

DISHA KOTECHA

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LAB AFFILIATION: YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN COURT SYSTEMS (YFACS) LAB

Research Interests: user-centered design, intervention science, mental health, early childhood adversity and traumatic stress, children's coping

EDUCATION

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Philosophy in Law & Psychology

Expected: May 2029

Advisor: Dr. Karey O'Hara (Chair)

Master of Science in Law & Psychology

Expected: May 2026

Advisor: Dr. Karey O'Hara (Chair)

GPA: 3.87

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Master of Science in Psychological Science (conversion)

September 2022-

Advisor: Dr. Martin Lages

August 2023

Thesis: *Exploring Verdict System through Bootstrapping: Impacts on Juror and Jury Decision-Making in Scotland's Legal Context*

GPA: 18.22/22 (**Distinction**)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING PUNE

Bachelor of Technology in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering

August 2017-
May 2021

GPA: 8.16/10 (**Distinction**)

MANUSCRIPTS

IN PREPARATION

Moghe, K., **Kotecha, D.**, & Patil, M. (2020). COVID-19 and mental health: A study of its impact on students in Maharashtra, India. *medRxiv*.

Moghe, K., **Kotecha, D.**, & Patil, M. (2021). COVID-19 & Mental Health: Impact on Working people and Students. *medRxiv*.

PUBLISHED

Hoppe, R., **Kotecha, D.**, O'Hara, K.L., & Nudson, T. (in press). Preliminary evaluation of the BeH2O co-parenting program using a multiple baseline experimental design. *Family Court Review*.

Mayank, Bhowmick, S., **Kotecha, D.**, & Rege, P. P. (2021). Natural Scene Text Detection using Deep Neural Networks. *2021 6th International Conference for Convergence in Technology (I2CT)*, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1109/I2CT51068.2021.9418116>

BOOK CHAPTERS

ACCEPTED

Parker, S. M., **Kotecha, D.**, O'Hara, K.L., & Wolchik, S. (in press). Behavioral parent training in the context of conflict and divorce. In T. Del Vecchio and M. Terjesen, *Handbook of Behavioral Parent Training*. American Psychological Association.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

PLENARY, SYMPOSIA, and PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- Parker, S., **Kotecha, D.**, O'Hara, K. L., & Sullivan, C. (2025). Promoting Youth Mental Health: Evidence-Based Interventions in Family Law. Workshop at the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Fall 2025 Virtual Conference.
- Parker, S., Sullivan, C., **Kotecha, D.**, & O'Hara, K. L. (2025). From Research to Reform: Evidence-Based Innovations for Promoting Youth Mental Health in Family Law. Arizona AFCC Family Court Orientation & Training 2025.
- Moghe, K., **Kotecha, D.**, and Patil, M. (2021) COVID-19 & Mental Health: Impact on Working people and Students. ISMA India: 8th International Congress of Stress, Performance & Wellness.

POSTER PRESENTATION

Kotecha, D., O'Hara, K. L., Hoppe, R., & Davies, P. T. (2025). Attachment Security, Interparental Conflict, and Youth Mental Health: Exploring the Role of Non-Residential Parent-Child Relationships After Parental Divorce/Separation. Poster accepted for 2026 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA).

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

AzAFCC Family Court Orientation & Training –	September, 2025
42nd Annual Arizona Family and Conciliary Courts Conference – Sedona, Az	January, 2025
Center for Resilient Families Conference – Scottsdale, Az	February, 2025
American Psychology and Law Society Conference – San Juan, PR	March, 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

ONGOING PROJECTS

SOAR DV Respite Program <i>Principle Investigator: Dr. Cortney Simmons</i>	September 2024- Present
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Developing a youth domestic violence risk assessment tool focusing on adolescent domestic battery to identify key risk and protective factors and guide resource recommendations for adolescents in Maricopa County.

Arizona Supreme Court Mental Health

Principle Investigator: Dr. Cortney Simmons

January 2025-
Present

Project focuses on evaluating and improving performance measures in Arizona's Mental Health Courts by analyzing court data, conducting a national scan of best practices, developing a stakeholder survey, and advising on metrics for new programs.

Project Brain Team

Principle Investigator: Dr. Karey O'Hara

August 2024-
Present

This is a randomized clinical trial of a digital coping program for children ages 9-12 who are experiencing mental health struggles due to interparental conflict (IPC) in the context of divorce/separation.

