

VISHAL JAYESH THAKKAR, PhD

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EDUCATION

PhD	Texas Christian University , Fort Worth, Texas	August 2016-May 2021
	Major: Experimental Psychology in Neuroscience, Minor: Quantitative Psychology Dissertation Title: Non-Invasive Vagus Nerve Stimulation Improves Language and Comprehension: Empirical Evidence and a Review of Reading Skills Dissertation Committee Chair: Tracy M. Centanni, PhD	
MS	Texas Christian University , Fort Worth, Texas	August 2016-May 2019
	Major: Experimental Psychology in Cognition Thesis Title: Emotion and Reason in Ethical Decision Making: The Effect of Habituation on Judgments in Ethical Dilemmas Thesis Committee Chair: Timothy M. Barth, PhD	
BS	Saint Louis University , Saint Louis, Missouri	August 2012-May 2016
	Major: Neuroscience, Minors: Health Care Ethics and Medical Humanities Capstone Title: Comparison between Computerized and Paper-and-Pencil Neuropsychological Screening Assessments Capstone Mentor: Tony W. Buchanan, PhD	

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Research Track	October 2024-Present
Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	
Instructor, Research Track	September 2022-October 2024
Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	
Graduate Faculty Member, Clinical Psychology	May 2022-Present
Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Biostatistical Consultant	February 2022-September 2022
Division of Translational Research in Psychosis, Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	
Adjunct Instructor, Psychology	July 2021-May 2023
Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences Tarrant County College District	

Research Study Coordinator

April 2021-February 2022

Perot Foundation Neuroscience Translational Research Center, O'Donnell Brain Institute
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

* = student mentee author, + = equal contribution

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Thakkar, V. J., Crupper, J. E., Engelhart, A. S., & Centanni, T. M. (2025). Parameter optimization of non-invasive vagus nerve stimulation for novel language learning in typically developing young adults. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 73, 101225.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneuroling.2024.101225>

Pre-print (2023) available at <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fseh7>

LoBue, C., McClintock, S. M., Chiang, H-S., Helphrey, J., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Hart, J. (2024). A critical review of noninvasive brain stimulation technologies in Alzheimer's dementia and primary progressive aphasia. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 100(3), 743-760. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3233/JAD-240230>

Druffner, N.⁺, Egan, D.⁺, Ramamurthy, S.⁺, Folsom-Davis, A., Jack, J., O'Brien, J., Symester, D., Thomas, K., Palka, J. M.⁺, **Thakkar, V. J.**⁺, & Brown, E. S.⁺ (2024). IQ in high school as a predictor of mid-life alcohol drinking patterns. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 59(4), agae035.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/alcalc/ague035>

Roark, C. L., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Chandrasekaran, B., & Centanni, T. M. (2024). Auditory category learning in children with dyslexia. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 67(3), 974-988.

https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_JSLHR-23-00361

Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/bdwyh>

Thakkar, V. J., Richardson, Z. A.* , Dang, A.* , & Centanni, T. M. (2023). The effect of non-invasive vagus nerve stimulation on memory recall in reading: A pilot study. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 438, 114164. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2022.114164>

Pre-print (2021) available at <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/wvsrc>

Tauber, S. K., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Pleshek, M. A.* (2022). How does expecting to teach impact students' self-regulated learning? *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 11(1), 106-119.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jarmac.2021.08.002> (Selected as JARMAC Editor's Choice Article).

Barth, T. M., Lord, C. G., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Brock, R. N. (2020). Effects of resilience strength training on constructs associated with moral injury among veterans. *Journal of Veterans Studies*, 6(2), 101-113. <https://doi.org/10.21061/jvs.v6i2.199>

Thakkar, V. J., Engelhart, A. S., Khodaparast, N., Abadzi, H., & Centanni, T. M. (2020). Transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation enhances learning of novel letter-sound relationships in adults. *Brain Stimulation*, 13(6), 1813-1820. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brs.2020.10.012>

Submitted Manuscripts

Kromenacker, B., Yassin, W., Keshavan, M., Parker, D., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Pearlson, G., Keedy, S., McDowell, J., Gershon, E., Ivleva, E., Hill, S. K., Clementz, B. A., & Tamminga, C. (under review). Evaluating

the exposome score for schizophrenia in a transdiagnostic psychosis cohort: Associations with psychosis risk, symptom severity, and personality traits.

