

# **Faculty Research Inventory**

(Last updated March 2025)

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# Dr. Jeff Andre

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## Current Research

My research investigates human vision processes and visual perception. In the past, we have conducted studies on vision and locomotion, visual attention, eye movements, as well as wayfinding and map reading.

## Specific Studies

Current studies include vision while walking, motion perception, graphical perception and estimating time to contact.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies				X
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation			X	
Study preparation				
Research Assistant Training				X
Participant recruitment				X
Data cleaning			X	
Data management		X		
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing				X
Conference attendance			X	
CV development			X	
Professional development			X	
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No.
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** I usually like 2 semesters, but it is not required.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** No
- **Are there required prerequisites?** PSYC 211 is required.
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** PSYC 375 is preferred.
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes; typically, honors students will start out in a 403 in the lab. As a vision scientist, I am interested in eyes. Students should also have an interest in visual perception research, although a career goal of working in a visual perception related field is not necessary (I have had plenty of students from all parts of Psychology work with me).

# Dr. Suzanne Baker

## Current Research

My research students work on a variety of projects. My most recent research teams have worked on projects related to human attitudes toward animals and attitudes toward nature. I am also interested in projects related to animal behavior in general, to history of psychology to scholarship of teaching and learning.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development		X		
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation				
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment				X
Data cleaning				
Data management				
Data analysis			X	
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development				X
Professional development		X		
Conduct research with non-human subjects				
Have direct contact with human participants			X	

### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No, interested students should contact me to discuss their interests in being part of the research team
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** No
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, prefer students to have taken or be enrolled in PSYC/BIO 395 or other animal-behavior-related experiences if the project is animal-related, but this isn't a set requirement.
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, if students are interested in a project related to something I do (animal behavior, attitudes toward animals, attitudes toward nature; human-animal relationships, history of psychology, or SOTL-related projects)

Contact Dr. Baker for a list of publications and presentations.

# Dr. Benjamin T. Blankenship

## Current Research

In the Structural Oppression as Feelings Attitudes and Behaviors Psychology Lab, or S.O.F.A.B. Lab, students will assist with political psychology research that investigates the connection between individual difference variables (e.g. identity, personality, and values), social-psychological variables (i.e. feelings, attitudes, and behaviors), and socio-political variables that have the capacity to affect social structure, including voting, activism, and other types of engagement aimed at creating social justice change for members of marginalized groups. Previous studies have examined these themes in several marginalized groups, including LGBTQ+, racial/ethnic, immigrant, and SES/class groups.

## Specific Studies

Please view Dr. Blankenship's personal website ([btblankenship.com](http://btblankenship.com)) for a complete list of recent studies and interests, as well as more information about his lab.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies	X			
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation	X			
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training	X			
Participant recruitment	X			
Data cleaning	X			
Data management	X			
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X

Have direct contact with human participants	X			
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### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes (on the lab website): <https://www.sofabpsychlab.com/join-the-lab>
- **Website:** <https://www.sofabpsychlab.com/>
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** 2 semesters requested
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes.
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No.
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** PSYC 210/211 (or 212/213); PSYC 220 or other socio-cultural class
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but I prefer to mentor honors thesis projects for students who have spent at least 1 year (2 semesters) in my lab.

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

See the lab website (<https://www.sofabpsychlab.com/>) for the most recent publications.



# Dr. Curtis Bradley

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## Current Research

Exploring the effects of sex, conditioning, and caffeine on pavlovian conditioned approach in rats

## Specific Studies

Effects of Caffeine on Pavlovian Conditioned Approach in Male Rats

## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion		X		
Study Development			X	
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation				X
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training	X			
Participant recruitment				X
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis			X	
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing				X
Conference attendance		X		
CV development			X	
Professional development			X	
Conduct research with non-human subjects	X			
Have direct contact with human participants				X

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No, interested students should contact me to discuss their interests in being part of the research team
- **Website?** Not currently
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, students can sign up for as little as 1 credit hour for a PSYC 203 course. This would require roughly 40 hours of time dedicated to the lab during the semester
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Sure, Biopsychology would be great, but it isn't necessary
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Not yet!

**Recent Publications**  
(within the past 18 months)

**Recent Conferences/Presentations**  
(within the past 18 months)

- Osorio, V., Kidwell, M., Schmidt, G., Whited, W., Martinez, P., Yeshtokina, S., Feysa, J., Carsey, K., Williamson, H., Larkin, M., Vayo, A., Kuzmin, A., Clark, D., & **Bradley, C.** (2025, April). *Effects of Caffeine on Pavlovian Conditioned Approach in Male Rats*. Poster session for VAPS 2025, Williamsburg, VA.
- Brown, K., Cusack, A., Gibson, L., Grant, W., & **Bradley, C.** (2023, April). *Exercise and Isolation Effects on Depression in Anxiety and Mice*. Poster session for VAPS 2023, Alexandria, VA.
- Martin, A., Knighton, G., Grant, W., Gibson, L., Cusack, A., Brown, K., & **Bradley, C.** (2023, April). *Effects of Caffeine on Sign- and Goal-Tracking in Mice*. Poster session for VAPS 2023, Alexandria, VA.

