

## Mary H. Kayyal

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth  
285 Old Westport Rd, North Dartmouth, MA 02747  
(508) 999 - 8378  
[mkayyal@umassd.edu](mailto:mkayyal@umassd.edu)

### EDUCATION HISTORY

---

- 2014 Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, Boston College  
Dissertation Title: *Judgments of Emotion from Spontaneous Facial Expressions of Emotion across Cultures and Languages: Testing the Universality Thesis*  
Advisor: Dr. James A. Russell
- 2009 M.A., Developmental Psychology, Boston College  
Thesis Title: *Comparing Palestinian and American Children's Understanding of Emotion*  
Advisor: Dr. James A. Russell
- 2006 B.A., Psychology; International Studies (focus: Middle Eastern studies), Boston College

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

- 2014 - Present: Assistant Teaching Professor, Psychology, *University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth*  
2015: Part-time Lecturer, *Boston College*

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

#### *Courses Taught, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth*

Introduction to the College of Arts and Sciences  
Strategies for Success  
Culture and Emotion  
General Psychology  
Moral Psychology  
Research Methods in Developmental Psychology  
Research Methods in Personality and Social Psychology  
Social Psychology for non-majors  
Social Psychology for majors  
Statistics for Psychology (Standard and Honors)

#### *Courses Taught, Boston College*

Social Psychology  
Research Practicum in Social and Cognitive Psychology  
Research Practicum in Emotion  
Social and Emotional Development  
Culture and Emotion  
Introduction to Developmental Psychology

### **Teaching Assistantships, Boston College**

2012	Emotion
2010	Clinical Psychology: Psychological Disorders and Treatments
2010	Introduction to Psychology as a Natural Science
2009	Abnormal Psychology
2009	Introduction of Behavioral Research Methods and Statistics (II)
2008	Introduction to Psychology as a Natural Science
2008	Social Psychology
2007	Developmental Psychology

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

---

To make sense of their emotional world, human beings divide emotions into categories (e.g., happiness and fear)—these categories represent how we “see” and conceptualize emotions. I am interested in how these categories first emerge, how they develop with age, and how culture and language interact with this development. What is universal and what is culture-specific in the way we navigate our emotional world?

This program of basic research demonstrated that children begin with two broad and valence-based categories (feels good vs. feels bad) which only gradually differentiate as children acquire adult-like emotion concepts. How differentiated these categories are – or how differentiated they become – varies with culture and, if you are bilingual, with language. My cross-cultural work has challenged dominant theories of emotion and shed some light on how we understand various cues to emotion, including facial expressions, situational causes, and behavioral consequences.

More recently, I have extended my emotion research to other domains, including fiction (i.e., what role emotion plays in children’s understanding of the structure of fiction) and morality (i.e., the nature of the cognitive association between disgust and our judgments of moral violations).

### **PUBLICATIONS**

---

Amaral, K., Ayotte, B., **Kayyal, M.K.**, & Hojjat, M. (in prep). Preference for interracial and interethnic dating and person variables. *Journal of Individual Differences*.

Browning, M., Llyod-Richardson, E.E., Trisal, A.V., & **Kayyal, M.H.** (in prep). An integration of Psychological flexibility with psychological distress, flourishing, and quality of life as a composite clinical outcome. *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy*.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Widen, S.C., & Russell (in press). Palestinian and American Children’s Emotion Categories: Culture Specifies the Development of Discrete Emotion Categories. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Widen, S.C. (2021). Imaginary and Realistic Fears: Their Causes and Consequences for Palestinian Children and American Children. *Merrill Palmer Quarterly: Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 67, 1-22.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Pochedly, J., McArthy, A., & Russell, J.A. (2015). On the limits of the relation of disgust to judgments of immorality, *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00951.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Widen, S. C. (2015). What made Sahar scared?: Imaginary and realistic causes in Palestinian and American children’s concept of fear. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 15, (32-44). doi: 10.1163/15685373-12342139

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Widen, S.C., & Russell (2015). Context is more powerful than we think: Contextual cues override facial cues even on valence. *Emotion*, *15*, 287-291. doi: 10.1037/emo0000032

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (2013). Palestinians and Americans judge spontaneous facial expressions of emotion. *Emotion*, *13*, 891-904. doi: 10.1037/a0033244.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (2013). Language and emotion: Certain English – Arabic translations are not equivalent. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, *32*, 261-271. doi: 10.1177/0261927X12461004

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Widen, S.C. (2013). Monsters and growling dogs: a dual-source theory of the child's concept of fear. *Psychological Topics*, *22*, 367-382. udc: 159.942.4.072-053.2.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (in prep). Judgments of spontaneous facial expressions of emotion across cultures and languages: Testing the Universality Thesis. Manuscript in preparation.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (in prep). Cultural variation exists within a universal broad-to-differentiated path of emotion category development: Evidence from children's understanding of emotion cues from faces, causes, behaviors, body postures, and vocal intonation. Manuscript in preparation.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (in prep). Palestinian and American children's understanding of emotion from facial expressions, situational causes, and behavioral consequences. Manuscript in preparation.

