

**Ovsanna Leyfer, Ph.D.**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

**Contact Information:**

Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders at Boston University  
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Boston, MA 02115  
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**EDUCATION**

**University of Louisville**

Louisville, KY

Ph.D., Clinical Psychology 2007

Doctoral Dissertation: *Anxiety disorders in children with Williams syndrome, their mothers, and their siblings: implications for the etiology of anxiety disorders*

M.A., Clinical Psychology 2005

**Tufts University**

Medford, MA

M.A., Child Development 2001

**Allegheny College**

Meadville, PA

B.A. Cum Laude, Psychology 1999

**LICENSURE**

Licensed Psychologist, Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists 2009 - Present

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Graduate Dean's Citation, University of Louisville	2007
University Fellow, University of Louisville	2003-2005
Alden Scholar, Allegheny College	1997-1998
Freedom Support Act Scholarship, US Department of State	1996-1997

**GRANT SUPPORT**

09/01/2018-present (PI)  
"Intensive Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety Disorders in Adolescents"  
Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund

01/15/2013 — 01/14/2015 (PI)

“N-methyl-d-aspartate-agonist Enhanced Intensive Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy of Panic Disorder in Adolescents”

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation NARSAD Young Investigator Award (#19050)

## SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Portfolio Committee, Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, Boston University

Ad hoc reviewer for *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, *Clinical Psychology Review*, *Frontiers in Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, *Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy*, *Paediatrics*, *Psychiatry Research*, *Psychological Assessment*, *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*

American Psychological Association  
 Association for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies  
 Anxiety and Depression Association of America

## PUBLICATIONS

Pincus, D. B., Nelson, L., & **Leyfer, O.** (In press). Flexibility within Fidelity: Delivering Treatment for Adolescent Panic Disorder. In Kendal P.C. (Ed.), *Flexibility within Fidelity*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Nauphal, M., **Leyfer, O.**, Ward-Cieselski, E.F., & Pincus, D.B. (2020). Predictors of treatment satisfaction among adolescents following an intensive cognitive-behavioral intervention for panic disorder. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, Epub

**Leyfer, O.**, Carpenter, A., & Pincus, D. (2019). N-methyl-d-aspartate agonist enhanced intensive cognitive-behavioral therapy of panic disorder in adolescents. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 50, 268-277.

Sanchez, A.L., Cornacchio, D., Chou, T., **Leyfer, O.**, Coxe, S., Pincus, D.B., & Comer, J.S. (2017). Development of a scale to evaluate young children’s responses to uncertainty and low environmental structure. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 45, 17-23.

**Leyfer, O.**, Gallo, K., Cooper-Vince, C., & Pincus, D. (2013). Comorbidity of DSM-IV anxiety disorders in a clinical sample of children and adolescents. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 27, 306-11.

**Leyfer, O.**, John, A.E., Woodruff-Borden, J., & Mervis, C.B. (2012). Factor structure of the Child Behavior Questionnaire in children with Williams Syndrome. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 42, 2346-53.