McClintock, S. M., Deng, Z-D., Husain, M. M., & **Thakkar, V. J.**, Bernhardt, E., Weiner, R. D., Luber, B., & Lisanby, S. H. (revisions submitted). Comparing the neurocognitive effects of ultra-brief pulse electroconvulsive therapy and magnetic seizure therapy for the treatment of major depressive episode.

Thakkar, V. J., Toups, M., & dela Cruz, A. M. (revisions submitted). Skills acquisition and engagement with the use of a structured journal club curriculum.

In Preparation

Centanni, T. M., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Gunderson, L., Crossnoe, R., & Engelhart, A. S. (in preparation). Rapid processing deficits in children with dyslexia: Influence of stimulus, modality, and genes of interest.

Helphrey, J., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Hart, J., McClintock, S. M., Peters, M. E., & LoBue, C. (in preparation). A review of frontal lobe tDCS on neuropsychological functioning in older adults with cognitive impairment.

Morris, D. W., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Tamminga, C., Keshavan, M., Clementz, B., Pearlson, G., Keedy, S. (in preparation). Informational supplement for the SCI-PANSS.

Rohde, P., Abboud, C., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Deng, Z-D., McClintock, S. M., & Lisanby, S. H. (in preparation). Neuroendocrine response to ECT versus MST.

Solórzano-Restrepo, J., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Engelhart, A. S., & Centanni, T. M. (in preparation). Parental education influences reading but not rhythm perception in children. Pre-print available at <https://psyarxiv.com/8ybuJ>

Storage, D. S., Peters, J. M., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Mendoza, A., Woodward, A. M., Gosnell, C. L., Gohar, D., Lazzara, J., Malavanti, K., Metz, M. (in preparation). On the successful early career psychologist: Crafting your career trajectory, documenting it, and being happy while you do.

Thakkar, V. J.⁺, D'Mello, A. M.⁺, & Centanni, T. M. (in preparation). Becoming automatically fluent in reading research: Delineating key reading skills.

BOOKS

Author/Editor

dela Cruz, A. M., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Toups, M. (in preparation). *From paper to practice: Using the psychiatric literature to enhance patient care, teach trainees, and continue lifelong learning*. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.

Naufel, K. Z., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Pantesco, E., & Besing, R. (Eds.). (in preparation). *Beyond the code: Integrating ethics into the undergraduate psychology curriculum*. Society for the Teaching of Psychology e-Book.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* = undergraduate student author, + = presenting author

Poster Presentations

Thakkar, V. J. (2023, December). Learning peer-review: A new class assignment using PsyArXiv pre-prints. Poster to be presented at the Teaching to Enhance Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology (PsychTERMS) Conference. Virtual Meeting.

Helphrey, J.⁺, Cabrera, H., Neaves, S., Ahmed, D., Chiang, H. **Thakkar, V. J.**, Peters, M., McClintock, S., Hart, J., & LoBue, C. (2023, October). Preliminary outcomes on depression symptoms in a randomized controlled trial of high-definition transcranial direct current stimulation in Alzheimer's dementia. Poster presented at the 43rd Annual National Academy of Neuropsychology Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Thakkar, V. J., & Robinson, D. (2022, October). Teaching tips for community college biopsychology. Poster presented at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology's 21st Annual Conference on Teaching. Pittsburgh, PA.

Thakkar, V. J., Engelhart, A. S., & Centanni, T. M.⁺ (2022, October). High frequency taVNS increases retention of novel language learning in young adults. Poster presented at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Thakkar, V. J., Richardson, Z. A.* , Dang, A.* , & Centanni, T. M. (2020, November). The effects of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation on reading comprehension. Poster presented at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Virtual Meeting.