## **INVITED GUEST LECTURES**

---

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2015). *Children's fear concept -- and how it develops -- from a cross-cultural perspective*, UMass Dartmouth

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2014). *Judgments of Spontaneous Facial Expressions of Emotion across Cultures and Languages*, UMass Dartmouth

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2014). *The development of children's understanding of facial expressions of emotion: Theories and evidence from Palestinian and American Children*, UMass Dartmouth

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2012). *The relation between disgust and immorality is mere coincidence*, Boston University

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2011). *Culture, language, and the categorization of emotions*, Boston College

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2010). *Psychological disorders and treatments: Does psychotherapy work? Yes, no, and it depends*, Boston College

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2010). *Methods for studying children's understanding of emotion cross-culturally*, Boston College

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2010). *How does culture influence what emotion we see in a face? Palestinian and American judgments of emotion from spontaneous facial expressions*, Boston College

**Kayyal, M.H.** (2008). *Emotion and affect: Theoretical perspectives and cross-cultural research*, Boston College

## **SYMPOSIA PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Pochedly, J., Nelson, N., and Widen, S. (2013, April). Mean Monsters, slithering snakes, and culture: Imaginary and Realistic Causes in Palestinian children's fear concept. Symposium conducted at the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle.

Nelson, N., Widen, S.C., **Kayyal, M.H.**, Gendron, Maria (2013, January). Spontaneous facial expressions of emotion are not universally recognized: Methodological and substantive issues. Facial expressions are universally recognized (except when they aren't): Evidence from developmental, cross-cultural, and clinical populations. Symposium conducted at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nelson, N., Widen, S.C., & **Kayyal, M.H.** (2012, May). Children's attribution of fear to real versus imaginary, and controllable versus uncontrollable, creatures. *The effect of context on emotion judgments: From preschool to adulthood*. Symposium conducted at the Jean Piaget Society, Toronto, Canada.

## **CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (2014, April). *Spontaneous facial expressions of emotion are interpreted but not "recognized."* Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, & Russell, J.A. (2014, February). *Moral judgments are predicted by a wide range of negative emotions*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, Texas.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (2012, January). *The emotion observers see in a face cannot be predicted with a single label: Cross-cultural evidence*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, California.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2011, October). *Palestinian and American children's understanding of facial expressions*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Chicago, Illinois.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2011, March). *Palestinian and American children's understanding of the behavioral consequences associated with realistic and imaginary causes of fear*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Quebec.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2011, January). *Children's understanding of unregulated emotional expressions in private versus public contexts*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Emotion Pre-Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2010, April). *Palestinian and American children's interpretation of fantasy- and reality-based causes of fear*. Poster presented at the Conference on Human Development, New York.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2010, January). *Palestinian and American children's understanding of fear*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's

Emotion Pre-Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2010, January). *Palestinian and American children's understanding of emotion from facial expressions, situational causes, and behavioral consequences*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., & Widen, S. C. (2009, May). *Themes Palestinian and American children use to describe fear and sadness*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.

**Kayyal, M.H.** & Russell, J.A. (2008, May). *Palestinian and American judgments of spontaneous facial expressions of emotion*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, Illinois.

**Kayyal, M.H.**, Russell, J.A., Widen, S.C. (2007, October). *Palestinian and American children's salient sources of fear*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## **PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT CERTIFICATIONS**

---

2018 Workshop in R, *UMass Dartmouth*

2016 Online Teaching Training, *UMass Dartmouth Instructional Development*

2015 Blended Learning Training, *UMass Dartmouth Instructional Development*

## **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP ROLES**

---

### ***Committees***

#### ***Current roles***

- Chair of Provost's Retention Committee (Present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Co-director of College of Arts and Sciences Transitional courses, *UMass Dartmouth*
- Chair of the Statistics Collaborative (2017 – present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Chair of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2022 – present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Member of Assessment Committee (2022 – present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Member of College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (2022-present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Member on Psychology Research MA Program (2016-present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Member of Psychology Research Methods Collaborative (2014-present), *UMass Dartmouth*
- Member of the Standard Committee to create standards for faculty promotions (2022 - present), *UMass Dartmouth*

#### ***Previous roles, 2020 - 2021***

- Chaired the Evaluation Committee for the Dean's three-year review, *UMass Dartmouth*
- Served on successful FTL Social Search Committee, *UMass Dartmouth*
- Served on the Chancellor's Retention Program for freshmen, *UMass Dartmouth*

### ***Academic Research Mentoring***

2022 - Supervising Master's Research Thesis, *UMass Dartmouth*

2018-2022 Committee member for undergraduate honor's and graduate master's theses, *UMass Dartmouth*

2011-2014 Supervision of undergraduate honor's theses projects and supervision of undergraduate research assistants, *Boston College*

2013-2014 Chair of Undergraduate Research Fellowship Committee, *Boston College*

- 2012-2014 Co-founder of Psychology Department's Graduate Student Workshop, *Boston College*  
2010-2012 Psychology Department Developmental Workshop Speaker Series Organizational  
Committee, *Boston College*  
2007-2011 Psychology Graduate Student Research Day Organizational Committee, *Boston College*

### **AWARDS GRANTED**

---

- 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, *Boston College*  
2011 Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, *Boston College*  
2011 International Research and Conference Grant, *Boston College*

### **SOFTWARE SKILLS**

---

Qualtrics  
SPSS  
Statistica