



*University of Utah*

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

**ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN RACE, ETHNICITY, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND  
EMOTION DYSREGULATION ON NEWBORN ATTENTION AND AROUSAL**

**Alexander Peterson (Elisabeth Conradt, PhD, Uma Dorn, PhD)**

**Department of Psychology**

The purpose of this research is to examine the associations between socioeconomic, financial stress, and racial minority status on outcomes of newborn neurobehavior of attention and arousal. Based upon previous research, expectant mothers with high levels of emotion dysregulation delivered babies with decreased levels of neurobehavioral arousal and attention (Ostlund et al., 2019). Using the previously established research, this study will test emotion dysregulation as a moderator between socioeconomic status, racial minority status, financial stress, and newborn attention and arousal.

Aim 1: Examine whether prenatal emotion dysregulation moderates the effect of maternal socioeconomic status on newborn attention and arousal.

Aim 2: Examine whether prenatal emotion dysregulation moderates the effect of maternal race and ethnicity on newborn attention and arousal.

Aim 3: Examine whether prenatal emotion dysregulation moderates the effect of maternal financial stress on newborn attention and arousal.

By better understanding the potential relations between socioeconomic and minority-induced strain, we can help guide public policy, programs, and interventions for the betterment of societal equality and child development.

## References

Ostlund, B. D., Vlisides-Henry, R. D., Crowell, S. E., Raby, K. L., Terrell, S., Brown, M., ...  
Conradt, E. (2019). Intergenerational of emotion dysregulation part II: Developmental  
origins of newborn neurobehavior.