

Sareena Chadha

Curriculum Vitae

Postdoctoral Researcher

sareena.chadha@dartmouth.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Dartmouth College

2026-Present

Postdoctoral Fellow, Neukom Institute for Computational Science

Advisors: Dr. Mark Thornton (social psychology) and Dr. Adam Kleinbaum (Tuck School of Business)

EDUCATION

University of Virginia (UVA)

Ph.D. in social psychology with certificate in quantitative psychology

2026

Dissertation: The influence of actual and perceived similarity on social connection and conversation

Committee: Dr. Steve Boker (quantitative psychology), Dr. Teague Henry (data science and quantitative psychology), Dr. Adrienne Wood (advisor and chair; social psychology) and Dr. Ayana Younge (Darden School of Business)

M.A. in psychology with award for best thesis

2023

Thesis: Thinking you're different matters more for belonging than being different

Committee: Dr. Tim Wilson and Dr. Adrienne Wood (advisor)

B.A. psychology & **B.A.** in cognitive science with a linguistics concentration with High Distinction

2021

Thesis: Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessments of Social Competence

Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Wood

PUBLICATIONS (** = mentee)

- 5 Wood, A., **Chadha, S.**, Liu, C., ****Yuan, Q.**, Davis, A., Elnakouri, A., ... & Boker, S. M. (2026). Laughter indicates perceived similarity among friends and strangers. *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, 1-27.
- 4 Tsang, S., Barrentine, K., **Chadha, S.**, Oishi, S., & Wood, A. (2024). Social exploration: How and why people seek new connections. *Psychological Review*.
- 3 **Chadha, S.**, ****Ha, T.**, & Wood, A. (2024). Thinking you're different matters more for belonging than being different. *Scientific Reports*, 14(1), 7574.
- 2 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2023). Social networks are shaped by culturally contingent assessments of social competence. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 7974.
 - a. [additionally selected for abstract publication in *Affective Science*, after presenting at SAS 2022]
- 1 **Chadha, S.**, Li, C., Melly, S., & Strelser, S. (2020). Expanding and Evaluating the Impact of the Code Ana Allergy Preparedness Program in Charlottesville and Surrounding School Districts. *Jefferson Public Citizens*, 10, 1-9.

In preparation:

- 5 Boker, S., Welker, C., Wu, J., & Chadha, S. (under review) Parameter Selection for Windowed Cross Correlation to Assess Association between Psychophysiological Timeseries
- 4 **Chadha, S.**, Rodriguez., & Wood, A. (Expected 2027). Lonely people expect less from their friends.
- 3 **Chadha., S.**, Boker, S., Henry, T., & Wood, A. (Expected 2027) Signaling similarity: how friends and strangers agree, laugh, and nod together
- 2 **Chadha, S.**, Tsang, S., Liu, C., Li, R., Henry, T., Oishi, S., & Wood, A. (Expected 2026). Dynamics of time spent with social others in a new social environment.
- 1 Tsang, S., **Chadha, S.**, Oishi, S., & Wood, A. (Expected 2026). Measuring the Tendency to Socially Explore and Exploit

SOFTWARE

R Package Windowed Cross Correlation <https://cran.r-project.org/package=wcc>
 Boker, S., Xu, M., **Chadha, S.**, Welker, C., Wu, J., Deboeck, P. (2026)

AWARDS & GRANTS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Frank Finger Graduate Fellowship for Teaching | UVA 2026 |
| <i>Awarded by Graduate School to one PhD student for outstanding, organized, and stimulating teaching (\$2000)</i> | |
| Neukom Institute for Computational Science Fellowship | Dartmouth 2026-present |
| <i>Interdisciplinary fellowship awarded to scholars with computational research cutting across traditional discipline boundaries</i> | |
| Nominee for Graduate School Award for Excellence in Mentorship | UVA 2026 |
| <i>Finalist by Graduate School Council for outstanding contributions to undergraduate mentorship</i> | |
| Ingrassia Research Award | UVA 2025 |
| <i>Co-sponsor to support research by mentee Rachael Yuan during spring 2025 (\$5000)</i> | |
| Stepanian Graduate Fellowship | UVA 2025-2026 |
| <i>Awarded by Graduate School to one PhD student for outstanding achievement & potential in research subfield (\$5000)</i> | |
| Distinguished Teaching Fellowship | UVA 2025 |
| <i>Awarded to four graduate students to be the instructor-of-record for a class of their own design (\$6000)</i> | |
| Fellowship for Instructor Seminar on the Teaching of Writing | UVA 2025 |
| <i>Awarded to 20 graduate instructors to be trained in writing in the classroom (\$600)</i> | |
| Harrison Undergraduate Research Award | UVA 2025 |
| <i>Co-sponsor to support research by mentee Rachael Yuan during summer (\$5000)</i> | |
| Maury Pathfinder Best Predissertation Award | UVA 2024 |
| <i>Awarded to the best master's thesis by psychology cohort (\$5000)</i> | |
| Graduate Presenter Travel Award | INSA Sunbelt 2023 |
| <i>Covered accommodations (\$1000)</i> | |