# Dr. Haeyoon Chung

## Current Research

In the Human Development lab, we are building a community of scholars and practitioners dedicated to raising awareness and promoting mental health among individuals with marginalized identities. Our research focuses on immigrant-origin emerging adults and how they navigate cultural differences, racism, and stereotypes while exploring their unique identities in a multicultural world. Through this work, we aim to deepen understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized emerging adults and contribute to creating more inclusive and supportive environments for their mental well-being.

## Specific Studies

Identity development and mental health of marginalized emerging adults

### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion		X		
Study Development	X			
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies		X		
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation			X	
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development	X			
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X

Have direct contact with human participants	X			
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### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes, resume is required.
- **Website?** It's currently under development. I will share it with you as soon as it's completed.
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, at least two semesters.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** PSYC 210/211 (or 212/213); PSYC 220 or sociocultural awareness requirement courses
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but they must work with me for at least one semester as a research assistant before requesting honors mentorship.

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

1. Dai, T., **Chung, H.**, Sack, J. K., Sánchez, B., & Monjaras-Gaytan, L. Y. (2024). Intrinsic Motivation and School Outcomes for Underprivileged Urban High School Students. *The Journal of Experimental Education*, 1-29.
2. Yoon, E., Cabirou, L., Liu, H., Kim, D., **Chung, H.**, & Chang, Y. J. (Jeanie). (2023). A Content Analysis of Immigrant and Refugee Research: A 31-year Review. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 51(4), 470-499. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00110000231158291>
3. Katsiaficas, D., **Chung, H.** (2022). Family Engagement and Identity Development among Immigrant-Origin Latinx Emerging Adults. In Johnson, D. L., Chuang, S. S., & Glozman, J. (Eds.), *Re/formation and identity: The intersectionality of development, culture, and immigration*, 87-109. Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86426-2\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86426-2_5)

### Recent Conferences/Presentations (within the past 18 months)

1. **Chung, H.**, Dai, T. (2024, September). The relationship among ethnic-racial identity, racial stereotype, discrimination during COVID-19, and the well-being of Asian American emerging adults. Proposal submitted to the Society for Research on Adolescence 2024 Annual Meeting. Chicago IL. April 18-20, 2024.
2. **Chung, H.**, Dai, T. (2024, July). The Role of ERI in Racial Stereotypes, Discrimination, and Psychological Well-Being among Asian American Emerging Adults during COVID-19. Proposal

submitted to the 2024 Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association. Philadelphia, PA. April 11-14, 2024.

3. **Chung, H** (2023, June). The Intersection of Racial/Ethnic Identity and Gender Identity among Asian American Emerging Adult Women during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Individual paper presented at the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood 2023 Conference on Emerging Adulthood, San Diego, CA.
4. **Chung, H.**, Sánchez, B., Bourke, K., Jarvis, N., Sanford-Dolly, C., Kennedy, M., Arsenault, A., Murrillo, Y. (2023, June). Gaining Awareness of Inequality in Education: Mentors' Perspectives in a Science Mentoring Program. Proposed Symposium at the 17th Biennial Conference of the Society for Research and Action, Atlanta, GA
5. Dai, T., **Chung, H.**, Sánchez, B., Sack, J., Monjaras-Gaytan, L. (April, 2023). Changes in School Outcomes in Early High School Years: Importance of Intrinsic Motivation for Urban Youth. Paper presented at 2023 American Educational Research Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL

# Dr. Michael Hall

## Current Research

The Auditory Perception Laboratory is interested in identifying and understanding general perceptual principles that govern the recognition of common auditory events, including speech (e.g., phonemes), nonspeech (e.g., musical instruments), and environmental noises. These interests extend to the perceptual organization of events in complex auditory arrays/scenes, including attention to perceptual attributes that are critical to distinguishing sound sources.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development		X		
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies		X		
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted		X		
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development				
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants	X			

### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No, students are welcome to email me ([hallmd@jmu.edu](mailto:hallmd@jmu.edu)) to see if I am seeking research students
- **Website?** Yes,  
<http://www.psyc.jmu.edu/undergraduate/auditoryperception/index.html>
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** No
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** No
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes

### Representative Publications

- Reinert, L., Hall, M. D. & Gordon, M. S. (2024). A preliminary evaluation of potential perceptual contributions from the skull. *Auditory Perception & Cognition*, 7(4), 319-333.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/25742442.2024.2417649>
- Chan, K. Y., & Hall, M. D. (2019). The importance of vowel formant frequencies and proximity in vowel space to the perception of foreign accent. *Journal of Phonetics*, 77, [100919].  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2019.100919>
- Peck, R. B., Hall, M. D., Gaston, J. R. & Dickerson, K. (2018). Evidence of change deafness with continuously moving targets. *Auditory Perception & Cognition*, 1(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/25742442.2018.1499002>
- Daly, H. R. & Hall, M. D. (2018). Not all musicians are created equal: Statistical concerns regarding the categorization of participants. *Psychomusicology: Music, Mind, and Brain*, 28(2), 117-126.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pmu0000213>

# Dr. Jessica Irons

## Current Research

Our lab, called the CASH (changing activity, substance use, and health) lab, studies health choices and health risk behavior interventions. We study what factors may influence health choices and we use that information to inform intervention strategies. We also develop and implement interventions in order to best understand under what conditions they may be effective and for whom. Our primary interests in health include substance use, inactivity, sleep, smartphone and social media use, transactional sex, and interactions between and among these variables. We also engage in validity testing for novel measures or novel uses of existing measures. Finally, our lab is often engaged in scholarship of teaching and learning in collaboration with Dr. Irons' teaching lab.

