Maya L. Rosen, PhD
Research Associate

Harvard University
Department of Psychology
William James Hall, 33 Kirkland St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Harvard University

September 28th, 2020

Program in Neuroscience
Ford Hall
Smith College
100 Green Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Search Committee Members,

I am writing to apply for the tenure-track Assistant Professor of Human Neuroscience in the Program in Neuroscience at Smith College. I am currently a Research Associate at Harvard University, previously was as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Washington, and received my Ph.D. from Boston University in Psychological & Brain Sciences. My graduate work focused on cognitive neuroscience of vision, attention, and memory, and my postdoctoral work applies these methodologies to study how early life experience impacts cognitive faculties of the developing brain. The ultimate aim of my research program is to reveal the psychological and neurodevelopmental mechanisms explaining how early life experience impacts children's well-being. I graduated from Skidmore College as a Neuroscience major. I immensely valued my liberal arts education and the opportunities to contribute to and lead research projects as an undergraduate. I have carried my dedication to undergraduate education through my career with a strong commitment to teaching and track-record of involving undergraduates in research. I would be thrilled to continue this work at Smith College.

In my research program, I use the tools of cognitive neuroscience and developmental science to understand how the brain develops to support children's increasing cognitive and socioemotional functions. Specifically, *my research program focuses on understanding how early environmental experiences shape neural and cognitive development in ways that contribute to disparities in academic, socioemotional, and mental health outcomes.* To do this, I use neuroimaging tools including functional and structural MRI, diffusion tensor imaging, and functional near infrared spectroscopy. I pair these tools with careful measures of children's environmental experiences, behavioral and cognitive tasks, and assessments of academic and mental health outcomes. I use both laboratory studies and analysis of large publicly available datasets, which is conducive continuing my research program at Smith.

I am deeply passionate about undergraduate teaching and mentorship, a value that stems from my own experiences as a student at a liberal arts college. I have designed courses, served as a teaching fellow and independently taught undergraduate courses. Throughout my teaching career, I have received excellent student reviews, including winning the Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award at Boston University, and being recognized for my mentorship while a postdoc at the University of Washington. I am well-prepared to teach courses including Fundamentals of Neuroscience, Methods in Neuroscience, Cognitive Neuroscience, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Computational Neuroscience, the Adolescent Brain, and the Neuroscience of Adversity.

In the laboratory, I consistently seek to integrate undergraduates into my neuroimaging research, both through novel data collection and using large, publicly available datasets. I have mentored

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over 20 research assistants at the undergraduate and post-baccalaureate level, including overseeing several independent projects and three highly successful honors theses. I envision my lab as a point of entry for budding human neuroscientists, where they can learn research skills through direct hands-on experience and gain enthusiasm for this work. In both my teaching and advising, I am for deeply committed to diversity, inclusion and belonging. As a faculty member in Neuroscience, I plan to continue these efforts to foster diversity through my personal pursuits, research, classroom education, mentoring, and public advocacy. This has always been my aspiration and an integral part of why I am passionate about a career at a primarily undergraduate institution and the many opportunities it would afford me to effect change.

I have a strong record of securing extramural funding. I have received multiple external grants including an NIH F32 National Research Service Award, an NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award, as well as a grant from the Bezos Family Foundation. As an Assistant Professor at Smith College, I will be able to use R-level funding from my Pathway to Independence Award to continue my research agenda. I look forward to continuing to seek extramural funding for my work as well as extending my research program through collaborative research efforts with other faculty in Smith's outstanding Program in Neuroscience.

I would be delighted to join your group of innovative and interdisciplinary scientists. Your department exemplifies the type of rigorous research and teaching environment where I ultimately hope to spend my career. My passion for and experience in teaching and mentorship, my dedication to inclusive excellence, and my technical training are well matched for the department's educational mission.

To support my application, please find enclosed: my curriculum vitae, a description of my research, teaching experience, and contributions to diversity. I have also included the contact information for three of mentors who can be contacted for letters of recommendation: Professor Katie McLaughlin (Harvard University, postdoctoral mentor), Professor Andrew Meltzoff (University of Washington, secondary postdoctoral mentor), and Professor David Somers (Boston University, graduate mentor). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if you would like me to send additional materials.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maya L. Rosen

Maya L. Rosen, Ph.D.
Research Associate
Department of Psychology, Harvard University
Email: mayalrosen@fas.harvard.edu
Phone: (518) 879-9429