

MAHEK NIRAV SHAH

Department of Human Development and Family Science
Norton School of Human Ecology
University of Arizona
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EDUCATION

2027 (expected)	Ph.D., Human Development and Family Science University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona Major Advisor: Dr. Melissa Curran Minor: Statistics
2024	M.S., Human Development and Family Science University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona Advisor: Dr. Melissa Curran
2022	B.A., Psychology Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania Advisor: Dr. Marc Schulz

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Shah, M. N., Curran, M. A., Kopystynska, O., Barnett, M. A., Aroz-Moscoso, G., Oliver, J. C. (2025). Pathways linking depressive symptoms, financial stress, constructive conflict, and coparenting alliance in primarily unmarried, low-income mothers and fathers. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075251331326>

Shah, M.N. (2026, under review). A Review of Couple Financial Communication: Conceptualization and Links to the Couple Relationship. *Journal Family Theory & Review*.

Shah, M. N., Curran, M. A., Aroz-Moscoso, G., Suxo-Sanchez, S. C., Yorgason, J. B., & Holmes, E. K. (2026, submitted). Links between depressive symptoms, perceived partner financial mismanagement, and secure attachment behaviors in newly-married couples. Submitted to the *Journal of Family Psychology*.

Aroz-Moscoso, G., Curran, M. A., Barnett, M. A., Knapp, D., **Shah, M.N.** (2026, under preparation). Testing Associations between Interparental Conflict, Support and Affection, and

Coparenting Alliance among Low-Income Couples. Manuscript in preparation. Plan to submit to *Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice*.

Suxo-Sanchez, S. C., **Shah, M. N.**, Edwards, J., White, K. J. (2026, under preparation). Financial Socialization and Race: A Review. Plan to submit to the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Shah, M. N., Perez-Brena, N., Curran, M. A., Aroz-Moscoso, G., Suxo-Sanchez, S.C., Yorgason, J. B., & LeBaron-Black, A. B. (2026, July). *Financial communication and secure attachment behavior among couples: a growth curve model*. To be presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Aroz-Moscoso, G., Curran, M. A., **Shah, M. N.**, & Suxo-Sanchez, S. C. (2026, July). Couple relationship quality and coparenting alliance: Examining the mediating role of interparental conflict in primarily unmarried, low-income couples. To be presented at the International Association of Relationship Research held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Suxo-Sanchez, S. C., Edwards, M. H., LeBaron-Black, A. B., Curran, M. A., **Shah, M. N.**, Aroz-Moscoso, G., & Holmes, E. K. (2026, July). Money and marriage: Exploring latent profiles of financial distress and financial management behaviors and their associations with relationship satisfaction. To be presented at the International Association of Relationship Research held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Shah, M. N., Curran, M. A., Aroz-Moscoso, G., Yorgason, J. B., & Holmes, E. K. (2025, August). *Examining links between depressive symptoms, finances, attachment security, and relational strengths in newlywed couples*. Data blitz presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, London, England, UK.

Aroz-Moscoso, G., Curran, M. A., & **Shah, M. N.** (2025, August). *Exploring the moderating role of interparental conflict on support and affection and coparenting alliance in couples during the transition to parenthood*. Data blitz presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, London, England, UK.

Shah, M.N., Aroz-Moscoso, G. & Curran, M. A. (2024, July). Pathways linking depressive symptoms, financial stress, constructive conflict, and coparenting alliance in unmarried, lower-income mothers and fathers. In J. Peetz, (Chair), *Finances in romantic relationships*. Symposium presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Boston, Massachusetts.

Aroz-Moscoso, G., **Shah, M.N.** & Curran, M. A. (2024, July). *Interparental conflict, support and affection, and coparenting alliance among lower-income, unmarried couples transitioning to parenthood*. Data blitz presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Boston, Massachusetts.

Shah, M.N., Kuelz, A., Curran, M. A. & Aroz, G. (2023, May). *Attachment patterns and satisfaction with sacrifices and their connections to relationship satisfaction in couples*. Poster presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Phoenix, Arizona.

Aroz, G., Kuelz, A., Curran, M. A. & **Shah, M. N.** (2023, May). *Couples' reasons for cohabitation linked with satisfaction with sacrifices*. Poster presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Phoenix, Arizona.

