

# Raena N. Johnson

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## Education

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**Arizona State University** 2023- Present

Phoenix, Arizona

PhD in Nursing and Health Innovation

**Advisor: Dr. Ross Andel, Ph.D.**

**Bournemouth University** 2021-2022

Dorset, UK

M.S. in Clinical and Developmental Neuropsychology

**Arizona State University** 2018-2021

Tempe, Arizona

B.S. in Neuroscience

B.S. in Psychology

**Mesa Community College** 2015-2018

Mesa, Arizona

A.A. in Arts

## Research Experience

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**Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2018- 2021

**Behavioral Neuroscience of Memory and Aging Laboratory**

**Principal Investigator: Dr. Heather Bimonte-Nelson, Ph.D.**

Laboratory dedicated to the study of women's health in correspondence to physiological as well as cognitive changes within aging, developing approaches to investigate age-related changes of varying memory forms via animal models

- Animal handling
- Retracked animal behavior via computer system

- Assisted with experimental tissue collection
- Conducted analysis and discussions of laboratory publications
- Coordinated with lab members to complete group presentations
- General laboratory upkeep

### **MSc Research Project**

2021-2022

#### **Supervisor: Dr. Hana Burianova, Ph.D.**

Project: Age-related effects of arousal on memory

Investigating how episodic memory retrieval and arousal correlate within aging differences between younger and older adults

- Data collection online and in laboratory
- Data handling
- Data analysis with software
- Collaborated with supervisor and other university-affiliated members

### **Graduate Services Assistant**

May 2023- August 2023

#### **Supervisor: Dr. Ross Andel, Ph.D.**

Project: Review of *KIBRA* polymorphisms in relation to cognition, cognitive aging, and risk of MCI and Alzheimer's Disease

- Conducting literature review of topics
- Searching databases for relevant articles
- Organizing information to align with review purpose
- Collaborating with supervisor and other university-affiliated members

## **Professional Experience**

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### **Physician's Shadow**

2018

Physician: Dr. Damian Berezovsky, M.D.

Gained clinical experience observing neuro-ophthalmologist see patients at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona

### **Assistant Psychologist**

2021-2022

Supervisor: Dr. Birgit Gurr, Clinical Neuropsychologist

Poole Hospital, Stroke Unit- Dorset Healthcare University, NHS Foundation Trust

Assisting Dr. Gurr in providing Neuropsychological services to stroke patients for rehabilitation purposes

- Performed baseline cognitive assessments and/or cognitive stimulation
- Collaborated with other mental health specialists on treatment plans
- Recorded and summarized reports of assessment outcomes, including patient recommendations

**Dementia Facilitator**

2022-2023

Organization: Age UK

Provided cognitive stimulation therapy (CST) for individuals diagnosed with mild-moderate dementia as form of non-clinical intervention

- Assisted in providing maintenance cognitive stimulation (MCST) to eight individuals over course of 24-week sessions
- Formulated ideas and designed sessions to actively engage and stimulate participants

**Teaching Assistant**

August 2023-current

Arizona State University

Assisting with teaching services within the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation.

- Teaching ASU 101 classes to first- year students in the Edson college
- Teaching assistant to Dr. Zang for HCR220, involvement of course in support and grading

**Student Involvement**

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**ASU Brain Fair**

2019

Participated in assisting with Title 1 students for Dr. Bimonte-Nelson’s lab to teach students about the brain through hands-on craft activities

**ASU Open Door**

2019-2020

Volunteered at Brain Station for Dr. Bimonte Nelson’s laboratory, held by Psychology Department at ASU to provide educational activities for children to learn and engage in science

**ASU Swift Club**

2019

Volunteered at Psychology station, conducting activities to educate children about the brain at a local Boys and Girls Club

**Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) Involvement**

2020-2021

**A program designed to broaden involvements of underrepresented students in STEM research**

**WAESO Lab Presentation** 2020

Led and organized WAESO lab presentation with lab members

**WAESO Student Conference** 2020-2021

Attended presentations and student research posters, presented research poster based on literature review

**International Student Ambassador** 2021-2022

Provide support to prospective students at BU through open-days and webinars

**Affiliations**

**Psi Beta Member, Honors Psychology Society** 2016-current

**Barrow Neurological Symposium** 2019

Attended research presentations

**Alzheimer's Association Symposia** 2021-2022

Attended pathology- focused research presentations

**Research Interests**

- Cognitive changes within normal and abnormal aging
- Early indicators of Alzheimer's Disease
- Transition in cognitive health to atypical aging
- Non-pharmacological interventions to prevent and/or delay cognitive decline
- Cognitive assessments and/or cognitive stimulation for preventive measures