

# David Lukacik, BS, BA

✉ david@lukacik.xyz

✉ dalu0115@student.umu.se

☎ +1-623-824-8389

☎ +46-70-041-9908

🌐 david-lukacik

🌐 https://lukacik.xyz/

🆔 0009-0009-4252-0307

## Education

---

- Sep 2025 – Present
- **Master of Science in Cognitive Science**, Umeå University, Umeå, SE  
Department of Psychology  
*Expected May 2027*
- Aug 2021 – May 2025
- **Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience**, Arizona State University, Tempe, USA  
Department of Psychology  
*Summa Cum Laude*; Barrett, The Honors College  
Honors Thesis: *Investigating the Coordinated Role of the Hippocampus and Cerebellum in Spatial–Social Processing*
  - **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Concentration in Science, Nature, and Mind**  
School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies (SHPRS)  
*Summa Cum Laude*; Barrett, The Honors College
  - **Minor in English (Linguistics)**  
Department of English

## Research Interests

---

- Cerebellar circuits underlying social cognition, flexible behavior, and fine-motor control.
- Hippocampal-cerebellar communication in spatial, memory, and socio-cognitive processing.
- Cerebrocerebellar circuit disruptions in neurodevelopmental disorders, i.e. autism spectrum disorder.
- Consequences of early-life cerebellar injury on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development.

## Research Experience

---

- Dec 2022 – Aug 2025
- **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, SOCIAL Neurobiology Lab, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University  
Supervisor: Dr. Jessica Verpeut PhD
- Jan 2022 – Feb 2023
- **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Conflict & Cooperation Lab, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University  
Supervisors: Dr. Athena Aktipis PhD & Dr. Cristina Baciú PhD
- Aug 2022 – Dec 2022
- **Undergraduate Research Fellow**, Culture, Health, and Environment Lab (CHELab), Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University  
Supervisors: Dr. Alexandra Brewis PhD & Dr. Amber Wutich PhD

## Teaching Experience

---

- Aug 2022 – May 2025
- **Senior Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University. Courses: Intro to Psychology, Consumer Psychology, Personality Theory, Sleep and Dreaming.

## Teaching Experience (continued)

---

- Aug 2022 – Dec 2022     ○ **Learning Assistant**, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University. Course: LIA 101 (First-Year Success Course).

## Leadership & Community Involvement

---

- Aug 2021 – May 2025     ○ **President**, NeuroDevils, Arizona State University  
○ **Departmental Volunteer**, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University
- Apr 2024 – Sep 2024     ○ **Disaster Health Services Responder**, American Red Cross
- Aug 2021 – May 2023     ○ **Volunteer**, Medical Directive Street Runs  
○ **Officer**, Healthcare Preparatory Club
- Aug 2019 – May 2021     ○ **Creativity, Activity, Service Program**, International Baccalaureate Program  
○ **Hub Manager**, Sunrise Movement Scottsdale

## Memberships

---

- Aug 2021 – Present     ○ **Associate Member**, American Physician Scientists Association.
- May 2023 – May 2025     ○ **Student Member**, Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

## Clinical Experience

---

- Aug 2024 – Aug 2025     ○ **Emergency Department Technician**, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Thomas Campus; Phoenix, USA
- May 2023 – Aug 2024     ○ **Patient Care Technician**, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Thomas; Phoenix, USA

## Research Publications

---

### Journal Articles

- 1 Melick, A., **Lukacik, D.**, Chawla, S., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S. C., & Verpeut, J. L. (2025). A Fine Motor Task to Study Joint Kinematics in a Preclinical Model of Neurodegenerative Disease. *Journal of Visualized Experiments*, (220), e68128. <https://doi.org/10.3791/68128>

### Theses

- 1 **Lukacik, D.** (2025). *Investigating the Coordinated Role of the Hippocampus and Cerebellum in Spatial-Social Processing* (Undergraduate Honors thesis). Arizona State University Library KEEP.

### Selected Posters and Presentations

- 1 **Lukacik, D.** (Apr 2025). Investigating the role of the hippocellum in spatial-social processing [Poster presented at the Barrett Celebrating Honors Thesis Symposium, Arizona State University].
- 2 **Lukacik, D.** (Mar 2025). Investigating the coordinated role of the hippocampus and cerebellum in spatial-social processing [Oral thesis defense, Department of Psychology and Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University].
- 3 **Lukacik, D.**, Melick, A., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S., & Verpeut, J. L. (Oct 2024). Development and validation of a novel fine motor task for preclinical analysis of dexterity with implications for neurodegenerative disorders [Poster presented at the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) Early Career Poster Session, Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting].

- 4 Melick, A., **Lukacik, D.**, Bimonte-Nelson, H. A., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S., & Verpeut, J. L. (Oct 2024). Alzheimer's disease and fine motor degeneration: Investigating changes in fine motor accuracy and coordination using a novel rodent reaching task [Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting].
- 5 **Lukacik, D.**, Melick, A., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S., & Verpeut, J. L. (Sep 2024). Creation and testing of a novel fine motor task intended for the detection and analysis of neurodegenerative precursors [Poster presented at the AAC Scientific Conference, Barrow Neurological Institute].
- 6 **Lukacik, D.** (Apr 2024). Investigating the coordinated role of the hippocampus and cerebellum in spatial-social processing [Invited lightning talk at the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Symposium, Arizona State University].

## Skills

---

- **Laboratory Skills:** Rodent behavioral testing; fine-motor task development; stereotaxic perfusion; tissue dissection; histology; microscopy.
- **Computational Skills:** Python; MATLAB; R; SLEAP; QuPath; Arduino;  $\LaTeX$ ; Git/GitHub.
- **Clinical Skills:** Emergency medical procedures; patient care; charting; basic life support; resuscitation.
- **Other Skills:** Academic writing; scientific communication; data visualization; teaching and mentoring.
- **Languages:** English & Slovak (native); Czech (advanced); Spanish (intermediate); Swedish (beginner).

## Miscellaneous

---

### Awards and Honors

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| July 2024               | ○ <b>Teaching Assistant Excellence Award</b> , Department of Psychology, Arizona State University   |
| Nov 2022; Nov 2023      | ○ <b>The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Leader</b> , Arizona State University         |
| Dec 2023                | ○ <b>Teaching Assistant Collegiality Award</b> , Department of Psychology, Arizona State University |
| Fall 2021 – Spring 2025 | ○ <b>Dean's List</b> , Arizona State University   |
| May 2021                | ○ <b>International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipient</b> , International Baccalaureate Organization   |
|                         | ○ <b>New American University Scholar</b> , Arizona State University                                 |

### Certifications

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Oct 2022 – Present  | ○ <b>Emergency Medical Technician, Basic</b> , Arizona Department of Health Services, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians |
| Jan 2022 – Jan 2026 | ○ <b>IRB – Social and Behavioral Research (Group 2)</b> , CITI Program   |
| Oct 2021 – Present  | ○ <b>Basic Life Support (BLS)</b> , American Heart Association   |