

Abiraam Samithamby, B.A.

Email: abiraamsamithamby@cmail.carleton.ca

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Forensic Psychology, Carleton University

2024 - Present

Current GPA: 12.0/12.0 (A+ average)

Supervisor: Dr. Kelly Babchishin

Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Psychology, Concordia University

2020 - 2023

Final Graduation GPA: 4.28/4.30

Graduated with Great Distinction

Thesis: *Protective health techniques for the performer of painful narratives*

Supervisor: Dr. Emily Coffey

Diploma of College Studies, Honours Social Science (Psychology Major), Vanier College

2018 - 2020

Overall Average: 97.21%

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

2024 - Present

Sexually Harmful Behaviours Lab, Carleton University

- Contribute to multiple projects examining sexually harmful behaviours, with a focus on intrafamilial child sexual abuse and sexual violence within the involuntary celibate (incel) community.
- Conduct quantitative analyses using SPSS, R, and Mplus to explore various risk factors for child sexual abuse.
- Assisted in a systematic review on incel-related sexual violence, screening over 130 abstracts and evaluating more than 15 full-text articles for inclusion.
- Support lab operations by creating data visualizations for conference presentations, and reviewing manuscripts.

Research Assistant

2022 - 2023

Coffey Lab: Audition, Sleep, and Plasticity (CL:ASP), Concordia University

- Co-led and co-authored projects examining emotional and physiological responses to spoken narratives.
- Designed and implemented experimental tasks using PsychoPy; developed ethics applications, study protocols, and participant materials.
- Collected and analyzed physiological data including heart rate variability, galvanic skin response, and pupillometry.
- Conducted follow-up interviews and qualitative assessments to complement physiological findings.
- Reviewed over 1,150 abstracts and assessed more than 215 full-text articles for a scoping review on physiological responses to emotional narratives.

Peer Reviewer

2022 - 2023

Concordia's Journal of Psychology and Neuroscience, and

Concordia's Journal of Accessible Psychology, Concordia University

- Participated in the peer review process for articles submitted by undergraduate students
- Collaborated with authors by offering constructive feedback, guiding them through multiple rounds of review to enhance the quality of their work, and contributed to the successful publication of the final article online
- Communicated effectively with editors at every stage of the review process
- Participated in workshops focused on the evaluation of empirical articles, employing specific guidelines derived from the peer review process

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Member Service Specialist

04/2024 - 08/2024

Dialogue Health

- Conducted thorough triage assessments for members with mental health concerns to match them with appropriate mental health professionals based on their specific needs.
- Provided compassionate support to distressed members in crisis situations, helping to de-escalate tensions and ensure timely access to appropriate resources.

Specialized Tutor

2023 - 2024

Brightside Learning

- Assisted students affected by ADHD and/or learning disabilities in developing executive functioning skills (e.g., organization, time management, emotional control, and accountability)
- Helped students in improving study skills and implementing effective note-taking strategies
- Held regular meetings with parents and supervisors to share updates on student progress

Bilingual Crisis Responder

2023 - 2024

Kids Help Phone

- Offered empathetic support to individuals experiencing crises via online chat in English and French
- Conducted thorough risk assessments for suicide with every texter
- Discussed different coping strategies and collaboratively set up safety plans for texters
- Followed established guidelines and protocols for crisis response (e.g., abuse, self-harm)
- Worked along a team of crisis responders and professionals to ensure effective support

AQUA Kids Program Volunteer

2023 - 2024

Montreal Centre for Learning Disabilities

- Assisted children with autism, ADHD, and/or learning disabilities during arts and craft, gym, and swimming activities
- Supported the development of social skills and emotion regulation skills for participating children
- Offered emotional support to children facing personal challenges (e.g., school anxiety, loneliness)
- Effectively de-escalated conflict situations that arose between participating children

Active Listener**01/2022 - 05/2022***Face à Face Listening and Intervention Centre*

- Helped individuals overcome their personal difficulties through active listening
- Provided mail reception and housing search services for individuals without a fixed address
- Attended training sessions on various subjects involving mental health, trauma, and addiction

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant**2024 - Present***Department of Psychology, Carleton University**Courses: PSYC 2400A (Introduction to Forensic Psychology); PSYC 3402C (Criminal Behaviour)*

- Graded exams and written assignments, providing constructive feedback to support students' academic and writing development.
- Held regular office hours to review course material, and answer student questions.
- Supported course instructors by managing administrative tasks such as responding to student inquiries, updating grades, and maintaining the Brightspace platform.