## Specific Studies

Please see website: [cashlab.wix.com/cashlab](http://cashlab.wix.com/cashlab)

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group	X			
Post Hoc studies		X		
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X (optional)	
Grant writing		X		
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X



Have direct contact with human participants	X			
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### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes (on the website)
- **Website:** cashlab.wix.com/cashlab
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** 2 semesters.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** No.
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No.
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** PSYC 180, PSYC 210
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** No

### Recently Completed Sponsored Studies (within the past 18 months)

Title: *The Effects of Tetrahydrocannabivarin (THCV) on Appetite*

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months) (bold indicates student collaborator)

Irons, J. G., **Gustin, N. D.**, **Zindler, R. E.**, & **Ferretti, M. L.** (2024). Examination of a Novel Intervention Strategy to Promote Sunscreen Use: A Feasibility Study. *The Journal of Clinical and Aesthetic Dermatology*, 17(7):20–22. *[Accepted without revision]*

**Ferretti, M. L.**, **Stanley, T. B.**, Peters, E. N., Bonn-Miller, M.O., & Irons, J. G. (2024). A randomized, open-label trial on the effects of cannabidiol isolate on menstrual-related symptoms. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.

**Temple, J.**, **Ferretti, M. L.**, Reis-Bergan, M. J., & Irons, J. G. (2024). Initial validity evidence for a measure of transactional sex in a U.S. college student sample. *Journal of Sex Research*. *Doi:* 10.1080/00224499.2024.2302501

**Ferretti, M. L.** **Gustin N. D.**, **Sokol, C. M.**, Zamarripa, C. A., Feldner, M. T., Bonn-Miller, M. O. & Irons, J. G. (2023). A preliminary investigation of the simultaneous effects of cannabidiol and caffeine. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. *Doi:* 10.1037/pha0000691

### Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months) (bold indicates student collaborator)

\*Strickland, J.C., Tilton, H. E., Vandrey, R., Feldner, M. T., Irons, J. G., & Bonn-Miller., M. O. (July, 2024). *A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Within-Subject Crossover Study of the Effects of Combinations of Cannabinoids and*

*Caffeine*. Abstract submitted to the 33rd Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Salamanca, Spain.

\*Derise, D., **Ferretti, M. L.**, & Irons, J. G. (February, 2024). *Assessing student perceptions of bias*. Abstract presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Blacksburg, Virginia.

**Ferretti, M. L.**, Regnier, S. D., Irons, J. G., & Stoops, W. W. (2024). *Differences in impulsivity and risk taking among people who use cocaine and cannabis*. Poster submitted to the 34th Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium on the Cannabinoids, Salamanca, Spain. (70)

**Ferretti, M. L.**, Sokol, C. M., Gustin, N. D., Bergeria, C. L., & Irons, J. G. (2024). *Descriptive analyses of major and minor cannabinoid use in a college student sample*. Poster submitted to the 34th Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium on the Cannabinoids, Salamanca, Spain.

**Ferretti, M. L.**, Gustin, N. D., Sokol, C. M., Bonn-Miller, M. O., & Irons, J. G. (June, 2023). *An investigation of differing effects of CBD for menstrual-related symptoms between females who are and are not on birth control*. Poster to be presented to the College on Problems of Drug Dependence 2024 Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

**Ferretti, M. L.** Gustin, N. D., Zindler, R. E., Sokol, C. M., Knowlton, A., Porter, K., Carmack, O., Hoffman, E., Feldner, M. T., Bonn-Miller, M. O., & Irons, J. G. (June, 2023). *Investigating the simultaneous effects of cannabidiol isolate and caffeine*. Poster presented at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence 2023 Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.

# Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen

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## Current Research

We study the development of face perception in infants, children, and adults. More specifically, we are interested in learning more about how humans process different types of faces (human, animal, illusory faces) and their ability to detect differences in faces (e.g., sick vs healthy faces).

## Specific Studies

We are currently testing infants, children, and adults using to study attention to faces using eye tracking technology and in online studies using Zoom.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development		X		
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training	X			
Participant recruitment	X			
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing		X		
Conference attendance	X			
CV development		X		
Professional development		X		
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants	X			

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes, but please speak with me if you are interested in my work
- **Website?**
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** No
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** No
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes

## Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

- Steffan, A., Zimmer, L., Arias-Trejo, N., Bergmann, C., Billing, A., Bohn, M., Dal Ben R., Fanchin, L., Garbisch, I., Hamlin, K., Haun, D. B. M., Havron, N., Hay, J., **Jakobsen, K. V.**, Kalinke, S., Kulke, M., Liu, L., Mayor, J., Meristo, M...Schuwerk, T. (2024). Validation of an open source, web-based, eye-tracking method (WebGazer) for research on cognitive development: Comparison of anticipatory looking behavior in toddlers tested via web-based vs. in-lab eye-tracing. *Infancy*, 29(1), 31-55.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/infa.12564>
- Leung, T. S.\*, Zeng, G.\*, Maylott, S. E., Martinez, S. N.\*, **Jakobsen, K. V.**, Simpson, E. A. (2023). Infection detection in faces: Children's development of pathogen avoidance. *Child Development*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13983>
- Leung, T. S.\*, Maylott, S. E., Zeng, G.\*, Nascimben, D. N.\*, **Jakobsen, K. V.**, & Simpson, E. A. (2023). Behavioral and physiological sensitivity to natural sick faces. *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*, 110, 195-211.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbi.2023.03.007> [PR]
- Jakobsen, K. V.**, Hunter, B. K.\*, & Simpson, E. A. (2023). Pareidolic faces receive prioritized attention in the dot-probe task. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 85, 1106-1126. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-023-02685-6> [PR]
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## Dr. Natalie Kerr

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### Current Research

My current work involves designing and assessing the effectiveness of programs to increase social connectedness among college students.