Shah, M. N., Schulz, M. S. (2022, April). *Mapping adult relationship orientations*. Poster presented at the Women in Data Science Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (online due to COVID-19)

Feinberg, A.L., **Shah, M. N.**, Nevarez, M., Waldinger, B., Schulz, M. S. (2021, November). *Constructing redemption from low moments: how redemption relates to early experiences as well as emotion, life satisfaction, and health*. Poster presented at the ABCT 55th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA (online due to COVID-19)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022-Present

Graduate Research Associate

Department of Human Development and Family Science
University of Arizona

Research Projects: Pathways linking depressive symptoms, financial stress, constructive conflict, and coparenting alliance in unmarried, lower-income mothers and fathers; Examining links between depressive symptoms, perceived partner financial mismanagement, attachment security behaviors, and relational strengths in newlywed couples.

Duties: Data analysis, data management, manuscript preparation, and grant writing.

2025
(Fall)

Graduate Research Assistant

Department of Personal and Family Financial Planning
University of Arizona

Research Project: Variations by race in family financial socialization messages

Duties: Literature Review and identifying emerging themes and subthemes for the scoping review.

2020-2022

Undergraduate Research Associate

Department of Psychology, Bryn Mawr College
Harvard Study of Adult Development (Dr. Marc Schulz)

Research Project: Mapping Adult Relationship Orientations and their Connections to Childhood Family Environments

Duties: Data Analysis, data management, and organizing archival files

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona

In-Person Solo Teaching

2026 Course: Applying Critical Thinking
(Spring) Department of Family and Consumer Sciences***

Online Course Solo-Instructor

2026 Course: Contemporary Families
(Summer) Department of Human Development and Family Science

Online Course Co-Instructor

2025, 2023 Course: Introduction to Statistics
(Summer) Department of Family and Consumer Sciences***

2025, 2024 Course: Love, Intimacy, and Relationships
(Summer) Department of Human Development and Family Science

2023 Course: Infancy and Child Development
(Summer) Department of Human Development and Family Science

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2024 Course: Theories of Interpersonal and Family Relationships
(Spring) Department of Human Development and Family Science

2024 Course: Fashion Trend in Time
(Spring) Department of Fashion Industry Science and Technology***

2023 Course: Lifespan Human Development
(Fall) Department of Human Development and Family Science

2023, 2022 Course: Love, Intimacy, and Relationships
(Fall) Department of Human Development and Family Science

2023 Course: Introduction to Research Methods
(Spring) Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

2023 Course: Product Development
(Spring) Department of Retailing and Consumer Sciences***

2022 Course: Infancy and Child Development
(Fall) Department of Human Development and Family Science

Guest Lecturer

2022-2025 Course: Infancy and Child Development

(Fall)	Topic: Attachment and Temperament in Infancy Department of Human Development and Family Science
2024 (Fall)	Course: Personal Finance Foundations Topic: How to write SMART financial goals Department of Personal and Family Financial Planning***
2023 (Fall)	Course: Love, Intimacy, and Relationships Topic: Bids for Connection Department of Human Development and Family Science
2023 (Spring)	Course: Product Development Topic: Human-Centered Design Department of Retailing and Consumer Sciences***
2022 (Fall)	Course: Love, Intimacy, and Relationships Topic: Conflict in Couple Relationships Department of Human Development and Family Science

*** The departments of Personal and Family Financial Planning, Retailing and Consumer Sciences, Fashion Industry Science and Technology, and Family and Consumer Sciences are housed within the Norton School of Human Ecology, where the department of Human Development and Family Science also lives.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024	Meritorious Graduate Teaching Award College of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences University of Arizona
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GRANTS

2025	Research and Project (ReaP) Grant (\$1,500) University of Arizona <i>Research Project:</i> Development of the Couple Financial Benevolent Sexism scale and conducting a pilot study to evaluate its reliability and validity. I am leading this one-year-long project.
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FELLOWSHIPS

2023 – 2025	Human Development and Family Science Travel Award (\$750) University of Arizona
2024	Lang Summer Fellowship Department of Human Development and Family Science University of Arizona

2024 Graduate and Professional Student Council Travel Grant (\$1,000)
University of Arizona

2021 Frances Velay Fellowship (\$5,000)
Bryn Mawr College

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023-Present Member, International Association for Relationship Research

2023 Dyadic Longitudinal Data Analysis Workshop
Presenters: Amie M. Gordon, PhD (University of Michigan) and Kate Thorson, PhD (Barnard College)

SERVICE

2025 - 2026 Reviewer
Journal of Marriage and Family, Family Relations

2025-Present Faculty Representative
HDFS Grad Alliance
Norton School of Human Ecology, University of Arizona

2024-2025 Graduate Representative
HDFS Grad Alliance
Norton School of Human Ecology, University of Arizona

2023-2024 Recruitment Coordinator
HDFS Grad Alliance
Norton School of Human Ecology, University of Arizona