Arash Mehrkesh

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Education

Ph.D. **University of California, Riverside**, Developmental Psychology — Riverside, CA · 2021–27

- Advisor: Dr. Misaki N. Natsuaki
- Dissertation proposal defended May 2026
- Graduate minors in progress: Quantitative Methods; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

M.Sc. **University of California, Riverside**, Developmental Psychology — Riverside, CA · 2023

- Thesis: *Heterogeneity of Adolescents' Internalizing Problems: Self-Worth and Fearfulness*

M.A. **Shahid Beheshti University**, Clinical Psychology — Tehran, Iran · 2020

- Thesis: *A Dyadic Analysis of Personality Organization and Intimate Violence in Couples*

M.B.A. **Sharif University of Technology**, Business Administration — Tehran, Iran · 2012

B.Sc. **Sharif University of Technology**, Electrical Engineering — Tehran, Iran · 2009

Research Area

Developmental psychopathology: Structure and course of internalizing symptoms and depression from early childhood through adolescence; how symptom organization changes with development and differs by sex; and the sources of individual differences in these trajectories.

Puberty: Pubertal timing and tempo as developmental processes, their measurement, and their links to adolescent mental health.

Prevention: Evaluation of child sexual abuse prevention programs, and translation of developmental findings into preventive practice.

Measurement and quantitative methods: Psychometrics, measurement invariance, structural equation modeling, latent growth and change score models, and psychometric network analysis.

Publications

Mehrkesh, A., Natsuaki, M. N., Yates, T. M., Neiderhiser, J. M., Shaw, D. S., Ganiban, J. M., & Leve, L. D. (2026). Longitudinal evidence for age- and sex-invariant dimensions of internalizing symptoms from childhood through adolescence: Self-worth, social anxiety, and withdrawal. *Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology*, 54(4), 86. — 2026

Mehrkesh, A., Seyedmousavi, P., Panaghi, L., & Natsuaki, M. N. (2025). A dyadic analysis of personality organization and intimate partner violence. *Psychology of Violence*. — 2025

Ferguson, L., **Mehrkesh, A.**, Kürüm, E., Rebok, G. W., & Wu, R. (2025). Skill-learning variety and frequency on long-term cognitive performance in older adults. *Educational Gerontology*, 51(1), 1–14. — 2025

Natsuaki, M. N., Perez, E. V., & **Mehrkesh, A.** (2022). Acne. In R. J. Levesque (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of adolescence*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-33228-4 — 2022

Presentations

Natsuaki, M. N., **Mehrkesh, A.**, Bebis, C., Leve, L. D., & Conte, J. (2026, June). *Developing a child sexual abuse primary prevention program: Barriers, challenges, and next steps* [Symposium]. International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Seoul, South Korea. — 2026

Mehrkesh, A., Natsuaki, M. N., Neiderhiser, J. M., Marceau, K., Shaw, D. S., Ganiban, J. M., & Leve, L. D. (2025, May). *Testing non-linear models for pubertal status: Enhancing precision in estimating timing and tempo* [Poster presentation]. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, United States. — 2025

Ferguson, L., **Mehrkesh, A.**, Kürüm, E., Rebok, G. W., & Wu, R. (2025, May). *Assessing cognitive engagement variety vs. frequency: A skill-learning intervention* [Poster presentation]. EUCAS Conference on Aging Cognition, Pavia, Italy. — 2025

Mehrkesh, A., Natsuaki, M. N., Neiderhiser, J. M., Shaw, D. S., Ganiban, J. M., Reiss, D., & Leve, L. D. (2023, April). *Heterogeneity of internalizing problems in adolescents: Evaluating the trajectories of self-worth and fearfulness* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Diego, CA, United States. — 2023

Dissertation

A Network Analytic Approach to Depressive Symptoms from Early Childhood to Late Adolescence — Proposal defended 2026

- Chair: Dr. Misaki N. Natsuaki. Committee: Drs. Tuppett M. Yates and Olivia E. Atherton. Parent-reported depressive symptoms (CBCL) across eight waves of the Early Growth and Development Study, ages 18 months to 15/16.
- **Aims:** tests whether depression itself reorganizes with development — whether symptom networks densify with age and centrality moves from neurovegetative to cognitive symptoms — and whether that structure improves measurement, comparing a centrality-weighted score against the conventional sum score on criterion and discriminant validity. Methods: psychometric network estimation, cross-lagged panel networks, centrality analysis.