Peer Mentor**05/2023 - 08/2023***Coffey Lab: Audition, Sleep, and Plasticity (CL:ASP), Concordia University*

- Mentored a psychology student who joined my research project as a research assistant in Summer 2023, setting her on a solid path for her Specialization Thesis class in 2023-2024
- Conducted comprehensive training sessions, equipping her with the skills to operate research equipment, navigate software (e.g. PsychoPy), and conduct experimental sessions

Math and English Tutor**2017 - 2022***Kumon Math and Reading Centre*

- Helped instructors manage a class with more than 50 students, from ages 3 to 18
- Worked with several students with autism, ADHD and/or learning disabilities
- Helped students manage their anxiety concerning tests
- Offered feedback and progress reports to students, parents, and instructors

RESEARCH AWARDS

SSHRC - Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's**2025 - 2026**

Value: \$27,000

Location: Carleton University

FRQSC - Master's Training Scholarship**2024 - 2026**

Value: \$40,000.00

Location: Carleton University

FRQNT - Supplements of the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award	2023
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Value: \$1,500.00

Project Title: Protective Health Techniques for the Performer of Painful Narratives

Location: Concordia University

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award	2023
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Value: \$8,120.00

Project Title: Protective Health Techniques for the Performer of Painful Narratives

Location: Concordia University

FRQNT - Supplements of the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award	2022
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Value: \$1,500.00

Project Title: Protective Health Techniques for the Performer of Painful Narratives

Location: Concordia University

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award	2022
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Value: \$9,670.00

Project Title: Protective Health Techniques for the Performer of Painful Narratives

Location: Concordia University

ACADEMIC AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & RECOGNITIONS

Ralph Serin Research Grant	2025
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Value: \$500.00

Location: Carleton University

Departmental Scholarships	2024 - 2026
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Value: \$8,500.00

Location: Carleton University

Domestic Entrance Scholarship	2024 - 2025
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Value: \$2,000.00

Location: Carleton University

Faculty of Arts and Science Scholar	2020 - 2023
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Description: A distinction granted to the top 1% of scholars within their faculty

Location: Concordia University

Dean's List	2020 - 2023
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Description: A distinction granted to students who achieve a minimum annual GPA of 3.75

Location: Concordia University

Jack L Cummings Scholarship	2022
Value: \$1,250.00	
Description: Awarded to one student annually for their outstanding academic accomplishment	
Location: Concordia University	
Arts and Science Federation of Associations Award	2022
Value: \$300.00	
Description: Recognizes four students who have excelled in their academic career annually	
Location: Concordia University	
Crevier-Bronstetter Scholarship	2021
Value: \$4,000.00	
Description: Awarded to one student annually for their outstanding academic accomplishment	
Location: Concordia University	
Governor General's Academic Medal	2020
Description: Granted to the highest academically-standing student in their graduating year	
Location: Vanier College	
John Economides Scholarship	2020
Value: \$1,000.00	
Description: Awarded to one student annually for their outstanding academic accomplishment	
Location: Vanier College	
Program Award	2020
Description: Awarded for graduating with the highest grade average in the Psychology program	
Location: Vanier College	
Dean's Honour Roll	2018 - 2020
Description: A distinction granted for maintaining a grade average of 90% and above	
Location: Vanier College	
Entrance Bursary	2018
Value: \$200.00	
Description: Awarded to the incoming Psychology student with the highest high school grade average	
Location: Vanier College	

OTHER AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

CPA Student Travel Award	2025
Value: \$250.00	
Location: CPA 2025 Annual National Convention, St. John's, NL, Canada.	

Value: \$100.00

Article: Method or Madness? Exploring the Psychological Effects of Method Acting

Journal: Concordia's Journal of Accessible Psychology

SKILLS

APPLICATIONS/SOFTWARE:

- Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Google Docs and Slides
- PsychoPy
- Overleaf and LaTeX
- Inkscape (graphics editor)
- Audacity (audio editor)
- Zotero
- LabRecorder

DATA/STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:

- R
- JASP
- SPSS
- Mplus
- Python (basic)
- Microsoft Excel
- Google Sheets

CERTIFIED TRAININGS:

- TCPS 2: CORE
- Static-99R

EQUIPMENT:

- Shimmer3 GSR+ Device (skin conductance, heart rate)
- Pupil Labs Eye-tracker

LANGUAGES:

- English (fluent)
- French (fluent)
- Tamil (fluent)
- Spanish (basic)

WRITTEN SCIENTIFIC WORK

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLISHED ARTICLES:

1. Savard, M.-A., Merlo, R., **Samithamby, A.**, Paas, A., & Coffey, E. B. J. (2024). Approaches to studying emotion using physiological responses to spoken narratives: A scoping review. *Psychophysiology*, 00, e14642. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psyp.14642>

PUBLISHED ARTICLES (OTHERS):

1. **Samithamby, A.** (2022, October 1). Method or madness? Exploring the psychological effects of method acting. *Concordia's Journal of Accessible Psychology*.
<https://www.concordiapsychjournals.ca/cjap/blog/method-or-madness/>

SUBMITTED ARTICLES:

1. Davidson, M., **Samithamby, A.**, & Babchishin, K. M. (2025). *The links between the involuntary celibacy subculture and sexual violence: A systematic review* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Psychology, Carleton University.

