tables, and output/outcome metrics and targets• Reported results in user friendly, accessible formats that meet clients' needs including newsletters, fact sheets, and PowerPoints• Downloaded, cleaned, and analyzed quantitative data by applying appropriate quantitative analysis	Mar – May 2018
<i>University of Southern California, California</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scanned articles and coded them for a large-scale meta-analysis project on classroom structure variables and student outcomes.	Oct 2017– May 2018
<i>Center for Research in Social Sciences and Education, India</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surveyed 47 universities using Likert questionnaires and focus group discussions with parents, teachers, alumni, and staff to identify quality of higher education in India• Conducted focus-group discussions to observe trends among quality	Jun 2013 – Jul 2015