Thakkar, V. J., Engelhart, A. S., Dang, A., Richardson, Z. A.* , Mattox, N.* , Turner, K.* , Mortenson, G.* , & Centanni, T. M. (2020, October). The effects of taVNS on novel language learning. Poster presented at the 12th Annual Society for the Neurobiology of Language Annual Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

Thakkar, V. J., Engelhart, A. S., Mattox, N.* , Pecoraro, G.* , Richardson, Z.* , & Centanni, T. M. (2019, October). Auricular vagus nerve stimulation as a method for driving brain plasticity in learning a novel orthography. Poster presented at the 49th Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Thakkar, V. J., Mason, A., Jefferson, A.* , Stacey, C.* , Khodaparast, N., & Centanni, T. M.⁺ (2018, November). Effects of auricular vagus nerve stimulation on novel orthography acquisition. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA.

Thakkar, V. J., Thielman, M. A.* , & Tauber, S. K. (2018, April). The impact of expecting to teach on students' self-regulated learning. Poster presented at the 64th Annual Southwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting. Houston, TX.

Workshops

Kidder, C. K., Gohar, D., Iankilevitch, M., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Woodward, A. M. (2024, October). Helping the next generation of teachers of psychology. Workshop presented at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology's 23rd Annual Conference on Teaching. Louisville, KY.

Thakkar, V. J., Gohar, D., Gosnell, C., Kidder, C., & Woodward, A. M. (2023, October). Rethinking course syllabi and assignments: How to generate engage, equitable, and transparent student materials. Workshop presented at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology's 22nd Annual Conference on Teaching. Portland, OR.

Conference Talks

Barth, T. M.⁺, Lord, C. G., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Guyton, N.*, & Brock, R. N. (2019, May). Resilience strength training (RST) for veterans: Preliminary quantitative results. Oral presentation workshop at the Moral Injury Pathways to Recovery Conference. Los Angeles, CA.

Brock, R. N.⁺, English, E. J.⁺, **Thakkar, V. J.**⁺, & Barth, T. M. (2018, October). Update on the moral injury project. Oral presentation workshop at the 68th Annual North American Association of Christians in Social Work. Windsor Locks, CT.

FUNDING

Funded Projects

Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) September 2024-August 2026
Recovery through Inspiration, Support, and Empowerment: A Community-Based, Peer-Delivered Recovery Education and Support Intervention for High School Teens with Suicidality Discharging from Acute Psychiatric Treatment
Principal Investigator: Joseph Guillory, MD
Role: Biostatistician (15% effort)

External Grants

American Statistical Association: \$500 Early Career Travel Grant May 2024
Society for the Teaching of Psychology: \$500 Early Career Travel Grant November 2023

Internal Grants

Texas Christian University: \$2,000 Graduate Student Research Grant October 2019
Texas Christian University: \$400 Graduate Student Travel Grant July 2019
Texas Christian University: \$400 Graduate Student Travel Grant February 2018

RESEARCH MENTORING

Dissertation Committee Member

Cabrales, A. (proposed 2024). Executive functioning in bilingual and monolingual children with spina bifida. Co-Chairs: Veronica Bordes Edgar, PhD and Beatriz MacDonald Wer, PhD.

Shear, D. Z. (proposed 2024). Does the integration of point-of-care psychosocial screening facilitate the patient-oncologist therapeutic alliance with young adults with cancer? A within-subject repeated measures design. Co-Chairs: Laura Howe-Martin, PhD and Brittany Hall, PhD.

Helphrey, J. (proposed 2024). HD-tDCS over frontal frontal cortex and neuropsychological functioning in cognitively impaired older adults. Chair: Christian LoBue, PhD.

Turner, E. D. (proposed 2024). Measuring the prevalence of secondary traumatic stress and related factors in burn care clinicians. Chair: Kimberly Roaten, PhD.

