

Daniel Yonas

New York, NY • dyonas.1412@gmail.com • linkedin.com/in/dyrsrch • daniel-yonas.com

Behavioral scientist with a PhD in social psychology and extensive experience designing and leading large-scale, mixed-methods research. Skilled at integrating quantitative analysis and qualitative insights to inform programs, product, and policy decisions. Highly adaptable and energized by fast-paced, collaborative environments that value innovation and learning

METHODS

Experimental & survey design
Psychometrics & scale development
Quasi-experimental designs
Mixed-methods integration
Thematic Analysis
Focus Group Moderation

STATISTICS

Multilevel modeling · SEM
Factor analysis
Regression & predictive modeling
Mediation / bootstrapping

SOFTWARE

R (tidyverse) · SPSS · Stata
Python (developing) · SQL (familiar)

INSTRUMENTS & QUAL

Qualtrics · Prolific · MTurk
NVivo · MAXQDA

EDUCATION

PhD, Psychology

Columbia University · 2025

MEd, Educational Psychology

University of Virginia · 2020

BA, Psychology & Cognitive Science

University of Virginia · 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Yonas, D., & Solomon, L. H. (2025). Building a developmental science of redemption. *Developmental Review*, 75, 101183.
- Yonas, D., & Solomon, L. H. (2024). Age-related changes in information-seeking behavior about morally relevant events. *Child Development*.
- Yonas, D., & Solomon, L. H. (UR). Moral Evaluations and Punishment Decisions in Intergroup Contexts. *CDEMP*.

EXPERIENCE

Purpose Science and Innovation Exchange

Sept 2025 – Present

Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

- Co-led design and launch of a national survey of 2,000+** adolescents and young adults (ages 15–25) examining purpose as a resource across the transition to adulthood integral to leading meaningful lives.
- Designed and executed 4+ mixed-methods studies** examining lifespan perceptions of purpose, drawing on survey data from 500+ participants across 6+ developmental age groups.
- Conducted trajectory analyses and moderation modeling in R across 5+ analytic pipelines**, producing 12+ publication-ready figures and summary tables for manuscripts and stakeholder reports.
- Directed qualitative coding for a study on immigrant youth** development, producing a structured codebook with 20 codes across 6 thematic domains and achieving strong inter-rater reliability across a team of 4 coders.

Lead Researcher

Aug 2020 – Jul 2025

Columbia University, Dept. of Psychology

New York, NY

- Designed and executed 17** mixed-methods evaluation studies (online surveys, classroom observations, structured/semi-structured interviews) engaging 10K+ participants across children and adults.
- Applied advanced statistical analyses** (multilevel and predictive modeling) in R and SPSS, integrating quantitative results with qualitative thematic coding to assess learning and developmental outcomes.
- Facilitated workshops** on survey design, formative usability testing, and rapid experiment iteration, equipping 60+ instructors to collect and act on learner feedback.
- Mentored 10–12 junior researchers**, training them in child-friendly data collection, ethics compliance, and inclusive research protocols.

Research Specialist

Jul 2019 – Jun 2020

EL Education Study

Charlottesville, VA

- Led mixed-methods evaluations** (surveys, experiments, quasi-experimental studies) across eight multi-site projects, coordinating remote data collection and ensuring data integrity in K–12 settings.
- Created and iterated on 10+ surveys** and interview guides to capture educator and student feedback, applying insights to refine digital learning tools and supporting materials.
- Acted as primary liaison** among cross-functional stakeholders, translating research findings into actionable recommendations that informed curriculum roadmaps and policy decisions.

Project Manager

Jun 2018 – Jul 2019

Marsh Montessori Study

Washington, D.C.

- Managed a mixed-methods study** examining long-term outcomes associated with Montessori education, integrating administrative records with surveys and interviews.
- Developed measurement instruments** (Qualtrics surveys, structured/semi-structured interview guides, observation rubrics) to assess engagement, learning, and motivation.
- Coordinated participant recruitment** and scheduling for families, teachers, and alumni; ensured inclusive sampling across demographic subgroups.