Diversity Scholarship for Summer Program in Quantitative Methods*Covered tuition, lodging, dining, and travel costs (\$5500)***ICPSR 2023****Best Graduate Student Poster***Social Cognition Preconference (\$100)***SPSP 2023****Parents Fund Internship Grant***Summer grant for public service internship at a psychosocial rehabilitation center; canceled for COVID-19 (\$3000)***UVA 2020****Jefferson Public Citizens Research Grant***For independent undergraduate researchers, used for public health research coordinated with Code Ana (\$7400)***UVA 2019****INVITED TALKS**

2026	Dartmouth
2026	University of Virginia Design and Data Analysis
2025	Columbia University
2025	Princeton University
2024	University of Virginia
2023	U.S. Army JAG Leadership Center & School
2022	U.S. Army JAG Leadership Center & School

ORAL PRESENTATIONS (** = mentee, co-authored presentations excluded unless project was mentee-led)

- 17 ****Yuan, Q., Chadha, S.,** Diemerling, H., Boker, S., & Wood, A. (2026, February 27). *Does Laughter Predict Shared Reality in Conversation?* [Talk] 2026 Undergraduate Research Symposium, Charlottesville, VA.
- 16 **Chadha, S.,** Boker, S., Elnakouri, A., & Wood, A. (2026, March 24). *Marking Alignment: How Friends Agree, Nod, and Laugh Together* [Invited talk] 2026 Shared Reality Conference [Virtual].
- 15 **Chadha, S.,** Boker, S., & Wood, A. (2026, February 25). *Nodding synchrony between friends and strangers* [Flash talk] 2026 SPSP Close Relationships Preconference, Chicago, IL.
- 14 **Chadha, S.,** Tsang, S., Li, R., Barrentine, K., Liu, C., Henry, T., Oishi, S., & Wood, A. (2025, May 23). *The Dynamics of Exploration and Social Connectedness.* [Symposium] 2025 APS Convention, Washington, D.C.
- 13 **Chadha, S.,** Elnakouri, A., & Wood, A. (2025, March 11). *Do strangers express and experience shared reality differently than friends?* [Flash talk] 2025 Shared Reality Conference [Virtual].
- 12 **Chadha, S.,** Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2025, February 27). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence.* [Symposium] Graduate Research Symposium, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
- 11 **Chadha, S.,** Barrentine, K. J., Welker, C., ****Snyder, A.,** Uphadyaya, S., & Wood, A. (2024, June 30). *Racial homophily and wellbeing link is shaped by race and social context.* [Oral presentation] 2024 Sunbelt International Network for Social Networks Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 10 **Chadha, S.,** Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2024, February 10). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence.* [Symposium] 2024 SPSP Main Convention, San Diego, CA

- 9 **Rayas, A.****, **Chadha, S.**, & Wood, A. (2023, July 30). *The Associations Between Openness, Psychological Richness, and Daily Exploratory Movement Patterns*. [Oral Presentation] 2023 Leadership Alliance National Symposium, Hartford, CT
- 8 **Chadha, S.** & Wood, A. (2023, June 28). *Belonging impacted by perceived differences from peers and social networks*. [Oral presentation] 2023 Sunbelt International Network for Social Networks Conference, Portland, OR
- 7 **Chadha, S.** & Wood, A. (2023, May 26). *Thinking You're Different Matters More Than Being Different: Loneliness Impacted by Perceived Differences from Social Networks* [Symposium] 2023 APS Convention, Washington, D.C.
- 6 **Chadha, S.** (2023, November 8). *Cultural Inertia: Emphasizing Dynamics in Cultural Change*. University of Virginia Social Psychology Area. Charlottesville, VA.
- 5 **Snyder, A.****, Zhang, S., **Chadha, S.**, & Wood, A. (2022, July 30). *The Influence of Friendship on Breadth of Semantic Associations*. [Oral Presentation] 2022 Leadership Alliance National Symposium, Hartford, CT
- 4 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2022, July 12-16). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Oral Presentation] 2022 Sunbelt International Network for Social Networks Conference, Virtual
- 3 **Chadha, S.** & Wood, A. (2022, May 5). *Thinking you're different matters more for belonging than being different*. University of Virginia Social Psychology Area. Charlottesville, VA.
- 2 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2022, March 30). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Flash Talk] 2022 SAS Conference, Virtual
- 1 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2021, November 12). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Flash Talk] 2021 Trends in Psychology Summit, Virtual