### Specific Studies

We'll be designing new studies in the 2025-2026 year.

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### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry			X	
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development		X		
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training		X	X	
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning			X	
Data management			X	
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Two semesters, preferred but not required
- **Are 203 students accepted?** No
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Completion of PSYC 210 and 211 (or equivalent)
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** No
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** If the topic is related to social connection or loneliness

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

Kerr, N.A., & Kurtz, J.L. (2025). *Our New Social Life: Science-Backed Strategies for Creating Meaningful Connection*. Oxford University Press: New York.

Kerr, N.A. (2024). Teaching in a lonely world: Educating students about the nature of loneliness and promoting social connection in the classroom. *Teaching of Psychology*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00986283211043787>

### Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months)

Kerr, N.A. (2024, June 27-28). *Psychology One Wellness Retreat: Putting the science of well-being into practice*. [Teaching demonstration.] Durham, NC, United States.

Kerr, N.A. (2024, January 3-6). *Don't leave it to chance: Cultivating students' sense of connection in the classroom*. [Participant idea exchange.] Bonita Springs, FL, United States.

Kerr, N.A. (2022, October 20-22). *Social connection: An essential component of student and faculty success*. [Paper presentation]. Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching, Pittsburg, PA, United States.

Brayton, E.\*, LeHanka, C.\*, Fike, K.\*, Fisher, K., Callis, M.B.\*, Cottrell, K.\*, & Kerr, N.A. (2022, April 1). *An intervention to reduce loneliness among college students* [Paper presentation]. Virginia Association for Psychological Science 2022 Convention, Staunton, VA, United States.

Kerr, N. A, Kurtz, J. L., Andreotta, D.\*, Boylan, A.\*, Brayton, E.\*, Fike, K.\*, Fisher, K.\*, LeHanka, C.\*, Lutz, C.\*, Olivari, K.\*, Owen, J.\*, Trusty, N.\*, & Williams, E.\* (2022, February 16-19). *Build Your Village: A pilot study of an intervention to reduce loneliness among college students*. [Poster presentation]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2022 Convention, San Francisco, CA, United States.

# Dr. Robyn Kondrad

## Current Research

Conducting research studies that explore how children evaluate and learn from the people with whom they interact, what qualities children consider when they make inferences about those individuals, and whether those interactions change depending on the medium (e.g., video chat vs. real life). I work with children and families in the community. Ideally students will have a schedule that is conducive to doing work with this population (a minimum of 2.5 hours in the morning between 8:30 and 12:30 or 2:30 and 5:00).

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development		X		
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies				X
Literature Review			X	
IRB Preparation			X	
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis			X	
Lab meetings		X		
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance			X	
CV development			X	
Professional development		X		
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes. It is helpful to have transportation, since we often work off campus at preschools.
- **Website?** Yes
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, minimum of 2 credit hours per semester. No maximum commitment.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes. It is helpful to have transportation, since we often work off campus at preschools. Having experience with children and being comfortable working with children between the ages of 3-6 and their caregivers and other professionals is important. This may not be the best fit if you have never worked with children in any capacity.
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but they must work with me at least one semester as a traditional research assistant prior to asking for honors mentorship.

## Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

Palmquist, C.P., Kondrad, R.K., & Norris, M.N. (2018). Follow my point? Preschoolers' expectations about veridicality disrupt their understanding of deceptive points. *Cognitive Development*, 48, 190-202.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2018.08.009>

Jaswal, V.K., Kondrad, R.L. (2016). Why Children Are Not Always Epistemically Vigilant: Cognitive Limits and Social Considerations. *Child Development Perspectives*, 10(4), 240-244.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12187>



# Dr. Jaime Kurtz

## Current Research

I am currently investigating the decisions people make that impact their daily happiness and appreciation. I am especially interested in nonobvious or counterintuitive paths to happiness, and why making sustainable changes to happiness is often so difficult.

I am also open to exploring students' ideas and interests that fall under any of the above.

## Specific Studies

One current research is examining factors that encourage savoring. More specifically, when are people really present and appreciative of a positive experience? When is this savoring mindset challenging?

A second line of research is looking at the "social media paradox." By this, I am referring to the fact that most students realize the negative effects of social media, and yet they are reluctant to stop using it. We are curious to better understand this mindset, while also learning about why some students opt out of social media.

## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry			X	
Article Discussion		X		
Study Development	X			
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies				X
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment			X	
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis			X	
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing				X
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development			X	
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No
- **Website?** Jaimekurtz.com
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** No
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 211
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 345
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, prefer students who have worked in my lab previously

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

Layous, K., Kurtz, J.L., Sedikides, C., & Wildschut, T. (in press). The effect of a multi-week nostalgia intervention on well-being: Mechanisms and moderation. *Emotion*.