New Beginnings Program- 26-year follow-up

Principle Investigator: Drs. Sharlene Wolchik & Irwin Sandler

August 2024-
Present

26-year longitudinal follow-up of the New Beginnings Program (NBP), a preventive intervention for children from divorced families. The study examines the enduring effects of NBP as well as intergenerational long-term impact across two generations.

GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Master's Thesis

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Martin Lages

January 2022-
August 2023

Student Researcher

Researched Scotland's jury system focusing on rape and assault cases, analyzed factors influencing verdict outcomes using simulated juries, and highlighted the impact of the not-proven verdict and larger juries in rape trials.

GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS/HONORS

GRANTS FUNDED RESEARCH

Arizona Supreme Court Mental Health Funding

\$8,535.40

Summer
2025

ASU School of Interdisciplinary Forensics

Review and analyze reported Mental Health Court

Performance Measures in Arizona

Assist with the development of a survey for Arizona courts with an existing Mental Health Court Program

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Student-Staff Partnership Grant (Paterson & Morrow, Co PIs)	\$1550	Spring 2023
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School of Psychology and Neuroscience

Evaluating how students engage with class assessment feedback and its influence on subsequent assessment.

Role: Student Partner

ADDITIONAL GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIP

AZAFCC Conference Scholarship	cost of registration & lodging	January 2025
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ASU Teaching Assistantship	full tuition waiver	Fall 2024-Fall 2025
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University Graduate Fellowship	\$2700	January 2025
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AWARDS/HONORS

Breaking Adjudicator, ILS Asian Parliamentary Debate	January 2019
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'Atrang Jyostute' for exemplary performance in the COEP Debate and Quiz Club	March 2019
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EMPLOYMENT

Wheatley Care, Wheatley Group	November 2022-June 2024
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Supervisor: Donna MacDonald

Mental Health and Wellbeing Assistant

Worked with individuals with learning disabilities and mental health disorders by providing social, mental health, and physical support.

Tata Digital Ltd.	June 2021-May 2022
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Supervisor: Abhishek Kanthed

Digital Engineer

Worked as an Android app developer and Site Reliability Engineer.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Teaching Assistant – Psych 549 Capstone in Forensic Psychology	Spring 2026 Session B
Teaching Assistant – Psych 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology	Spring 2026 Session A
Teaching Assistant – Psych 549 Capstone in Forensic Psychology	Fall 2025 Session B
Teaching Assistant – Psych 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology	Fall 2025 Session A
Teaching Assistant – Psych 514 Fundamentals of Forensic Psychology Research	Summer 2025 Session B
Teaching Assistant – Psych 545 Advanced Legal Psychology	Spring 2025 Session B
Teaching Assistant – Psych 546 Advanced Forensic Psychology	Spring 2025 Session A
Teaching Assistant – Psych 211 The Criminal Mind	Fall 2024 Session B
Teaching Assistant – Psych 211 The Criminal Mind	Fall 2024 Session A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Reviewer <i>Journal of Child Development</i>	November, 2025
Co-Reviewer <i>Special Issue in Family Transitions</i>	October, 2025
Graduate Student Committee Co-Chair Co-led the student organization for ASU's Law & Psychology Ph.D. Program	August 2025-May 2026
Arizona Family and Conciliation Courts Conference Volunteer Helped conference attendees register and check into the conference	January 2025
Class Representative MSc. Psychological Science conversion	September 2022-August 2023

Founder & Core Member COEP Mitr

College level program to create mental health awareness

August 2019-May 2021

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS & TECHNICAL SKILLS

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

IRB Basics	August 2024
HIPPA Training	August 2024
CITI Good Clinical Practice	August 2024
CITI Human Research –Social/Behavioral Research	August 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

SPSS Statistical Software, Qualtrics, REDCap, Canvas, RStudio, Yellowdig, MATLAB, Python

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychology-Law Society	Spring 2025- Present
APA Division 37 Child Maltreatment	Spring 2025-Present
Association of Family & Conciliation Courts (Arizona Chapter)	Spring 2025-Present

REFERENCES

Dr. Karey O'Hara

Research Mentor

Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

klohara@asu.edu

Dr. Martin Lages

Senior Lecturer

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

martin.lages@glasgow.ac.uk

Dr. Maxin Swingler

Senior Lecturer

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

maxine.swingler@glasgow.ac.uk

Dr. Kshipra Moghe

Assistant Professor of Psychology

COEP Technological University, Pune, India

kam.appsci@coeptech.ac.in