

Alex Busuito, M.S.

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EDUCATION

- The Pennsylvania State University** **2013 - present**
 Ph.D. Candidate, Child Clinical Psychology
 Masters of Science, Child Clinical Psychology, 2015
 Specialization in Developmental Science
- Eastern Michigan University** **2008 - 2011**
 B.S. with honors in Psychology, *cum laude*

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- RGSO Dissertation Award** **2019**
 Funding for dissertation expenses awarded by the College of the Liberal Arts
- Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Wellbeing** **2018 - present**
 Funding awarded to promising leaders in child maltreatment prevention.
- Strumpf Scholar Award** **2018 - present**
 Provides two years of summer and supplementary research funding for graduate students conducting innovative developmental research.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** **2014 - 2017**
 Funding awarded to exceptional graduate students in science.
- Linda B. Strumpf Liberal Arts Centennial Graduate Scholar Award** **2014**
 Awarded to graduate students for outstanding research.
 Provided one summer of funding and one semester of supplementary funding.
- Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program (URSP) Grant** **2010**
 Grant to conduct research for senior honors thesis.
- Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship** **2010**
 Funding awarded to outstanding undergraduate students for conducting independent research.
 Awarded for two consecutive semesters.
- Everett Marshall Award, Eastern Michigan University** **2010**
 Award for best undergraduate research presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

- Lunkenheimer, E., **Busuito, A.**, Brown, K. M., Panlilio, C., & Skowron, E. A. (2019). The Interpersonal Neurobiology of Child Maltreatment: Parasympathetic Substrates of Interactive Repair in Maltreating and Nonmaltreating Mother–Child Dyads. *Child maltreatment*, 1077559518824058.
- Busuito, A.**, Quigley, K.M., Voegtline, K.M., Moore, G.A., & DiPietro, J.A. (2019). In Sync: Physiological correlates of behavioral synchrony in infants and mothers. *Developmental Psychology*.

- Lunkenheimer, E., **Busuito, A.**, Brown, K. M., & Skowron, E. A. (2018). Mother–child coregulation of parasympathetic processes differs by child maltreatment severity and subtype. *Child maltreatment*, 23(3), 211-220.
- Mammen, M. A., **Busuito, A.**, Moore, G. A., Quigley, K. M., & Doheny, K. K. (2017). Physiological functioning moderates infants' sensory sensitivity in higher conflict families. *Developmental psychobiology*, 59(5), 628-638.
- Busuito, A.** & Moore, G. (2017). Dyadic flexibility mediates the relation between parent conflict and infant vagal regulation. *Developmental Psychobiology*, 59(4), 449-459.
- Dayton, C.J., Huth-Bocks, A., & **Busuito, A.** (2016). The influence of interpersonal aggression on maternal perceptions of infant emotions: Associations with early parenting quality. *Emotion*, 16(4), 436.
- Busuito, A.**, Huth-Bocks, A., & Puro, E. (2014). Romantic attachment as a moderator of the association between childhood abuse and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms. *Journal of Family Violence*, 29(5), 567-577.
- Walsh, T. B., Dayton, C. J., Erwin, M. S., Muzik, M., **Busuito, A.**, & Rosenblum, K. L. (2014). Fathering after military deployment: Parenting challenges and goals of fathers of young children. *Health & Social Work*, 39(1), 35-44.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

- Kiser, L., Fishbein, D., Gatzke-Kopp, L., Vivrette, R., Creavey, K., Stevenson, J., Medoff, D., & **Busuito, A.** (In Resubmitted, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*). Physiological Regulation among mothers and their children: Relations with trauma history, symptoms, and parenting behavior.

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

- Busuito, A.** (In Preparation). Parenting in infancy: A mechanism of the intergenerational transmission of maltreatment risk.
- Busuito, A.**, Brown, K., Lunkenheimer, E., Kemp, C.K. (In Preparation). Repairing dyadic interactions: a multilevel survival analysis of maternal cumulative risk and parent-child interactions.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Busuito, A.** (2019, March). *The intergenerational reach of childhood adversity: Exploring transmission mechanisms in developmental and ecological contexts*. Paper symposium presented at the Society for Research in Child Development.
- Kiser, L., Fishbein, D., Lisa, G-K, Vivrette, R., Creavey, K., Stevenson, J., & **Busuito, A.** (2017, November). *Physiological regulation among female caregivers and their children: Relations with trauma history, symptoms, and parenting behavior*. Paper presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Chicago, IL.
- Busuito, A.** & Moore, G. (2016, May). *Dyadic Flexibility Mediates the Relation between Parent Conflict and Infant Vagal Regulation*. Poster presented at the International Conference on Infant Studies, New Orleans, LA.