Kurtz, J. L. (in press). Design and live the “perfect day”. In S. Pressman & A. C. Parks (Eds.). *Positive psychology in higher education: A practical workbook for the classroom*, Volume 2. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Oishi, S., Choi, H., Liu, A., & Kurtz, J. L. (2021). Experiences associated with psychological richness. *European Journal of Personality*, 35, 754-770.

Oishi, S., Choi, H., Galinha, I., Ishii, K., Komiya, A., Koo, M., Luhmann, M., Scollon, C., Shin, J., Suh, E., Vittersø, J., Heintzelman, S., Kushlev, K., Westgate, E.C., Buttrick, N., Tucker, J., Ebersole, C.R., Axt, J., Gilbert, E., Ng, B.W., Kurtz, J., & Besser, L.L. (2020). Happiness, meaning, and psychological richness. *Affective Science*, 1, 107-115.

### Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months)

Kerr, N. A, Kurtz, J. L., Andreotta, D., Boylan, A., Brayton, E., Fike, K., Fisher, K., LeHanka, C., Lutz, C., Olivari, K., Owen, J., Trusty, N., & Williams, E. (February 16-19, 2022). *Build Your Village: A pilot study of an intervention to reduce loneliness among college students*. [Poster to be presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2022 Convention, San Francisco, CA.

Kurtz, J. L. (February, 2022). *Now or Never: When Scarcity Encourages Savoring*. Paper presented at the Existential Psychology Pre-Conference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

Kerr, N. & Kurtz, J. (May, 2021). *Older Adults’ Loneliness during COVID-19 Unaffected by a Brief Social Psychological Intervention*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Virtual Convention.

- Kurtz, J. L., Berrettini, J., Foley, K., George, M., Kreutzberg, K., & Nemec, A. (May, 2021). *Life in Color: Scarcity and Empathy Encourage the Savoring of Visual Imagery*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Virtual Convention.
- Kurtz, J. L. & Kerr, N. A. (March, 2021). *Build Your Village: A Research-Based Program to Increase Students' Social Connectedness*. Virginia Association of Independent Schools Winter Webinar series, virtual presentation.
- Kurtz, J. L. (October, 2020). *How to Stay Positive in Tough Times*. Virginia Association of Independent Schools Fall Webinar series, virtual presentation.
- Kurtz, J.L. (January, 2020). *Applying Social Psychology in the "Shark Tank"*. National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology, St. Pete Beach, FL

## Dr. Yanbin Li

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### Current Research

My current research investigates youth and young adults' development and health across cultural contexts, as well as related methodological challenges.

### Specific Studies

Current studies include (1) youth and young adults' future migration, family formation, and career development, (2) development and health of international students, and (3) effect size measures in psychological studies.

### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies				X
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation			X	
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning			X	
Data management		X		
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance			X	
CV development			X	
Professional development			X	
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No, interested students are welcome to contact me ([li42yx@jmu.edu](mailto:li42yx@jmu.edu)) and further discuss their interests in joining the lab. Please attach a CV/resume if possible.
- **Website?** No.
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** No, but two semesters would be preferred.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes.
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes. An interest in developmental/community/quantitative psychology, especially youth and young adults' development and health issues. Completion of methodology core courses.
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Completion of PSYC 345 Social and/or PSYC 365 Developmental.
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes.

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

- Li, Y., & Patterson, C. J.** (2023). Views about cooperative marriage among sexual minority and heterosexual Chinese international students. *Family Relations*. Advance online publication.
- Zhang, W., **Li, Y.**, Li, L., Hinshaw, S., & Lin, X. (2023). Vicious cycle of emotion regulation and ODD symptoms among Chinese school-age children with ODD: A random intercept cross-lagged panel model. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 17(1), 47.

### Recent Conferences/Presentations (within the past 18 months)

- Li, Y., & Mei, F.** (February 10-14, 2025). *Creating an interdisciplinary course from perspectives of psychology and visual communication: women of color's development, well-being, and empowerment*. Society for the Teaching of Psychology's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Teaching.
- Li, Y.** (October 23-24, 2024). *Sexual minority young adult Chinese women's choice of path to parenthood*. Association for Psychological Science Global Summit (virtual).
- Li, Y.** (2024, September 20). *Young adults envisioning future migration and family from a global perspective*. Psychology in the Valley Seminar, Harrisonburg, VA.

## Dr. Claire W. Lyons

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### Current Research

Increasing engagement in large classes, such as effective teaching in large classes; emerging adulthood as a developmental phase and its impact on well-being, teaching and engagement

### Specific Studies

I have conducted a number of research studies on increasing engagement in large classes. Topics studied include: enhancing cognitive flexibility; reducing distraction through goal-setting; metacognitive awareness; factors relating to attention in class; sociocultural awareness. One exciting innovation we are working on is using behavioral observational measures in our distraction research. I have also conducted research on well-being in international students and identity development in emerging adulthood.

