

Krischanda Bemister

Department of Psychology, Toronto Metropolitan University

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<https://krischandabemister.ca/>

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (**PhD**), **Psychological Science**, Vanier Scholar (*Expected 2026*)

Department of Psychology, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON (specialization in Developmental Psychology)

Supervisor: Dr. Margaret Moulson

Supervisory Committee: Drs. Ryan Persram and Kristin Vickers

Doctoral thesis: Paws, Bonds, and Beyond: Exploring the Developmental Impact of Non-Human Animals on Empathy and Well-being

Master of Arts (**MA**), **Psychological Science** (2022)

Department of Psychology, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON (specialization in Developmental Psychology)

Supervisor: Dr. Margaret Moulson

Master's Thesis: Social Learning Under Conditions of Uncertainty from Own- and Other-Race Informants.

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Arts, with distinction (**BAH**), **Psychology** [Minor in Sociology] (2018)

Department of Psychology, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON

Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Want

Thesis: Subliminally Presented Media Images and their Effect on Appearance

Anxiety Cumulative GPA: 3.89

PUBLICATIONS (*denotes undergraduate co-author)

Bemister-Bourret, K. & Tawfik, M.* (2023). Record, Recall, Reflect: A Qualitative Examination on the Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Toronto Zoo Staff. *Journal of Zoological and Botanical Gardens*, 4(2), 413-426.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/jzbg4020031>.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Patel, S., Yau, M., & **Bemister, K.** (2021). Structural supports for learning coaches: Lessons learned from the Model Schools for Inner Cities. Toronto, ON: School of Early Childhood Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University.

https://geec.blog.ryerson.ca/files/2022/03/MSICLCReport_FinalSP.pdf

Patel, S., **Bemister, K.** & Yau, M. (2020). Programs, Services and Supports for Newcomer and Culturally Diverse Families within Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC): Knowledge mobilization summary report. Toronto, ON: School of Early Childhood Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University.

<https://geec.blog.ryerson.ca/files/2020/12/Newcomer-Families-FINAL12.14.20-1.pdf>.

BLOG POSTS

Bemister, K. (2024, December). HAI Researcher's Corner: Service dogs may significantly reduce PTSD symptoms in veterans: new research. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Winter 2024*. <https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751776?e=0bd7b18130>

Bemister, K. (2024, December). HAI stories from around the world: Animal justice: leading the legal fight for animal rights in Canada. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Winter 2024*. <https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751776?e=0bd7b18130>

Bemister, K. (2024, June). Researcher's corner from around the world: Recommendations for uniform terminology in animal-assisted services (AAS). *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Summer 2024*.

<https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751653?e=0bd7b18130>

Bemister, K. (2024, June). HAI stories from around the world: Animal Law Week Celebrated at Lewis & Clark Law School. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Summer 2024*.

<https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751653?e=0bd7b18130>

Bemister, K. (2023, December). Researcher's corner from around the world: Tech4Animals. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Winter 2023*. <https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751558>

Bemister, K. (2023, December). HAI stories from around the world: Toronto small animals foster. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Winter 2023*. <https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751558>

Bemister, K. (2023, June). Researcher's corner from around the world: Meet Sarah Jacobsen and Hoi-Lam Jim. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Summer 2023*. <https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751481>

Bemister, K. (2023, June). HAI stories from around the world: Hagrid's Haven rabbit rescue. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Summer 2023*. <https://mailchi.mp/apa-hai/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751481>

Bemister, K. (2022, December). Researcher's corner from around the world: Meet Krischanda Bemister. *Anima: Exploring the vital force of human-animal interaction, Winter 2022*. <https://mailchi.mp/1afcf4b1f1d/hai-section-newsletter-winter-4751397>

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025-2027: **Insight Development Grant (SSHRC)**, \$55,360 – Awarded to dissertation committee (Drs. M. Moulson, R. Persram, K. Vickers) for a project based on my doctoral dissertation research titled: “Investigating the impact of human-animal interactions on empathy, stress, and social functioning in children and adolescents”
2025: €300 - **IAHAIO Conference Scholarship**, International Association for Human Animal Interaction Organizations, Amsterdam

