



# Washington University in St. Louis

## ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Psychology and Human Development  
Vanderbilt University, 0552 GPC  
230 Appleton Place  
Nashville, TN 37203-5721

August 28, 2021

Dear Dr. Duane Watson, Dr. Lisa Fazio, and Search Committee Members,

I wish to be considered as a candidate for the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Human Development at Vanderbilt University. I completed my doctoral studies in Cognitive Psychology at the Learning Research and Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh and received a certificate in the Learning Sciences through the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center (LearnLab). Currently, I am a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Education and Psychological & Brain Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. Given my training and research agenda, I fit best with the Cognition in Context Program with overlapping interests in Developmental Science as I examine mechanisms of learning in authentic educational settings across a range of developmental periods.

My research focuses on applying cognition and motivation to educational practice to investigate how students regulate and adapt their learning processes. To have a more comprehensive understanding of these processes across different levels of analysis and contexts, my program of research incorporates a variety of methodological approaches (e.g., experiments, observational studies, connecting study data to large educational databases). This integrative approach is exciting as it allows me to test and build upon theory while also exploring the practical implications of psychological research for educational practice. To date, I have a successful record of publication in journals such as the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Educational Psychology Review*, *Child Development*, *Memory & Cognition*, and *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*.

In addition to my research, I have taught and mentored a variety of students for which I received my graduate department's excellence in mentoring award and was nominated for their excellence in teaching award. I have had a variety of teaching experiences with different class sizes and content, such as research methods lab (24 undergrads), post-baccalaureate seminar (4-5 post-baccalaureates), and cognitive psychology (200 undergrads). Going forward, I am especially interested in teaching cognitive psychology, and other introductory topics in psychology and learning; and research methods; and advanced topics in cognition, learning, metacognition, motivation, and self-regulated learning.

Much of what drives my research, teaching, and service endeavors is my goal of making education more equitable and inclusive. In my research, I ask questions about the contextual factors and examine how self-regulatory processes are taught and operate among different groups of students to inform future and more equitable teacher and student interventions. In my teaching endeavors, I pull sources from different voices and intentionally connect instructional material with student interests. In my service endeavors, I have been an active member of DEI committees at both Universities and for 5 years worked as the Assistant Director for a post-baccalaureate program to broaden participation in psychological science. In the future, I plan to continue pursuing similar initiatives to broaden participation and create more inclusive environments.

As requested, I have enclosed my curriculum vitae along with my research, teaching, and equity and inclusion statements. I also attached two reprints and one preprint. When requested, Dr. Andrew Butler ([andrew.butler@wustl.edu](mailto:andrew.butler@wustl.edu)), Dr. Timothy Nokes-Malach ([nokes@pitt.edu](mailto:nokes@pitt.edu)), and Dr. Scott Fraundorf ([sfraundo@pitt.edu](mailto:sfraundo@pitt.edu)) will send their letters of recommendation. I look forward to having more opportunities to discuss how my research agenda and commitment to teaching, mentoring, and diversity could contribute to Vanderbilt's existing strengths and values.

Sincerely,



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