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### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies	X			
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation	X			
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment	X			
Data cleaning	X			
Data management	X			
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted		X		
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development		X		
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X

Have direct contact with human participants	X			
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### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No. Note this tends to be a small lab – sometimes I only have one/two students.
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, one semester
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 210/211
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 160
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but only a limited number

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

McKay, S., Thomas, V., Lyons, C. W., & Eguiluz, I. (2024). I felt like i was getting to be my own person: Exploring the impact of cultural master narratives on identity development during student exchange. *Emerging Adulthood*, 12(6), 969-984. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21676968241278934>

Lyons, C.W. (2024) *From birth to late adulthood: An introduction to lifespan development*. San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing.

### Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months)

Lyons, C.W., Thomasson, C., Frost, H., Barton, S., Ward, E. & Kinzer, D. [Feb 10th – 14th 2025]. Impact of class size on students' perception of their role in undergraduate classes. Society for Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching.[online]

Lyons, C.W., Walsh, R.R. & Baker, S.C. (2024, October 10th – 12th ). Creating compassionate student accountability in college classrooms [Workshop]. Society for Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching, Louisville, Kentucky.

Lyons, C.W., & Maguire, L., (2024, August 8th -10th). Attention contagion in the large classroom: A classroom study of the role of social appraisal and utility value [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.  
<https://www.xcdsystem.com/apa/program/euJ3pFp/index.cfm?pgid=1287&sid=36505&abid=105888>

Maguire, L. & Lyons, C.W. (2024, Feb 12th -16th ). Social appraisal and student attention [Poster presentation]. Society for Teaching of Psychology [online].

Lyons, C.W. (2023, Sept 22nd -23rd) Mega-inclusivity – implementing best practice in the very large General Education class. Association for General and Liberal Studies Annual Constitute, Austin, Texas.

Lyons, C.W. (2023, Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>) *Designing a lifespan development course around diversity, equity and inclusion*, Society for Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [Poster].

Lyons, C.W. & Ullah, A. (2023, Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>) *Evaluation of a professional development program for undergraduate teaching assistants*, Society for Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [Poster].



# Dr. Kala Melchiori

## Current Research

My research questions are mostly related to intergroup relations. For example, how do people respond to prejudice? When do people confront prejudice, and what makes an effective confrontation? How does identity impact behavior, including health-related behavior?

## Specific Studies

Over the next few semesters, I plan to test a model that explains how goals impact responses to discrimination for stigmatized group members.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion		X		
Study Development		X		
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review			X	
IRB Preparation			X	
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning			X	
Data management			X	
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance	X			
CV development	X			
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants	X			

Research assistants in my lab will assist with high-impact lab studies where they may be asked to engage in deception (e.g., serve as a research confederate). RAs will also assist with data collection via online non-student participant pools (e.g., Amazon Mechanical Turk).

### **Things to know before getting involved**

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes: <https://forms.gle/x1D31qH3K3Z6KoMEA>
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, two semesters as long as work is satisfactory
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 210/211 with high Bs or As in both
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, an interest in social psychology and social justice issues is preferred
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, if in lab for at least a semester

### **Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)**

Mallett R.K., Harrison P.R., & Melchiori K.J. (2021) Guilt and Environmental Behavior. In Maggino F. (eds), Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research., 2nd Ed. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Woodzicka, J., Mallett, R. K., & Melchiori, K. J. (2020). Gender differences in using humor to respond to sexist jokes. HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2019-0018>

### **Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months)**

Hickey, E. R., Polk-Trauman, C. U., Melchor, M. E., & Melchiori, K. J. (June 2022). Do Social Appeals to Vaccine Hesitancy Differ Due to Race? Poster presentation for the annual meeting of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Chavez, E. A., Tran, J. I. Turner, K. D., & Melchiori, K. J. (June 2022). The Effects of Race and Vaccine Hesitancy on Response Affect. Poster presentation for the annual meeting of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Chavez, E. A., Hickey, E. R., Polk-Trauman, C. U., Turner, K. D., & Melchiori, K. J. (April 2022). Vaccine Hesitancy Impacts Vaccine Advocacy Responses. Poster presentation for the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

## Dr. Kethera (Fogler) Moore

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### Current Research

My current research interests include memory, cognitive aging, proper name learning, and language comprehension. I am also interested in psychology and law research.

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### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies		X		
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation	X			
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment			X	
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted		X		
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance	X			
CV development	X			
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants	X			

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Usually two semesters, but that is negotiable.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 210/211
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, prefer students with an interest in cognitive psychology
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes
- **Preference will be given to students who have not had a PSYC 402/403 experience**

### Recent Publications

**Kristofco, L.,** & Fogler-Moore, K. (2023). Effects of media framing and perceptions of mental illness. *European Modern Studies Journal*, 7 (4).

**Austin, M.,** Fogler, K. A. J., & Daniel, D. B. (2021). Seeing self and others on-screen does not negatively impact learning in virtual classrooms. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*.

Cromer, J., Brewster, J., Fogler, K., & Stoloff, M. (2019). 911 calls in homicide cases: What does the verbal behavior of the caller reveal? *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 34, 156-164.

Fogler, K.A. (2017). Investigating the role of episodic gist on false memory. *Journal of Psychology and Behavioral Science*, 5(2), 1-13. DOI: 10.15640/jpbs.v5n2a1

### Recent Conferences

Fogler, K., **Liberty, S., Fazio, E.,** Brewster, J., Cromer, J., & **Sheffield, A.** (May, 2023). Linguistic indications of truthfulness in 911 calls. Poster presented at Association of Psychological Sciences, Washington, DC.

