



Summer Internship Program in Psychological Sciences (SIPPS):

Engaging students in hands-on research opportunities

Ana DiGiovanni*, Camille Gasser*, Manasi Jayakumar*, Paul Bloom+, Anna Vannucci+, Amaesha Durazi, Claudia Espinoza-Heredia, Arlene Lormestoire, & Ben Silver

** These authors contributed equally to this work.



Motivation for SIPPS

- **No psychology or neuroscience summer research program** for Columbia students
- **Goals: Increase access** to intensive research experiences for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students at Columbia through hands-on work
 - Equip students with **skills that will make them more successful in labs**
 - Provide a **safe & supportive environment** for students to explore research
 - Ultimately, we hope to **provide funding to students from underrepresented backgrounds**

10-week Summer Research Program

2 tracks: Workshop-Only Track (n = 37) Research Project Track (n = 29)

Workshops 3x a week

Coding

Research Skills

Professional Development/
Journal Club

Example week:

Programming fundamentals

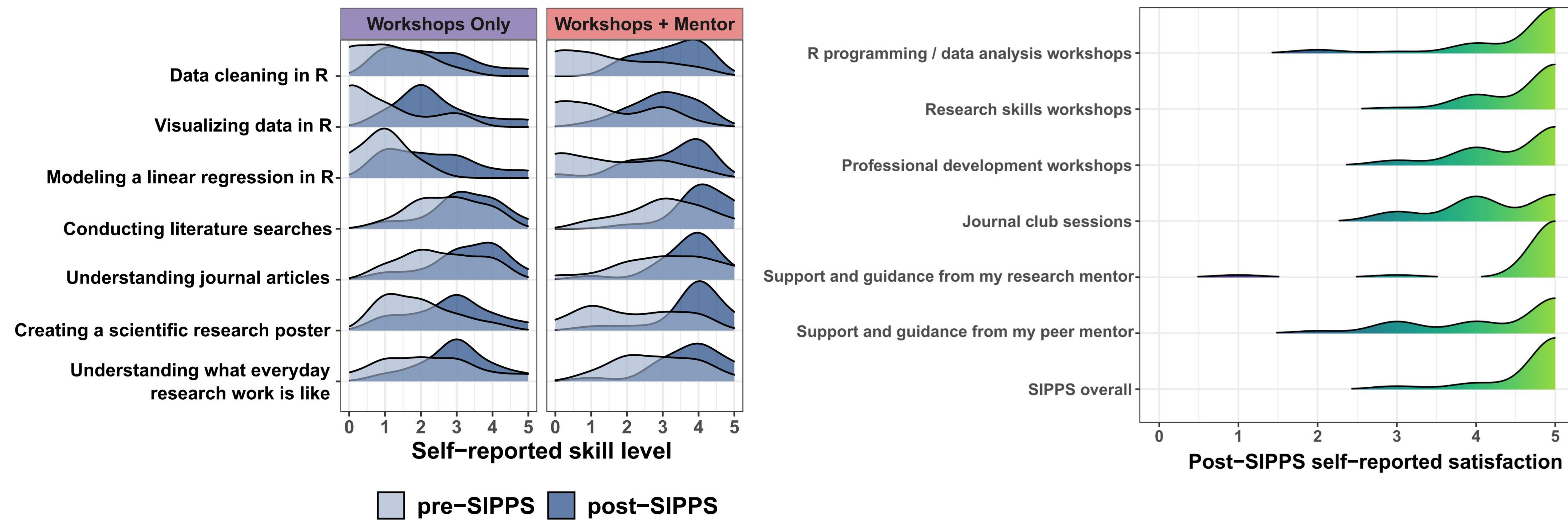
Literature search & Zotero

Careers inside & outside academia

Research Project Track:

- **completion of independent research project**
- **individualized mentorship**
 - graduate student/postdoc mentor
 - “near-peer” mentor (senior undergrad or post-bac w/prior research experience)
- **poster/data blitz presentation** at end of program

Impact of SIPPS 2021



Take-aways from SIPPS 2021

- **Workshops + independent research project track has the greatest efficacy**, but workshops alone show improvements
- **Need for funding:** students who cannot afford to volunteer drop out
- **Recruitment:** recruit students from marginalized backgrounds and those with limited access to research opportunities
- **Training:** Mentor and peer-mentor training with emphasis on inclusive mentorship
- **Workshop changes:** Longer coding workshop with focus on applying principles learned
- **Curriculum revision:** Update workshop content based on feedback

Plans for Summer 2022

- **Provide funding opportunities** such that students from historically excluded backgrounds can get intensive research opportunities
- **Curriculum refinement & expanded mentor training**
- Broaden research opportunities to include more neuroscience labs and collaborate with Zuckerman Institute
- Mentor & student recruitment is underway

Faculty Advisors:

Dima Amso, Ph.D.; Lila Davachi, Ph.D.; Caroline Marvin, Ph.D.; Valerie Purdie-Greenaway, Ph.D.; Alfredo Spagna, Ph.D.

Workshop Instructors & Mentors:

Catherine Bianco, Paul Bloom, Ana DiGiovanni, Halle Dimsdale-Zucker, Ph.D., Loretta Eboigbe, Andrea Fields, Camille Gasser, Nicole Gavrilova, Eleanor Hanson, Manasi Jayakumar, John Kerwin, Nate Martin, Anshu Patel, Sapna Patel, Lisa Pegram, Matt Sachs, Ph.D., Ben Silver, Anshita Singh, Hannah Tarder-Stoll, Monica Thieu, John Thorp, Tim Valshtein, Ph.D., Anna Vannucci, Margaux Wienk, Lauren Wilkins, Jamie Zhang, Wangjing Yu