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION:

1. Merlo, R. *, **Samithamby, A. ***, Brignol, A., Savard, M.-A., Bou Rjelly, D., & Coffey, E. (in progress). *Modulating emotional reactivity through listening strategies in actors performing painful narratives* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Psychology, Concordia University.
*contributed equally
2. Babchishin, K. M., McAskill, M., **Samithamby, A.**, & Seto, M. C. (in progress). *Understanding incest propensities in fathers from Brazil and India* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Psychology, Carleton University.

3. Holmes, E. J., Davidson, M., **Samithamby, A.**, & Babchishin, K. M. (in progress). *Sibling relationship quality impacts propensity for sibling sexual abuse, but primarily among same-gender and older siblings* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Psychology, Carleton University.
4. **Samithamby, A.**, Babchishin, K. M., Quinten, L., Schmidt, A., Gannon, C., & Lehmann, R. (in progress). *Not all Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) users are the same: Differences between fictional and 'real' CSEM users* [Manuscript in preparation]. Department of Psychology, Carleton University.

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

1. **Samithamby, A.**, Babchishin, K. M., & Seto, M. C. (August, 2025). *Father-daughter intrafamilial child sexual abuse: Exploring risk factors*. In K. M. Babchishin (Chair), Exploring the risk factors for sibling- and father-perpetrated sexual abuse [Symposium]. To be presented at the 18th Conference of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO), Poznań, Poland.
2. McAskill, M., Babchishin, K.M., Seto, M.C., & **Samithamby, A.** (2025, August 26-29). *Testing explanations for incest among a large sample of fathers from Brazil and India*. In K. M. Babchishin (Chair), Exploring the risk factors for sibling and father perpetrated sexual abuse [Symposium]. To be presented at the 18th Conference of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO), Poznań, Poland.
3. **Samithamby, A.**, Babchishin, K., & Seto, M. C. (June, 2025). *Understanding risk factors for intrafamilial child sexual abuse committed by fathers*. In E. J. Holmes (Chair) Exploring the relationship between familial context and intrafamilial sexual contact and abuse. Symposium to be presented at CPA 2025 Annual National Convention. St. John's, NL, Canada.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. **Samithamby, A.**, Quinten, L., & Babchishin, K. M. (2025, August 26-29). *Not all Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) users are the same: Differences between fictional and 'real' CSEM users* [Poster presentation]. IATSO 2025 Conference, Poznań, Poland.
2. **Samithamby, A.***, Merlo, R.*, Brignol, A., Savard, M.-A., Jiménez, C., Castro, L. S., & Coffey, E. (2023, May 28-31). *Physiological reactivity in acting: Exploring the effects of traumatic narratives on emotional arousal* [Poster presentation]. 16th Canadian Neuroscience Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
<https://can-acn.org/meeting-2023/>
*contributed equally
3. Merlo, R.*, **Samithamby, A.***, Brignol, A., Bou Rjeily, D., Savard, M.-A., Jiménez, C., Castro, L. S., & Coffey, E. (2023, May 1). *Modulating emotions in theatre performance: The effect of attentional techniques on physiological arousal* [Poster presentation]. 24th Annual Neuropsychology Day and Brenda Milner Lecture, Montreal, Canada.
<https://www.mcgill.ca/neuro/channels/event/24th-annual-neuropsychology-day-and-brenda-milner-lecture-functional-specializations-cortex-humans-335332>
*contributed equally

4. **Samithamby, A.**, Merlo, R., Brignol, A., Bou Rjeily, D., Savard, M.-A., Jiménez, C., Castro, L. S., & Coffey, E. (2023, March 16). *Modulating emotional reactivity through listening strategies: A step towards safer acting practices* [Poster presentation]. CRDH Conference and Schwartzman Lecture, Montreal, Canada. <https://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/artsci/human-development/2023/03/16/2023-crdh-schwartzman-lecture.html?c=/events>
5. **Samithamby, A.**, Merlo, R., Brignol, A., Bou Rjeily, D., Savard, M.-A., Jiménez, C., Castro, L. S., & Coffey, E. (2022, November 11). *Preventive health techniques for the performer of painful narratives* [Poster presentation]. Undergraduate Student Research Showcase. <https://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/offices/vprgs/2022/11/11/undergraduate-research-showcase.html>