Laura Thompson, PhD

Doctoral Faculty - Clinical Psychology at Fielding Graduate University

Las Cruces, NM, US

Effects of womb environment and maternal social factors on Infant learning; Effects of stress on cognition in infants and adults

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Dr. Laura Thompson is a member of the doctoral faculty in the Clinical Psychology program at Fielding Graduate University. Laura Thompson has taught graduate courses for over 20 years. Her main research interests are in cognitive neuroscience, where she studies how stress affects cognition in both infants and adults. She conducted, for example, a longitudinal study of infants during their first year, investigating how mildly stressful situations impacted their ability to learn and remember stimuli, using cortisol as a biological marker of stress. In the same study, she investigated how infant temperament and maternal sensitivity impacted infant learning and memory. Much of her focus is on characterizing individual and task differences that elicit different patterns of stress response.

Her ongoing work continues her primary interest in characterizing the multitude of factors that affect how well infants can learn, including the environment of the womb, and maternal social factors.

In her spare time, she enjoys time spent with her children, running, riding her horse, and playing the piano.

Education/Learning, Research

Stress, Self-Regulation, Attention, Working Memory, Infant Learning, Neuroendocrine Functioning, Human Development

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Stress Reactivity, Cognition, and Empowering People to Think Better
Psychology Department

Emotional and Physiological Arousal Exhibit Differing Effects on Infant Cortisol Reactivity During Learning Events
International Conference on Infant Studies

Max Planck Institute
Postdoctoral Fellow Human Development and Education

University of California, Santa Cruz
Experimental Psychology PhD

University of Cincinnati
MA Psychology

Distinguished Achievement Professor of Psychology
Awarded by New Mexico State University