ADANI BENNETT ABUTTO

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EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Stanford, CA 09/2023–present
Ph.D. in Psychology (Area: Developmental Science)
Committee: Profs. Hyowon Gweon, Michael C. Frank, Judith E. Fan
Coursework at Stanford Law School since 09/2025 (e.g., Youth Law, Public Policy)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA 02/2023–08/2023
Visiting Fellow & Master's Thesis (Advisor: Prof. Elizabeth Bonawitz)
Thesis: Children's commonsense reasoning and belief revision in physics

UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, Munich, Germany 10/2021–08/2023
M.Sc. in Psychology (Award for highest GPA in graduating cohort)

HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN, Berlin, Germany 10/2020–03/2021
Visiting Student; coursework in Psychology, Neuroscience, and Philosophy

ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, Zurich, Switzerland 09/2018–09/2021
B.Sc. in Applied Psychology (Award for best thesis in graduating cohort)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Stanford, CA
Full-Time Graduate Researcher and Teaching Assistant 09/2023–present

- Designed, analyzed, and published 5 empirical studies with 1,000+ children ages 0-12
- Mentored 11 research assistants in scientific practices (e.g., writing, data analysis)
- Taught ~300 students across 3 theory and methodology classes (e.g., Intro to Statistics)

STANFORD PSYCHOLOGY PODCAST, Stanford, CA
Part-Time Co-Director and Podcast Interviewer 09/2023–present

- Hosted and oversaw 80+ podcast episodes accruing ~1.8 million global downloads
- Co-supervised 5 podcast host trainees; managed finances and university partnership

UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, Munich, Germany
Part-Time Lab Manager to Chair of Developmental Psychology (Prof. Beate Sodian) 02/2022–08/2023

- Led lab operations (e.g., family outreach), trained and supervised 6 research assistants

ETH ZURICH AND ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, Zurich, Switzerland
Full-Time Research Intern in Media Psychology and Educational Psychology 02/2021–08/2021

- Analyzed nationally representative survey data on children's media use under age 13
- Conducted standardized math tests and anxiety surveys with 100 Swiss first-graders

SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND POLICE, Bern, Switzerland
Part-Time Legal and Administrative Assistant 11/2019–08/2021

- Recorded written minutes in ~50 asylum interviews with families and unaccompanied minors in coordination with government attorneys, immigrant legal aid, and translators

Full-Time Legal Intern in Asylum and Immigration Law 08/2015–08/2016

- Prepared several hundred draft decisions related to immigration and asylum procedures under government attorney supervision (e.g., including a child in parents' refugee status)

GAMESTOP CORP. AND COOP GROUP, Bern and Zurich, Switzerland
Part-Time Cashier and Sales Assistant (Full-Time during summers) 06/2018–01/2020

- Cashiering and customer services for 12-20 hours/week to self-fund college education

NURSERY SCHOOL LAENGGASSE, Bern, Switzerland
Full-Time Assistant Preschool Teacher 09/2017–01/2018

- Provided whole-day care and designed play activities for 24 children ages 0 to 6

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL OF THE THUN DISTRICT, Thun, Switzerland
Full-Time Teaching Assistant in Special Education (Grade Levels 1 and 2) 01/2017–08/2017

- Supervised and taught 6 special needs children in math, reading, writing, sports, & arts

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed academic publications

1. Abutto, A., Langenhoff, A., & Gweon, H. (2026). Reasoning about competence in early childhood: What children say versus what they think. *Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. https://doi.org/10.1177/23727322261472749
2. Zhu, P., Abutto, A., Asaba, M., Shah, A., Bennett-Pierre, G., Wu, J., Jara-Ettinger, J., Yildirim, I. & Gweon, H. (2026, invited resubmission). Intuitive judgments of task difficulty. *Nature Communications.*
3. Bascandziev, I., Abutto, A., Walker, C. M., & Bonawitz, E. (2026, in review). The mind lab: Thought experiments as a means to teaching science effectively and efficiently. *PsyArXiv*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jr4nx_v1
4. Kachergis, G., O'Reilly., F., Braginsky, M., Xiao, X., Lightbody, A., Shannon, K., Watson, Z., Zhang, L., Zhu, R., Abutto, A., …, Frank, M. C. (2026, in review). Creation and validation of the LEVANTE core tasks: Internationalized measures of learning and development for children ages 5-12 years. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/r4dhw_v1
5. Bascandziev, I., Abutto, A., Walker, C. M., & Bonawitz, E. (2025). Mind over matter: consistency monitoring and domain-specific learning. *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.3389/fdpys.2025.1496651

Writing for general audiences

1. Abutto, A. & Cheng, T. (2026). *Understanding the Contexts of Child Development to Inform Policy*. Jacobs Foundation LEVANTE Blog. https://levante-network.org/understanding-the-contexts-of-child-development-to-inform-policy/
2. O'Reilly, F. & Abutto, A. (2026). *From Averages to Individuals: The Next Frontier of Evidence-Based Education*. Jacobs Foundation LEVANTE Blog. https://levante-network.org/from-averages-to-individuals-the-next-frontier-of-evidence-based-education/

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

STANFORD GRADUATE LIFE OFFICE, Stanford, CA
Community Associate 09/2026–present

- Organized social events and living support for ~300 students across 3 student residences

LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, Stanford, CA
Children's Hospital Volunteer via 'Cards 4 Kids' 10/2024–present

- Co-organized and led regular play sessions for several dozen child patients and families

STANFORD SCIENCE PENPALS, Stanford, CA
Science Mentor 10/2023–present

- Mentored 6 underserved middle schoolers via year-long continuous letter exchanges

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

RIC WEILAND FELLOWSHIP (~$200,000), Stanford School of Humanities & Sciences 2026
Fellowship granting full funding to exceptional doctoral students; selected as 1 of 21 fellows schoolwide

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GRANT ($30,000), Stanford Accelerator for Learning 2025
For proposing innovative research that advances the science of learning and children's learning outcomes

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP (~$15,000), German Academic Scholarship Foundation 2022
Nominated and selected for academic promise among the top ~0.5% of students countrywide

FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP (declined), U.S. State Department 2021
Selected as 1 of 8 Swiss scholars countrywide to conduct research and graduate studies in the U.S.