POSTERS (** = mentee, co-authored posters excluded unless project was mentee-led)

- 13 ****Yuan, Q., Chadha, S.**, Diemerling, H., Boker, S., & Wood, A. (2026, April 17). *Do strangers use facial expressions differently than friends?* [Poster] 2026 UVA Reid Conference, Charlottesville, VA.
- 12 ****Chou, K., Chadha, S.**, & Wood, A. (2026, April 17). *The Influence of Race and Gender on Identity-Related Conversational Content* [Poster] 2026 UVA Reid Conference, Charlottesville, VA.
- 11 ****Yuan, Q., Chadha, S.**, Diemerling, H., Boker, S., & Wood, A. (2026, February 27). *Do strangers use facial expressions differently than friends?* [Poster] 2026 SPSP Main Convention, Chicago, Illinois.
- 10 **Li, R.****, **Chadha, S.**, & Wood, A. (2025, April 15). *New Places, New Feelings: How Primal World Beliefs and Mobility Behaviors Predict Momentary Subjective Experience* [Poster] 2025 UVA Reid Conference, Charlottesville, VA.

Chadha, S., Elnakouri, A., & Wood, A. (2025, February 21). *Do strangers express and experience shared reality differently than friends?* [Poster] 2025 SPSP Main Convention, Denver, CO.
- 8 **Chadha, S.** & Wood, A. (2023, February 23). *Belonging impacted by perceived differences from peers and social networks*. [Poster] 2023 SPSP Social Cognition Preconference, Atlanta, GA.
- 7 **Chadha, S.**, Wood, A. & **Ha, T.**** (2023, February 24). *Thinking you're different matters more for belonging than being different*. [Poster] 2023 SPSP Main Convention, Atlanta, GA.

- 6 **Ha, T.****, **Chadha, S.**, & Wood, A. (2022, April 15). *Perceived Differences Affect Institutional Belonging More Than Actual Differences* [Poster] 2021 UVA Reid Conference, Virtual.
- 5 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2022, February 17). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Poster] 2022 SPSP Convention, Group Processes and Intergroup Relations Preconference, San Francisco, CA.
- 4 **Ha, T.****, **Chadha, S.**, & Wood, A. (2022, February 17). *Perceived and Actual Similarity to “The Average Student” Predict Belongingness in Opposite Ways* [Poster] 2022 SPSP Convention, Group Processes and Intergroup Relations Preconference, Virtual.
- Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2021, May 26-27). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Poster] 2021 APS Virtual Convention, Virtual.
- 3 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2021, April 23). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Poster] 2021 UVA Reid Conference, Virtual.
- 2 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2021, April 21). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Poster] 2021 UVA Undergraduate Research Symposium, Virtual.
- 1 **Chadha, S.**, Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wood, A. (2021, April 21). *Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessment of Social Competence*. [Poster] 2021 UVA Undergraduate Research Symposium, Virtual.

MENTORSHIP

UVA Distinguished Major’s Program

- 2021-2022 Tiffany Ha (co-author)
- 2023-2025 Rosa Li (co-author; now M.A. data science student at Yale)
- 2025-2026 Kaitlyn Chou

UVA Harrison Undergraduate Research Award

- 2024-2026 Rachael Yuan (co-author)

Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program

- 2023 Alexa Rayas (now Ph.D. student at University Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
- 2022 Anna Snyder (now Ph.D. student at University of Houston)

Scholars Committed to Opportunities in Psychological Education

- 2022-2024 Logan Jackson
- 2022-2023 Caimiao Liu (now Ph.D. student at University of Virginia)

Directly mentored Emotion and Behavior Lab Research Assistants (not mentioned above)

- Joe Bondi (class of 2024)
- Arfa Butt (class of 2025)
- Noah Mussie (class of 2024)
- Haley Nguyen (class of 2026)
- Daphne Pfoser (class of 2024)
- Sophie Regeimbal (class of 2025)
- Avery Tyrrell (class of 2025)
- Ashley Velloso (class of 2025)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (+ = instructor of record; * = led lab sections)

+Social connection: From Conversation to Networks

Instructor of record for undergraduate seminar course of own design
Evaluations: 4.93/5