- Leyfer, O.** & Brown, T.A. (2010). The Anxiety-Depression Spectrum. In D.H. Barlow (Ed.), *Handbook of Clinical Psychology* (pp.279-293). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Brown, T.A. & **Leyfer, O.** (2010). Classification of anxiety disorders: current status and future directions. In D.J. Stein, E. Hollander, & B. Rothbaum (Eds.), *Textbook of Anxiety Disorders* (pp. 17-34). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press.
- Leyfer, O.**, Woodruff-Borden, J., & Mervis, C.B. (2009). Anxiety disorders in children with Williams syndrome, their mothers, and their siblings: Implications for the etiology of anxiety disorders. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders, 1*, 4-14.
- Leyfer, O.**, Tager-Flusberg, H., Dowd, M., Tomblin, J.B., & Folstein, S.E. (2008). Overlap between autism and specific language impairment: Comparison of Autism Diagnostic Interview and Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule scores. *Autism Research, 1*, 284-297.
- Ballash, N. G., **Leyfer, O.**, Buckley, A. F., & Woodruff-Borden, J. (2006). A developmental analysis of parental control in the etiology of anxiety. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review, 9*, 113-133.
- Leyfer, O.**, Folstein, S. E., Bacalman, S., Davis, N. O., Dinh, E., Morgan, J., Tager-Flusberg, H., & Lainhart, J. E. (2006). Comorbid psychiatric disorders in children with autism: interview development and rates of disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 36*, 849-861.
- Leyfer, O.**, Ruberg, J., & Woodruff-Borden, J. (2006). Examination of the utility of the Beck Anxiety Inventory and its factors as a screener for anxiety disorders. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders, 20*, 444-458.
- Leyfer, O.**, Woodruff-Borden, J., Klein-Tasman, B. P., Fricke, J., & Mervis, C. B. (2006). Prevalence of psychiatric disorders in 4 to 16-year-olds with Williams syndrome. *American Journal of Medical Genetics, 141B*, 615-622.
- Woodruff-Borden, J. & **Leyfer, O.** (2006). Anxiety and fear. In M. Hersen (Ed.), *Clinical Handbook of Behavioral Assessment*, (Vol. 1, pp. 267-289). New York: Academic Press.
- Tadevosyan-Leyfer, O.**, Dowd, M., Mankoski, R., Winkloski, B., Putnam, S., Tager-Flusberg, H., McGrath, L., & Folstein, S. E. (2003). A discriminant factor analysis of the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 42*, 864-872.
- Nurmi, E., Dowd, M., **Tadevosyan-Leyfer, O.**, Haines, J., Folstein, S. E., & Sutcliffe, J. (2003). Subsetting autism families based on savant skills improves evidence of genetic linkage to 15q11-q13. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 42*, 856-863.
- Folstein S. E., Dowd, M., Mankoski, R., & **Tadevosyan, O.** (2003). How might genetic mechanisms operate in autism? In G. Bock (Ed.) *Autism: Neural basis and treatment possibilities* (pp. 70-80). Chichester, UK: John Wiley and Sons.

**Tadevosyan, O.** (2000). The effects of foreign language learning on first language skills in children with mental retardation. In E. Protassova (Ed.) *Bilingualism and Education*, (Vol. 1, pp. 146-150). Helsinki, Finland: University of Helsinki.

### **SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

**Leyfer, O.** & Pincus, D.B. (2020). Predictors of treatment outcome in intensive cognitive-behavioral treatment of panic disorder in adolescents. Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Nauphal, M., **Leyfer, O.**, Pincus, D.B. (2020) Predictors of treatment satisfaction among adolescents following an intensive cognitive-behavioral intervention for panic disorder. Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

**Leyfer, O.**, Carpenter, A., & Pincus, D. (2016). N-Methyl-d-Aspartate-Agonist enhanced intensive cognitive-behavioral therapy of panic disorder in adolescents. Presented at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Fogler, J.M., Prock, L., & **Leyfer, O.** (2015). Traumatic stress disorders and serious mental illness in developmental behavioral pediatrics practice: Tips for troubleshooting and triage. Presented at the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

Pincus, D.B., **Leyfer, O.**, Hardway, C., & Comer, J.S. (2015). Novel and innovative applications of evidence-based treatments for emotional disorders in adolescent patients. Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

**Leyfer, O.** & Mervis, C.B. (2012). Behavioral problems in very young children with Williams syndrome. Presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Professional Conference on Williams Syndrome, Boston, MA.

**Leyfer, O.**, John, A.E., Woodruff-Borden, J., & Mervis, C.B. (2012). Temperament in Williams syndrome: Factor analysis of Child Behavior Questionnaire. Presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaitlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Annapolis, MD.

Chan, P.T., **Leyfer, O.**, Pincus, D.B. (2010). *Family and clinical characteristics of children and youth diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder*. Presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, San Francisco, CA

**Leyfer, O.**, & Brown, T.A. (2008). *Does chronic life stress moderate the influence of neuroticism on the longitudinal course of depression?* Presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Orlando, FL.

**Leyfer, O.**, Buckley, A. F., Zurlage, M. M., Mitchell, C. K., Shaw, M. A., Newton, T. L., & Woodruff-Borden, J. (2006). *Clinical characteristics of younger versus older adults in a medically underserved primary care setting*. Presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy, Chicago, IL.

**Leyfer, O.,** Woodruff-Borden, J., & Mervis, C. B. (2006). *Anxiety disorders in children with Williams syndrome, their mothers, and their siblings: Implications for the etiology of anxiety disorders*. Presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Professional Conference on Williams Syndrome, Anaheim, CA.

