

# VISHAL JAYESH THAKKAR, PhD

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## EDUCATION

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PhD	<b>Texas Christian University</b> , Fort Worth, Texas 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	August 2016-May 2021
MS	<b>Texas Christian University</b> , Fort Worth, Texas 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	August 2016-May 2019
BS	<b>Saint Louis University</b> , Saint Louis, Missouri 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	August 2012-May 2016

## CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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<b>Instructor, Research Track (Non-Tenure)</b> Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Sept. 2022-Present
<b>Graduate Faculty Member, Clinical Psychology</b> Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	May 2022-Present

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

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<b>Biostatistical Consultant</b> Division of Translational Research in Psychosis, Department of Psychiatry, O'Donnell Brain Institute University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Feb. 2022-Sept. 2022
<b>Adjunct Instructor, Psychology</b> Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences Tarrant County College District	July 2021-May 2023
<b>Research Study Coordinator</b> Perot Foundation Neuroscience Translational Research Center, O'Donnell Brain Institute University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	April 2021-Feb. 2022

## SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

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\* = student mentee author, + = equal contribution, Total Publications: 4, Total First/Senior Authored: 2

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

**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

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.+ (revise and resubmit). IQ in high school as a predictor of mid-life alcohol drinking patterns.

Roark, C. L., **Thakkar, V. J.**, Chandrasekaran, B., & Centanni, T. M. (second revisions submitted). Auditory category learning in children with dyslexia. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/bdwyh>

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

### In Preparation

dela Cruz, A. M., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Toups, M. (in preparation). An evaluation of a journal club in psychiatry residency programs.

LoBue, C. Helphrey, J., Chiang, H-S., McClintock, S., Shah, B., **Thakkar, V. J.**, & Hart, J. (in preparation). A critical review of noninvasive brain stimulation technologies in Alzheimer's dementia and primary progressive aphasia.

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/8ybuuj>

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). Navigating the early career teaching world.

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

### BOOKS

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

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

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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#### **Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**

CLP 5392: Research Design & Multivariate Statistics      Falls 2022, 2023

CLP 5303: Cognitive and Affective Aspects of Behavior      Springs 2023, 2024

#### **Psychiatry Residency, School of Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**

PGY-2 Research Rotation      2022-2023, 2023-2024 Cohorts

PGY-4 Scholarly Project      2022-2023, 2023-2024 Cohorts

#### **Tarrant County College District**

PSYC 2301: General Psychology      Falls 2021, 2022; Spring 2022, 2023

PSYC 2314: Lifespan Growth and Development      Fall 2021

#### **Texas Christian University**

PSYC 30503: Research Methods in Psychology      Spring 2021

PSYC 10514: Principles of Behavior I Lab      Falls 2018, 2019, 2020

PSYC 10524: Principles of Behavior II Lab      Spring 2017

PSYC 30523: Exp. Psychology: Cognition Lab      Spring 2018

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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#### **Graduate Student Researcher**

Texas Christian University Department of Psychology      November 2017-May 2021  
Genetics of Auditory Perception and Plasticity Lab      PI: Tracy M. Centanni, PhD

Texas Christian University Department of Psychology      August 2016-April 2019  
Ethics and Moral Reasoning Lab, Lab Manager      PI: Timothy M. Barth, PhD

#### **Undergraduate Research Assistant**

Saint Louis University Department of Psychology      November 2014-May 2016  
Cognitive Neuroscience of Stress (CNS) Lab      PI: Tony W. Buchanan, PhD

Saint Louis University Department of Psychology      November 2014-May 2016  
Brain & Cognition Lab      PI: Brenda A. Kirchoff, PhD

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### NON-PEER-REVIEWED WRITING

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**Thakkar, V. J.** (2022, August). I'm a member of STP and this is how I teach. Blog post available at:  
<https://teachpsych.org/page-1703896/12884215>

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### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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\* = 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.<sup>+</sup>, 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.<sup>+</sup> (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 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Chicago, IL.

**Thakkar, V. J.**, Mason, A., Jefferson, A.\* , Stacey, C.\* , Khodaparast, N., & Centanni, T. M.<sup>+</sup> (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 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting. Houston, TX.

### Workshops

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

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## FUNDING

### Internal Grants

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

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## DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Michaels, Molly. (expected 2025). Resilience factors in suicidal youth entering an intensive outpatient program for suicide prevention. Co-Chairs: Kristin Wolfe, PhD and Betsy Kennard, PsyD.

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

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

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

<b>Dallas-Fort Worth Neuropsychological Association:</b> affiliate member	Nov. 2023-Present
<b>Society for the Teaching of Psychology:</b> member	January 2021-Present
<b>Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA):</b> student member	October 2017-Dec 2021
<b>Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology:</b> member	April 2015-Present

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## AWARDS AND HONORS

<b>UTSW Medical Center:</b> Clinical Psychology Outstanding Teacher Award	November 2023
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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATIONS

Statistical Horizons: Structural Equation Modeling Part 1 (Dr. Paul Allison)	June 2023
Passion Driven Statistics Workshop	July 2022

Clinical Dementia Rating Scale Rater, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center	August 2021
Neuropsychological Inventory Questionnaire Interviewer Module	July 2021
CITI Human Subjects Research, Good Clinical Practice, HIPAA, Biosafety	April 2021
TCU Hybrid Teaching Training Program	December 2020
TCU Research Planning and Grant Writing Course (Dr. Sarah Hill)	May 2020
TCU Writing Workshop (Dr. John Dunlosky)	February 2020
Koehler Center Graduate Student Pedagogy Course	December 2018
Jump StaRt: An Introduction to Statistics in R Workshop	December 2016
Jargon is Jibberish Workshop	September 2016

#### **COMMITTEE SERVICE**

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STP President's Task Force on HBCU/MSI/TCU Institutions	Jan. 2023-Present
Society for the Teaching of Psychology Early Career Psychology Committee	Jan. 2023-Present
UTSW Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program Diversity and Inclusion Committee	May 2022-Present
STP President's Task Force on Teaching Ethics: Literacy, Thinking, and Reasoning	Feb. 2022-Present
Abstract Reviewer for Southwestern Psychological Association	December 2020
TCU Departmental Review Board for Human Subjects Research	January-October 2019

*Ad Hoc Reviewer*

*Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*  
*Neuropsychologia*

*Journal of Dual Diagnosis*  
*Psi Chi: Journal of Psychological Research*