Other Current Projects

Scoping review, De Geronimo, F. G., **Mehrkesh, A.**, McCormick, K. C., Natsuaki, M. N., Brooks-Gunn, J., & Mendle, J. (in preparation). Boys' puberty and psychosocial development: a scoping review of 97 empirical studies. *Developmental Review*. — *Contribution:* screening and study selection, data extraction, and assistance in writing. — Final edits

Symptom networks, **Mehrkesh, A.**, Natsuaki, M. N., Neiderhiser, J. M., Shaw, D. S., Ganiban, J. M., & Leve, L. D. (in preparation). Developmental continuity of core depressive symptoms across eight waves, ages 18 months to 15/16. — An extension of the dissertation, to be submitted for publication independently of it. *Contribution:* study conception, psychometric network analysis, and writing. — Analysis complete; Writing in progress

Simulation study, **Mehrkesh, A.**, & Natsuaki, M. N. (in preparation). A Monte Carlo simulation evaluating methods of assessing pubertal development. *Developmental Psychology*. — *Contribution:* simulation design and coding, and writing the manuscript. — Simulation done; Writing in progress

Systematic review, Natsuaki, M. N., **Mehrkesh, A.**, Bebis, C., Leve, L. D., & Conte, J. (in preparation). Child sexual abuse prevention programs: assessment measures. A systematic review of 75 studies. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. — *Contribution:* screening, full-text review and data extraction, and assistance in writing. — Data extracted; Writing in progress

Textual analysis, Textual analysis of memoirs and autobiographies of child sexual abuse survivors. In preparation. — *Contribution:* project conception and feasibility study. — Feasibility study; In progress

Teaching — Associate Instructor

Associate Instructor, Designed course syllabi, delivered lectures (~30 hours per course), created midterms and final exams, and supervised teaching assistants.

Introduction to Statistics, Undergraduate course, UC, Riverside — Fall 2026

Introduction to Statistics, Undergraduate course, UC, Riverside — Summer 2026

Personality, Undergraduate course, UC, Riverside — Summer 2025

Social Psychology, Undergraduate course, UC, Riverside — Summer 2025

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Teaching Assistant, Led discussion sections (3 hours per week), graded assignments, held office hours, supported lectures, and facilitated group activities.

Multiple Regression and Correlation, Dr. S. Antonoplis, UC, Riverside — 2026

Structural Equation Modeling, Dr. S. Antonoplis, UC, Riverside — 2025

Statistical Procedures, Dr. A. Ditta, UC, Riverside — 2023

Multiple Regression and Correlation, Dr. D. Ozer, UC, Riverside — 2023

Undergraduate Teaching Assistantships

Teaching Assistant, Ran discussion sections (3–4 hours per week), graded assignments and exams, held office hours, supported lectures, and facilitated group activities.

Mind & Brain, Dr. K. Huffman, UC, Riverside — Summer 2026

Abnormal Psychology, Dr. M. Natsuaki (x2) & E. Perez, UC, Riverside — 2022 – 2025

Infancy, Dr. J. Franchak, UC, Riverside — 2024

Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Dr. T. Sy & M. Gomez, UC, Riverside — 2023, 2026

Introduction to Statistics, Drs. Natsuaki (x2), Ditta (x2), Erickson, UC, Riverside — 2022 – 2025

Introductory Psychology, Drs. K. Huffman & A. M. Boullion, UC, Riverside — 2022, 2023

Sharif University of Technology (SUT), Electrical Engineering and M.B.A. programs

Engineering Mathematics, Electrical Engineering, SUT — 2008 – 2009

Theory of Probability, Electrical Engineering, SUT — 2008 – 2009

Electronics I, Electrical Engineering, SUT — 2008 – 2009

Electrical Circuits I, Electrical Engineering, SUT — 2008 – 2009

Microeconomics, M.B.A. program, SUT — 2011

Teaching — Workshops

R and Statistics Summer Bootcamp, Six-hour workshop for incoming Ph.D. students, UC, Riverside — 2023 – 2025 (x3)