Michaels, M. (proposed 2023). Resilience factors in suicidal youth entering an intensive outpatient program for suicide prevention. Co-Chairs: Kristin Wolfe, PhD and Betsy Kennard, PsyD.

Tran, C. K-N. (2024, June). Prevalence rates, trajectories, and risk factors posttraumatic stress in those who contracted COVID-19. Chair: Anne-Marie Warren, PhD.

Ahmed, S. (2023, March). The role of optimism in interdisciplinary pain management. Co-Chairs: Richard Robinson, PhD and Robin Jarrett, PhD.

Biostatistical Consultant on Psychiatry Residency PGY-4 Scholarly Projects

Adler-Neal, A. (2024, July). The effects of meditation on depressive symptoms in those with mild to moderate major depressive disorder. Supervised by Adriane dela Cruz, MD, PhD.

Kendrick, C. (2023, July). Investigating M&M conferences and bad outcomes. Supervised by Monica Gonzalez, MD.

Khonsari, N. (2023, July). Surveying chief residents and program directors on willingness and motives for chiefs across psychiatry programs in Texas. Supervised by Adam Brenner, MD.

Lampley, J. (2023, July). A discussion of ACGME requirements about a family systems rotation in residency. Supervised by Connie Cornwell, MA.

Nuako, K., & Cole, L. (2023, July). CURES act faculty development seminar. Supervised by Sarah Baker, MD.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Quantitative and Qualitative Methods (APA Division 5): member	January 2024-Present
American Statistical Association: member	November 2023-Present
North Texas Chapter	
Section on Statistics and Data Science and Education	
Social Statistics Section	
Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences	
Dallas-Fort Worth Neuropsychological Association: affiliate member	November 2023-Present
Society for the Teaching of Psychology (APA Division 2): member	January 2021-Present
Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA): student member	October 2017-December 2021
Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology: member	April 2015-Present

AWARDS AND HONORS

UTSW Medical Center: Clinical Psychology Outstanding Teacher Award November 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATIONS

Teaching-Related

Faculty Development Education Training (UTSW)	May 2024
Inspiring Inquiry and Preparing Lifelong Learners (ACUE)	January-March 2024
Passion Driven Statistics Workshop	July 2022
TCU Hybrid Teaching Training Program	December 2020
Koehler Center Graduate Student Pedagogy Course	December 2018

Research-Related

Clinical Dementia Rating Scale Rater	August 2021
Neuropsychological Inventory Questionnaire Interviewer Module	July 2021
CITI Human Subjects Research, Good Clinical Practice, HIPAA	April 2021
TCU Research Planning and Grant Writing Course (Dr. Sarah Hill)	May 2020
TCU Writing Workshop (Dr. John Dunlosky)	February 2020
Jump StaRt: An Introduction to Statistics in R Workshop	December 2016
Jargon is Jibberish Workshop	September 2016

COMMITTEE SERVICE

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Division of Psychology Curriculum Committee Co-Chair	October 2024-Present
Master's Degree Graduate Program Study Committee Co-Chair, Personnel and Operating Costs Sub-Committee Co-Chair, Curriculum Sub-Committee	September 2024-Present
Clinical Psychology Recruitment & Retention Enhancement Committee GRE Subcommittee Diversity Survey Subcommittee	May 2022-Present

Regional/National Affiliations

American Psychological Association Science Partner – Division 2	February 2024-Present
STP Presidential Task Force on HBCU/MSI/TCU Institutions	January 2023-October 2023
STP Early Career Psychology Committee Associate Chair	January 2023-Present January 2024-Present
STP Presidential Task Force on Teaching Ethics	February 2022-Present
Abstract Reviewer for Southwestern Psychological Association	December 2020

Texas Christian University

Departmental Review Board for Human Subjects Research	January-October 2019
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Ad Hoc Reviewer

<i>Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications</i>	<i>Journal of Dual Diagnosis</i>
<i>Neuropsychologia</i>	<i>Psi Chi: Journal of Psychological Research</i>
<i>Learning and Individual Differences</i>	