2024: \$500 - **Student Research Grant** - Canadian Psychological Association
2022-2025: \$150,000 – **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship** – Doctoral, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2021-2022: \$15,000 – **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2020-2021: \$17,500 – **Canada Graduate Scholarship** - Master's (CGS M), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2014: **Admission's Scholarship**, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

AWARDS AND ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

2025: \$50 - **Teaching Assistant Award**, Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology (CCDP), Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2023: \$6000 – **Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement**, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2021: \$1700 – **Jackman Foundation Psychology Graduate Student Bursary**, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2018, 2017, 2016: **Dean's List**, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2018, 2017: **Psychology Scholar's Circle Award** (granted for achieving a 4.0 or higher in all psychology courses taken in a given term), Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON
2015: **Dean's List**, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Survey Analyst (*May-July 2025*)

Project: *Reporting in Black Communities*

Toronto Metropolitan University

Co-Supervisors: Eternity Martis (Toronto Metropolitan University) and Nana aba Duncan (Carleton University)

Research Project Manager (*October 2019-May 2022; January 2025-present*)

Greater Equity in Early Education and Care Research Group

Project: *Model Schools for Inner Cities Initiative*

Department of Early Childhood Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto,

ON Supervisor: Dr. Sejal Patel

Research Internship (*June-August 2023*)

Mitacs Globalink & Japan Society for the Promotion of Science [Internship Award: \$3000]

Project: *Bright Minds and Bushy Tails: How education impacts animal-related attitudes in Japanese graduate students*

Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

Co-Supervisors: Dr. Margaret Moulson (Toronto Metropolitan University) and Johan Edelheim (Hokkaido U)

Research Internship (*May-August 2022*)

Mitacs Accelerate & Mental Health Research Canada [Internship Award: \$15,000] Project:

Record, Recall, Reflect: A Qualitative Examination on the Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Toronto Zoo Staff

The Toronto Zoo, Toronto, ON

Co-Supervisors: Dr. Margaret Moulson (Toronto Metropolitan University) and Joanne

Eaton (Toronto Zoo)

Masters Practicum Student (*May-August 2021*)

Social Perception and Intergroup Relations Lab

Project: *Perceptions of Pain Sensitivity Based on Body Size: A Conceptual Replication*

Department of Psychology, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON

Supervisor: Dr. Jason Deska

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Foundations of Psychedelic Psychotherapy QI Study (January 2023-Present)

Nikean Psychedelic Psychotherapy Research Centre, University Health Network, Toronto, ON

Project Lead: Dr. Emma Hapke

American Educational Research Association Project (January-February 2025)

Greater Equity in Early Education and Care Research Group

Department of Early Childhood Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto,

ON Supervisor: Dr. Sejal Patel

School Redesign Study (May 2019-May 2022)

Greater Equity in Early Education and Care Research Group, Early Childhood Studies, Toronto

Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON

Supervisor: Dr. Sejal Patel

ManyBabies 4 Social Evaluation Research Project (July 2020-January 2021)

ManyBabies

Project Leads: Drs. Kelsey Lucca and Kiley Hamlin

Full-Day Kindergarten Study (February 2019-April 2020)

Pelletier Lab, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, ON

Supervisor: Dr. Janette Pelletier

Attention, Motivation, Self-Regulation & Engagement Study (May 2018-November 2019)

Martinussen Lab, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, ON

Supervisor: Dr. Rhonda Martinussen

Health Equity Research Project (October-November 2019)

St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON

Supervisors: Dr. Patricia O'Campo and Dr. Sejal Patel

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Student Supervisor: MaDi Rainbow (Brain and Early Experiences Lab, Toronto Metropolitan University)

April 2025 - Present

Undergraduate Student Supervisor: Shania Hossain (Brain and Early Experiences Lab, Toronto Metropolitan University)