Service and Mentorship

Quantitative Mentoring Committee, Department of Psychology, UC, Riverside — appointed to work alongside four faculty and one graduate student mentoring peers on research design, statistical modeling, and coding. — 2025 – present

Mentor, undergraduate research assistants, Developmental Trajectories Lab, UC, Riverside — mentored seven undergraduate students on independent research projects, supervising design, analysis, and writing. One developed and presented an independent study of caregiving and role reversal in immigrant families at a UC Riverside research conference. — 2024 – present

Peer Review

Ad hoc reviewer, manuscript review for five journals — 2026

- *Applied Research in Quality of Life*
- *BMC Medicine*
- *Journal of Child and Family Studies*
- *Child & Youth Care Forum*
- *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*

Honors and Awards

2025–2026: Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, UC Riverside Graduate Division (TA Development Program).

2025–2026: Travel and training grants — Conference Travel Grant ($1,690), UCR Graduate Division & Department of Psychology, for the SRCD Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis (2025); Travel Grant ($500) for service on the Quantitative Mentoring Committee, UCR Department of Psychology (2025); and the Specialized Training & Workshop Funding Award ($999), UCR Department of Psychology, for CenterStat's Network Analysis Workshop (2026).

2021–2026: Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, University of California, Riverside — competitive doctoral recruitment award; five-year fellowship package, **$249,808** in total support (stipend, tuition, fees, non-resident tuition, and health insurance).

2017: Ranked 220th of ~20,000 applicants, National Graduate Entrance Examination in Psychology, Iran.

2011: Subsidized housing loan, National Elites Foundation of Iran — approximately $11,000 in transferable value.

2010–2013: Monthly stipend, National Elites Foundation of Iran — approximately $300 per month for three years.

2009: Ranked 11th of ~30,000 applicants, National Graduate Entrance Examination in Management and Business, Iran.

2005: Ranked **20th of ~500,000** applicants, National Undergraduate Entrance Examination (Konkour), Iran — the basis for **lifelong membership** in the **National Elites Foundation of Iran** (bmn.ir), conferred 2010.

Skills and Methods

Longitudinal data analysis: Latent growth curve modeling (LGCM); latent change score modeling; cross-lagged panel models; growth mixture modeling.

Multivariate analysis: Structural equation modeling (SEM); factor analysis; latent variable models; measurement invariance testing; psychometric network analysis.

Generalized linear / multilevel: Linear and logistic regression; multilevel (mixed-effects) models, including mixed-effects logistic growth curve models.

Experimental design: ANOVA; repeated-measures ANOVA; factorial designs; effect-size estimation.

Mathematical foundations: Linear algebra; calculus; probability theory; mathematical statistics.

Software: R (lavaan, psych, lme4, ggplot2, tidyverse); Mplus; SPSS.

Clinical assessment: Structured Interview of Personality Organization (STIPO; Kernberg framework); psychodynamic case formulation.

Leadership & people management: Three years in top-level management as cofounder and chairman of a mobile technology company; team leadership, hiring, strategy, and partnerships.

Languages: Persian/Farsi (native); English (fluent, professional); French (beginner to intermediate); Spanish (beginner).

Clinical Background

- **Supervised clinical practice.** Psychotherapist, Nahad Clinic, Tehran (2019–2021). Individual psychotherapy with adults and adolescents under psychodynamic supervision — anxiety, depression, identity, and interpersonal difficulties.
- **Psychodynamic training.** Four-year integrated training program, Hamava Institute, Tehran (2020–present, continuing remotely). Coursework with individual and group case-based supervision.
- **Psychodynamic assessment.** Ehya Psychological Educations Center, Tehran (2018–2019). Structured Interview of Personality Organization (STIPO; Kernberg, 1998), with seminars in object relations theory and personality and defense mechanisms.

Industry and Applied Experience

2016–2019: Cofounder & Chairman, Bistoon Co. — a successful mobile technology company (Tehran). Strategy, partnerships, four shipped apps; +50% user growth yearly.

2013–2016: Marketing Manager, Rahnama Co. (mobile value-added services, Tehran). Operator partnerships, acquisition, retention.

2013: Marketing Expert, Heidarian Co. (cultural goods, Tehran). Domestic and international expansion strategy.

2012–2013: Market Analyst, Kherad Payeh Consulting (Tehran). Feasibility studies and product/portfolio advisory.