

Visiting Scholar

Tuesday February 6, 2024, 12PM

Making mothers: Pregnancy, birth, and epigenetic control of the maternal oxytocin receptor

CON 470 or by Zoom

Contact Office of Research & Scholarship for meeting link



Allison Perkeybile, PhD

Senior Scientist, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia

Dr. Allison Perkeybile's research interests are centered on exploring factors that contribute to individual differences in health and behavior across the lifespan. She completed her PhD at the University of California, Davis with Dr. Karen Bales. Her doctoral work explored the ways in which early life biparental care influences developmental trajectories in social behavior and stress physiology in offspring. As a postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University with Drs. Sue Carter and Jessica Connelly she worked to understand how natural birth and birth interventions influence epigenetic regulation of the oxytocin receptor gene by DNA methylation in new mothers and in their offspring. Now as a Senior Scientist at the University of Virginia, her research continues to focus on consequences of the birth experience in both mothers and babies. She uses an animal model to investigate how genetic variability in the oxytocin receptor gene and environmental influences contribute to health and behavior outcomes following natural birth and birth interventions.