October 2024 - Present

Facilitator (*2 semesters; 2025*)
LSO120: Introduction to Sociology
Seneca College, Ontario Learn

Facilitator (*8 semesters; 2023-2025*)
PSY181: Learning, Thinking, and Problem Solving
Seneca College, Ontario Learn

Facilitator (*Summer 2024*) CPSY102: Introduction to Psychology I
Chang School, Toronto Metropolitan University

Instructor (*Fall 2022, Summer 2022*) PSY100: Introduction to Psychology
Department of English and Liberal Studies, Faculty of Continuing
Education Seneca College

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Toronto Metropolitan University)

PSY535 Gender Issues in Psychology (*Winter 2025*) Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Maria Gurevich

PSY202 Introduction to Psychology II (*Winter 2022*) Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Margaret Moulson

PSY654 Cognitive Psychology (*Fall 2021*) Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Karl Szpunar

CLD103 Human Development II (*Winter 2021, Winter 2020*)
Department of Early Childhood Studies
Professor: Dr. Sejal Patel

CLD101 Human Development I (*Fall 2020*) Department of Early Childhood Studies
Professor: Dr. Sejal Patel

Exam Invigilator (Toronto Metropolitan University)

PSY102 Introduction to Psychology (*Winter 2025*) Department of Psychology
Dr. Karl Szpunar

PSY 605 Psychology of Health and Health Care (*Winter 2025*) Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Trevor Hart

PSY 707 Models of Stress and Adaptation (*Winter 2025*) Department of Psychology
Dr. Alex Fiocco

PSY813 Psychology of Art and Creativity (*Fall 2024*) Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Ammirante

PSY102 Introduction to Psychology II (*Fall 2024*) Department of Psychology

Professor: Dr. Gharehgazlou

PSY505 Personality Theory (*Winter 2023*) Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Mira Kapetanovic

PSY202 Introduction to Psychology II
Department of Psychology
Professor: Dr. Lili Ma

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Graduate Student Representative at Mental Health and Wellbeing “Navigating MA1” Event
Toronto Metropolitan University (February 2025)

Graduate Student Representative (*September 2021*) Diversifying Psychology Recruitment Event
Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON

Honour’s Thesis Student Ambassador (*February 2018*) Undergraduate Thesis
Information Session
Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON

PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

Bemister, K. & Moulson, M. (2025, August 23-24). The Impact of Pet Ownership on Empathy Development in Middle Childhood [poster presentation]. International Association for Human Animal Interaction Organizations, Amsterdam.

Bemister, K. & Moulson, M. (2025, June 19-22). The Impact of Pet Ownership on Empathy Development in Middle Childhood [lightning oral presentation]. International Society for Anthrozoology, Saskatoon, Canada.

Bemister, K. (2024, October 20). Bright Minds & Bushy Tails: Ethnographic Insights from Two Animal-Focused Summer School Courses at Hokkaido University [virtual conference presentation]. Society for Companion Animal Studies.

Bemister, K. (2024, June 27-30). Bright Minds & Bushy Tails: Ethnographic Insights from Two Animal-Focused Summer School Courses at Hokkaido University [conference presentation]. International Society for Anthrozoology, Hartpury University, United Kingdom.

Bemister, K. (2023, March 9-11). Record, Recall, Reflect: A Qualitative Examination on the Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Toronto Zoo Staff [conference presentation]. Animal Advocacy Conference (virtual).

Bemister, K. (2023, March 9-11). Record, Recall, Reflect: A Qualitative Examination on the Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Toronto Zoo Staff [poster presentation]. International Convention of Psychological Science, Brussels, Belgium.

Bemister, K. (2023, January 18-19). Record, Recall, Reflect: A Qualitative Examination on the Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Toronto Zoo Staff. Animal Behaviour Twitter Conference (virtual).

Bemister, K. (2022, September 3-4). Record, Recall, Reflect: A Qualitative Examination on the Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Toronto Zoo Staff. [Conference presentation].

International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations: Changing perspectives on the human-animal relationship (virtual).