Fall 2025

***Experimental Design & Analysis II (graduate-level)**

Assisted Dr. M. Joey Meyer
Evaluations: 4.92/5

Spring 2025

***Research Methods & Data Analysis II**

Assisted Dr. M. Joey Meyer
Evaluations: 4.86/5

Spring 2024

***Research Methods & Data Analysis II**

Assisted Dr. M. Joey Meyer

Spring 2023

Introduction to Cognition

Assisted Dr. Mariana Teles

Spring 2022

Neural Basis of Behavior

Assisted Dr. Erin Clabough

Fall 2021

TEACHING TRAINING

Instructor Seminar on the Teaching of Writing

UVA PhD Plus; Applied & was accepted to workshop

Summer 2025

Coding Across Curriculum

UVA Writing Across Curriculum; How to teach programming

Summer 2025

Decolonizing your syllabus

UVA Center for Teaching Excellence; Inclusive course design

Spring 2025

c3 Course Design Intensive Workshop

UVA Center for Teaching Excellence; Course design

Winter 2024-2025

Teaching Students How to Learn: Practical Tips for TAs

UVA Center for Teaching Excellence; Reflective teaching

Fall 2024

Staying Afloat in a Sea of Accommodations

UVA Center for Teaching Excellence; Inclusive teaching strategies

Fall 2024

Thinking-at-the-Edge

UVA Center for Teaching Excellence; Philosophy of understanding

Fall 2024

SERVICE

Diversifying Scholarship Conference Committee

Executive Co-chair

December 2022-May 2025

Diversifying Scholarship is a free, virtual, and entirely graduate student-run interdisciplinary conference dedicated to

uplifting research focused on diversity, inclusivity, and reducing inequality and bias. I organized all advertising, abstract review, keynote speakers, talks, and logistical processes related to 2 conference cycles.

Social Psychology Area Representative **2021-2024**
UVA Social Psychology

Served as coordinator for speaker series 2021-2024. Organized graduate recruitment weekend 2024-2025.

Virginia Piedmont Regional Science Fair **2024-Present**
Judge; middle school and high school projects

Guest Associate Editor **2023**
Translational Issues in Psychology Science

Served as an associated editor for Translational Issues in Psychology Science, special issue on social cohesion. In the role, I was responsible for a few of the submissions received, by findings reviewers for each, requesting revisions based on peer-reviews, and making acceptance decisions for the issue.

Psychology Department DEI Subcommittee **2022-Present**
Student Chair; Undergraduate Data & Outcomes

Hoos Connected **2022-2023**
Group Facilitator

I led students through social scaffolding through activities that encourage reflection and normalize vulnerability; Hoos Connected is a clinical intervention that uses the peer context to reduce loneliness and increase belonging.

Volunteers with International Students and Staff **2022-2023**
Language Consultant

Blue Ridge House, Region Ten **2019-2020**
Rehabilitation Intern

Crisis Hotline **2017-2020**
Volunteer

WORK EXPERIENCE

March of Dimes, National Headquarters **2019**
Marketing & Communications Intern *Arlington, VA*
Created marketing strategies, proposals for website pages, press releases in relation to policy, and a comprehensive audience segmentation for effective & targeted messaging for CMO. Attended Senate briefings, and NPF events.

MEDIA

Just a Joke: The Science of Laughter **April 2026**
UVA Students
<https://archive.org/details/just-a-joke>

What Makes Us Laugh? These Hoos Put Humor to the Test **April 2026**

UVA Today

https://news.virginia.edu/content/what-makes-us-laugh-these-boos-put-humor-test?utm_source=DailyReport&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news

Making Friends on Adult Mode

March 2026

Virginia Magazine

https://uvamagazine.org/articles/making_friends_on_adult_mode

Why Spotify Wrapped turns your music habits into a social event

December 2025

UVA Today

https://news.virginia.edu/content/why-spotify-wrapped-turns-your-music-habits-social-event?utm_source=DailyReport&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news

AFFILIATIONS

International Network for Social Network Analysis

2022-2024

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

2021-Present

Society for Affective Science

2021-2022

Association for Psychological Science

2020-Present

Kappa Delta

2017-Present

Lifetime Girl Scout

2005-Present

SKILLS

- Programming
 - R, Python, Bash
- Data Visualization
 - R/ggplot, Cytoscape, Inkscape
- Network Analysis
 - Egocentric social networks (collected via Qualtrics), sociocentric social networks, psychometric networks
- Intensive Longitudinal Data Analysis
 - Bayesian multilevel modeling for ecological momentary assessment and passive geolocation sensing from smartphones
- Dyadic Conversation Science
 - Data collection and analysis using Open AI's WhisperX for transcription, Simple Video Coder for timestamped behavior annotation, and generalized local linear approximation, windowed cross-correlation, and singular value decomposition for head motion and facial expression synchrony
- Taught 3 semesters of data analysis and research methods in R for undergraduate and Ph.D. students
- Project management
 - Managed 10+ undergraduate research assistants within the same semester

REFERENCES

Adrienne Wood

aw7gy@virginia.edu

Teague Henry

ycp6wm@virginia.edu

Steve Boker

smb3u@virginia.edu