- Busuito, A.**, Quigley, K., Mammen, M., Auday, E., Hutt, R., & Moore, G. (2015, March). *Electrodermal and Vagal Regulation in Infancy: Relations with Age and Breastfeeding*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
- Mammen, M., Auday, E., **Busuito, A.**, Quigley, K., Moore, G., & Hutt, R. (2015, March). *Infants' Behavioral Sensitivity in the Context of Marital Conflict: The Role of Physiological Sensitivity to Stress*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
- Foster, V., **Busuito, A.**, & Muzik, M. (2012, October). *The role of maternal depression and mother-infant bonding in infant behavior outcomes*. Poster presented at the 2013 Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Conference, Lansing, MI.
- Bocknek, E., **Busuito, A.**, Broderick, A., Beeghly, M., Martinez-Torteya, C., & Muzik, M. (2012, September). *Maternal postpartum depression increases vulnerability for toddler behavior problems through HPA hyperreactivity in early infancy*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.
- Ramirez, M., **Busuito, A.**, Alfafara, E., & Muzik, M. (2012, July). *The differential effects of childhood maltreatment history on parenting behaviors*. Poster presented at the Summer Research Opportunities Program Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Busuito, A.**, Broderick, A., Alfafara, E., & Muzik, M. (2012, April). *Maternal PTSD moderates the relationship between infant sleep problems and negative child behavior outcomes*. Poster presented at the 23rd Annual Albert J. Silverman Research Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Busuito, A.**, Broderick, A., Alfafara, E., Richardson, P., & Muzik, M. (2012, April). *Maternal psychopathology, infant sleep quality, and childhood outcomes*. Poster presented at the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Busuito, A.**, & Huth-Bocks, A. (2011, January). *Maternal trauma and infant attachment disorganization*. Poster presented at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Ypsilanti, MI.
- Busuito, A.**, & Huth-Bocks, A. (2010, March). *Economic hardship, romantic attachment, and women's mental health*. Poster presented at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Ypsilanti, MI.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Invited Reviewer for *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* **2019**
- Student Advisory Board Co-Advisor, APA Division 37, Section on Child Maltreatment **2019-present**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher The Pennsylvania State University, Child Clinical Psychology

Parent Risk and Infant Development Lab **August 2013- Present**

Advisor: Dr. Ginger Moore

- Conducting research on mother-infant co-regulation and development of physiological regulation
- Received training in collecting and editing psychophysiological data, coding microbehavioral data

Parent-Child Dynamics Lab **October 2016-Present**

Advisor: Dr. Erika Lunkenheimer

- Conducting research on parent-child physiological regulation in maltreating families

- Coded Child-Protective Service records using the Modified Maltreatment Coding System

Research Project Coordinator
The University of Michigan

July 2011 - July 2013

Supervisor: Dr. Maria Muzik

- Conducted interviews and home observations with parents and infants for a longitudinal study examining mental health in parents of young children with childhood trauma histories
- Completed home observations for participants in a group intervention providing attachment-based parenting psychoeducation to low-income mothers

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Eastern Michigan University

August 2009 – June 2011

Advisor: Dr. Alissa Huth-Bocks

- Conducted home interviews and observations with low-income mothers and their children for a longitudinal study investigating effects of pre- and postnatal interpersonal violence on mothers' mental health, mother-child relationships, and child socioemotional outcomes.
- *Senior Honors Thesis:* Examined economic hardship and adult romantic attachment styles as risk factors for development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in mother's with a history of childhood maltreatment

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Clinician
The Penn State Psychological Clinic

August 2013 – present

- Deliver evidence-based therapies (including cognitive behavioral therapies, parent management training, family therapy, and other interventions) with children and adolescents (ages 2-18) and their parents
- Conduct neuropsychological assessments with children and adolescents
- Provide consultation and training to educators and service providers
- Supervise undergraduate students in facilitating a social skills group intervention for elementary school aged children
- Specialize in evidence-based trauma-informed treatment

Advanced Clinical Trainings & Certifications

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (completing certification)
- Motivational Interviewing
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy

Domestic Violence Response Team Member, SafeHouse Center

September 2012-August 2013

- Provided support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at hospitals and police stations
- Mediated between survivors and their families, doctors, social workers, and law enforcement

Assault Response Team Leader, First Step Women's Shelter

August 2009 - January 2011

- Provided support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at hospitals
- Coordinated emergency shelter intakes for parents and children

COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY & SYSTEMS

- School-Based Mental Health Clinician**, Centre Country, PA **Fall 2016-Spring 2017**
- Conducted school-based therapy with at-risk children and adolescents
 - Consulted with teachers, school counselors, administrators and social workers
- Childhood Traumatic Stress Consultant**, State College Middle Schools, PA **Fall 2017**
- Provided training on emotional and physiological effects of trauma on children and strategies for working with traumatized youth in school
- Parenting Specialist**, Head Start and Early Head Start, Harrisburg, PA **Fall 2017-present**
- Deliver workshops on parenting and self-regulation strategies for at-risk caregivers of young children with challenging behaviors

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Child Psychopathology, The Pennsylvania State University** **Fall 2018**
Guest Lecture: The Etiology and Assessment of PTSD in children
- Mental Health Practicum with Children, The Pennsylvania State University** **Fall 2017**
 Teaching Assistant to John Loughlin-Presnal, M.S.
Guest Lecture: Effects of trauma on children's social functioning
Guest Lecture: Basic therapeutic skills for working with families
- Advanced Abnormal Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University** **Spring 2014**
 Teaching Assistant to Dr. David Wimer
- Introduction to Psychology of Learning, The Pennsylvania State University** **Spring 2014**
 Teaching Assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Christina Ford
- Introduction to Abnormal Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University** **Fall 2013**
 Teaching Assistant to Dr. Louis Castonguay
Guest Lecture: Risk factors of and prevention methods for suicide and self-injury

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Psychological Association** **2018-Present**
- Association for Psychological Science** **2018-Present**
- Society for Research in Child Development** **2018-Present**