Patel, S., & **Bemister, K.** (2022, April 28). Community Engaged Research: Model Schools for Inner Cities. Presented at the MSIC/TDSB Inner City Advisory Committee Meeting.

Patel, S., & **Bemister, K.** (2022, April 21-25). School-based Stakeholders' Perspectives on Neighbourhood Redevelopment. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association [Conference presentation]. AERA 2022 Conference, San Diego, CA, United States .

Patel, S., & **Bemister, K.** (2022, April 21-25). School-based Stakeholders' Perspectives on Neighbourhood Redevelopment. [i-Presentation]. AERA 2022 Conference, San Diego, CA, United States .

<http://aera22-aera.ipostersessions.com/Default.aspx?s=8D-5D-69-CA-55-D5-BC-E7-8D-D0-27-51-6D-5D-BC-0A>. Doi: 10.3102/IP.22.1893839

Bemister, K. & Moulson, M. (2022, February 22-28). Social Learning Under Conditions of Uncertainty from Own- and Other-Race Informants. [Poster]. Society for Social and Personality Psychology: "Origins of the Social Mind" Pre-Conference (virtual).

Bemister, K. (2018, May). Subliminally presented media images and their effect on appearance anxiety. [Presentation]. Ontario Undergraduate Thesis Conference, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), Toronto, ON.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

Scientific Writer (*January 2025-present*)
Pet Cancer Foundation

Peer Reviewer for Anthrozoos
Reviewed manuscript in the field of Animal-Assisted Interventions (2024)

Student Representative (*August 2022-present*)
Human-Animal Interaction: Research & Practice of the Society of Counselling Psychology, Human-Animal Interaction (Section 13 of Division 17 of the American Psychological Association)

Student Cohort Representative (*September 2020-August 2022*)
Graduate Student Anti-Racism Initiative, Toronto Metropolitan University

Student Hub Committee Member (*September 2021-April 2022*)
Indigenous Youth-Centered Justice Project
Toronto Metropolitan University

Student Member (*September 2020-October 2021*) Mental Health and Wellbeing Group
Toronto Metropolitan University

Graduate Student Ambassador at Graduate Program Information Session Toronto
Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), Toronto, ON (November 2021)

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Interviewed and quoted in *CTV News* article, "Toronto Zoo shifts toward conservation, but critics want to eradicate animal captivity" (Dec. 2, 2024), discussing findings on compassion fatigue among Toronto Zoo staff and the downstream implications for animal welfare, emphasizing the need for tailored mental health resources.

Accessible at:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/toronto-zoo-shifts-toward-conservation-but-critics-want-to-eradicate-animal-captivity-1.7131040>

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Student Member (*February 2024-present*) American Sociological Association: Animals & Society Section

Graduate Student Member (*January 2024-present*) Canada Psychological Association

Graduate Student Member (*January 2024-present*) Association for Psychological Science

Student Member (*June 2022 - present*) Animal Behavior Society

General Member and 'Black Caucus' Member (*September 2021-present*) Society for Research in Child Development

Student Member (*September 2020 - present*) National Black Graduate Network

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

July 2024 Rocky Mountain Methodology Academy: Introduction to Multilevel Modeling

July 2024 Rocky Mountain Methodology Academy: Longitudinal Data Analysis and Visualization

December 2023 OHAIRE Coding System: Behaviour Coding for Human-Animal Interaction Research course *certificate*

October 2023 Data Management in R (3-week course) *digital badge issued 12.20.23*

June 2021 CILT100 Learning and Teaching in Higher Education I (6-week course)

July 2020 Pretest/Posttest & Longitudinal Data Analysis (6-week course)

June 2020 Canadian Red Cross- Psychological First Aid: Self Care Certificate

June 2020 Canadian Red Cross- Psychological First Aid: Caring for Others Certificate

August 2020 Canadian Psychological Association- Mediation Analysis Webinar

2020 'Future Smart: Graduate Professional Skills' Program Certification. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON.



REFERENCES

Available upon request.