**Leyfer, O.,** Harvison, K., & Woodruff-Borden, J. (2005). *The relationship between maternal anxiety and child effortful control*. Presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy, Washington, DC.

**Leyfer, O.** (2005). *Making DSM-IV diagnoses in Williams syndrome using Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule*. Presented at the Genetic Research Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

Ruberg, J.L., **Leyfer, O.,** Woodruff-Borden, J. (2005). *An examination of the utility of the BAI and BAI-PC for detecting panic disorder in primary care settings*. Presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

**Leyfer, O.,** Ballash, N. G., Pemble, M. K., & Woodruff-Borden, J. (2004). *Relationship between mother's anxiety and maternal sensitivity*. Presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy, New Orleans, LA.

**Leyfer, O.,** Woodruff-Borden, J., & Mervis, C. B. (2004) *Prevalence of psychiatric disorders in children with Williams Syndrome*. Presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Professional Conference on Williams Syndrome, Grand Rapids, MI.

**Leyfer, O.,** Woodruff-Borden, J., & Mervis, C. B. (2004). *The Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule, Parent version: data from children with Williams Syndrome*. Presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, Miami, FL.

**Tadevosyan, O.,** Folstein, S. E., Lainhart, J. (2002). *The K-SADS-DD-PL – a psychiatric diagnostic instrument for persons with developmental disorders*. Presented at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the American Psychopathological Association Conference, New York, NY.

McGrath, L., Joseph, R., **Tadevosyan, O.,** Folstein, S. E., Tager-Flusberg, H. (2002). *Overlapping ADHD symptoms in autism: Relationship to executive functioning*. Presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting for Autism Research, Orlando, FL.

Folstein, S. E., Dowd, M., Winklosky, B., Tager-Flusberg, H., **Tadevosyan, O.** (2001). *Likert Scales Based on a Factor Analysis of the Autism Diagnostic Interview*. Presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Meeting for Autism Research, San Diego, CA.

## **POSITIONS**

**Research Assistant Professor** (July 2013 -- present)

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders

Boston University, Boston, MA  
**Senior Research Associate** (July 2010 – July 2013)  
Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders  
Boston University, Boston, MA

**Research Associate** (July 2007 – June 2010)  
Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders  
Boston University, Boston, MA

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Directed study in Psychology MA (2014 – 2015; 2018-2019; 2019-2020; 2020-2021)  
Boston University

2<sup>nd</sup> year research advisor, Ph.D. program in clinical psychology (2019-2020)  
Boston University

Thesis advisor, Senior Honors Thesis in Psychology (2014-present)  
Boston University

Clinical supervision of graduate students in clinical psychology (2008 -- present)  
Boston University

Guest lecturer in *Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Developmental Psychopathology, Clinical Psychology, Assessment of Young Children, Research Methods, Abnormal Psychology* (2005 -- present)  
University of Louisville, Tufts University, and Boston University

Grand rounds presentation *Anxiety in Youth with Developmental Disorders* (2014)  
Massachusetts General Hospital for Children

Grand rounds presentation *Autism for Practitioners* (2006)  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

## **COMMUNITY LECTURES**

*Anxiety disorders in early childhood*, Presented at Hancock Nursery School (2017)  
Lexington, MA

*Childhood anxiety disorders: A cognitive-behavioral approach*, Presented at the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) of Dover-Sherborn Public Schools (2016)  
Dover, MA

*Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment of Anxiety Disorders in Youth*, presented to Massachusetts Psychological Association (2015)

Wellesley, MA

*Anxiety Disorders in the School Setting*, presented at Sudbury Public Schools (2013)  
Sudbury, MA

*School Anxiety and Refusal: Implications for School Attendance and Performance*, presented at  
Briscoe Middle School (2012)  
Beverly, MA

*Generalized Anxiety Disorder in Adolescents: Diagnosis and Treatment*, presented at Second  
Presbyterian Church (2006)  
Louisville, KY

*Anxiety in Young Children with Williams Syndrome*, presented at Williams Syndrome  
Association (2004)  
Grand Rapids, MI

*Anxiety in Older Children with Williams Syndrome*, presented at Williams Syndrome Association  
(2004)  
Grand Rapids, MI

## **LANGUAGES**

- Fully trilingual in English, Russian, and Armenian
- Advanced proficiency in Spanish