**Kristofco, L.,** & Fogler, K. (April, 2022). Effects of media framing on perceptions of mental illness. Poster presented at Virginia Psychological Sciences conference, Staunton, VA.

**Austin, M.,** Daniel, D., & Fogler, K. (2021, May). Seeing self and others on-screen does not negatively impact learning in virtual classrooms. Poster presented at Association of Psychological Sciences, Virtual Conference.

Fogler, K., **Hogan, K., Mangan, S., Benza, B.,** Brewster, J., Stoloff, M., & Cromer, J. (2019, May) Linguistic characteristics of truth-tellers vs. liars. Poster presented at the American Psychological Science conference, Washington, D.C.

Fogler, K., Shoup-Knox, M., **Powell, A.,** Brewster, J., **Hogan, K., Mangan, S., & Benza, B.** (2019, May) Types of moral disengagement most influential with mock jurors. Poster

presented at the American Psychological Science conference, Washington, D.C.

Fogler, K.A., **Powell, A.**, & **Chusid, S.** (2018, May). Semantic relatedness and retrieval practice in proper name learning for older and younger adults. Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

# Dr. Jessica Salvatore

## Current Research

I study intergroup relations from various angles, with a focus on collective meta-perceptions (ex: how we think outgroups perceive our ingroup). I am currently analyzing and writing up existing datasets on intergroup phenomena such as how/when targets confront bias and navigate various forms of stigma. This work almost always seems to inspire us to do some additional data collection, but my primary focus is on converting existing datasets into publications, so students working with me will gain more experience in that part of the research cycle than in the early design process.

## Specific Studies

Data collection complete; analysis in progress: various projects - please contact me for details

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion		X		
Study Development		X		
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training			X	
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings		X		
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted		X		
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance			X	
CV development			X	
Professional development			X	
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X

Have direct contact with human participants		X		
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#### Things to know before getting involved

- Is there an application to join the lab? No
- Website? No
- Is there a minimum commitment for this lab? No
- Are 203 students accepted? Yes
- Are there required prerequisites? No
- Are there preferred prerequisites? No
- Do you mentor honors thesis projects? Yes

#### Recent Publications

\*Cecil, V., Pendry, L.F., Ashbullby, K., & Salvatore, J. (2023). Masquerading their way to authenticity: Does age stigma concealment benefit older women? *Journal of Women and Aging*, 35(5), 428-445.

#### Recent Conferences

Salvatore, J., & \*Paschetag, L. (October 2024). Roundtable and poster presented/facilitated virtually at the APS Global Psychological Science Summit.

Salvatore, J., & \*Triplett, E. (June 2024) – talk at SPSSI’s annual meeting in Philadelphia

\*Triplett, E., & Salvatore, J. (April 2024) – poster at VAPS annual meeting in Staunton Washington, DC.

# Dr. Bryan Saville

## Current Research

The focus of my lab is passion for activities. More specifically, we are focused on studying passion along with its causes and effects (i.e., what causes people to become passionate about some activities and how does being passionate about those activities affect their lives). Most recently, we have been studying students' passion for academic activities and whether it is related to different subjective and objective outcomes. For instance, we have found that being passionate about academics is related to lower stress and greater academic achievement. Our long-term goal is to help students find and pursue their passions so they can live happy and enjoyable lives.

## Specific Studies

We have a number of studies ongoing right now. Most are focused on passion for academics (although a few others are examining how passion for such activities as dieting and other health activities are related to both good and bad psychological outcomes). For instance, we have been studying passion for academics and how it is related to (a) academic success, (b) life stress, (c) academic entitlement, (d) social support, and (e) academic dishonesty.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group	X			
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation	X			
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training	X			
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning	X			
Data management	X			
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted	X			
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development	X			
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		



### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes
- **Website:** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, two semesters, although it is not demanded if students have other obligations or if they're not doing their job in my lab
- **Are 203 students accepted?** No
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, PSYC 211 and either PSYC 180 or PSYC 390.
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but best if in lab for at least two semesters

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

Saville, B. K. (in press). Research and application for interteaching in higher education. In A. DeSouza & D. Crone-Todd (Eds.), *Behavior analysis in higher education: Teaching and supervision*. Vernon Press.

### Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months)

Perrow, E., & Saville, B. K. (2019, April). *Passion for academic activities and interpersonal relationships*. Poster presented at the annual Virginia Association for Psychological Science conference. Newport News, VA.

Bailey, S., & Saville, B. K. (2019, April). *Parental autonomy support, passion for academics, and perfectionism*. Poster presented at the annual Virginia Association for Psychological Science conference. Newport News, VA.

Spare, E., & Saville, B. K. (2019, April). *Strengths use, passion for academic activities, and well-being*. Poster presented at the annual Virginia Association for Psychological Science conference. Newport News, VA.

Witt, K., & Saville, B. K. (2019, April). *Passion for academics, perfectionism, and academic success in college students*. Poster presented at the annual Virginia Association for Psychological Science conference. Newport News, VA.

# Dr. Melanie Shoup-Knox

## Current Research

My research examines the impact of hormones on the human voice. This includes physiological and hormonal changes among individuals listening to female voices, collected at different times across the menstrual cycle. We also examine changes in the voice associated with hormonal treatments among transmasculine individuals. Understanding how hormones impact both speakers and listeners has led us to exploring a bigger question: Does the gender or hormonal state of an experimenter impact participants' hormones, and consequently, their behavior?

## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training		X		
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning			X	
Data management			X	
Data analysis		X		
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing	X			
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects			X	
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

Students will also be responsible for daily animal care and weekly vivarium cleaning duties. Students need CITI Training to work with humans and animals.

## Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, two semesters
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes, successful completion of PSYC 211
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, A or B in PSYC 385
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but prefer one semester in lab before beginning honors thesis credits

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

\*Heymsfeld, S., \*Chang, M., \*Conner, S., \*Lang, J., & **Shoup-Knox, M. L.** (*under review*), The sound of an honest signal: The role of FUT2 genes in women's voices, health, fertility, and fecundity. *EvoS Journal*.

### Recent Conferences (within the past 18 months)

Shoup-Knox, M., Andreu Zamora, M.\*, Lang, J.\*, Heymsfeld, S.\*, Conner, S.\*, Chang, M.\*, Al-Bizri, M.\* (2022, April) *Horton hears a cue: An examination of individual factors impacting listeners' ability to detect vocal ovulation cues*. Oral presentation at the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Shoup-Knox, M., Heymsfeld, S.\*, Conner, S.\*, Lang, J.\*, Al-Bizri, M.\*, Andreu Zamora, M.\*, and Chang, M.\* (2022, April) *I hear you have good genes: Connecting fertility genes to vocal quality and cyclic hormone changes in the voice*. Poster presented at the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

\* Denotes undergraduate co-authors

# Dr. David Szwedo

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## Current Research

The Social Relationships Lab seeks to understand how social relationships with family members, friends, and romantic partners contribute to meaningful qualities of future relationships and individual adjustment. Students will have the opportunity to work from a longitudinal data set containing a multitude of developmental, social, and adjustment measures from annual assessments of individuals collected from ages 13 to 35.

## Specific Studies

Current lab interests include (a) how family and peer relationship factors promote healthy vs. unhealthy romantic relationships and (b) how individual differences in emotion regulation and coping responses may influence the quality of family, peer, and romantic relationship development relationships. However, data are available to address a wide range of students' interests (see lists of student presentations on the lab website (<https://socialrelationshipsab.weebly.com/>), and students are encouraged to develop an individual project that fits with their interests.

By the end of the year, students will create a poster of their project that they will present at the JMU Psychology Student Research Symposium and the annual meeting of the Virginia Association for Psychological Science. Students may also have the option to submit their posters for presentation at a national-level conference.

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## Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection				X
Data Entry				X
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group			X	
Post Hoc studies	X			
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation			X	
Study preparation			X	
Research Assistant Training			X	
Participant recruitment			X	
Data cleaning			X	
Data management			X	
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted	X			
Grant writing				X

Conference attendance	X			
CV development	X			
Professional development	X			
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants				X

Students are invited to participate in all aspects of the research process including literature review, hypothesis generation, data coding/analysis, and poster presentation and/or manuscript preparation.

### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes, interested students are invited to review the course syllabus and submit an application. Email Dr. Szwedo (szwedode@jmu.edu) with questions and/or for an electronic copy of the application and syllabus.
- **Website?** Yes, (<https://socialrelationships-lab.weebly.com/>)
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, two semesters
- **Are 203 students accepted?** No
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes, completion of PSYC 210/211 or PSYC 212/213
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** No
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

\* JMU student author

1. **Szwedo, D.E.**, Stern, J., Kansky, J., Lis, E.\*, & Allen, J.P. (2022). Parent and romantic partner behaviors during adolescence as predictors of young adult positive personality, relational competence, and functional independence. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 1-18 (**5 year IF = 6.10**).
2. Shah, E.\*, **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2022). Parental autonomy restricting behaviors during adolescence as predictors of dependency on parents in emerging adulthood. *Emerging Adulthood*, 1-17 (**5 year IF = 2.64**).
3. \*Chandra, C.M., **Szwedo, D.E.**, Tan, J., Narr, R., & Allen, J.P. (2020). Interactions between anxiety subtypes, personality characteristics, and emotional regulation skills as predictors of future career outcomes. *Journal of Adolescence*, 80, 157-172 (**5 year IF = 2.85**).
4. Allen, J.P., Narr, R.K., Kansky, J., & **Szwedo, D.E.** (2020). Adolescent peer relationship qualities as predictors of long-term romantic satisfaction. *Child Development*, 91(1), 327-340 (**5 year IF = 5.13**).

**Recent Conferences**  
**(within the past 18 months)**

\* JMU student author

1. \*Wilson, S., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2023, March). *Parent qualities vs. behaviors as predictors of young adult emotion regulation*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
2. \*Wilson, S., \*Hilts, M., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2023, March).; *Adverse childhood experiences as a predictor of love language preferences*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
3. \*Snyder, J., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2023, March). *Adolescent experiences as predictors of romantic jealousy in adulthood*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
4. \*Johnson, C., \*Allen, K., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2023, March). *Adolescent predictors of anxiety, depression, and physical health in adulthood: Role of affect and relationships*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
5. \*Chavez, E., \*Carlson, A., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2023, March) *Restriction as a Predictor of Adolescent Social Difficulties*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.
6. \*Shah, E., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2022, March). *The relative importance of close friendships vs. broader social acceptance across adolescence for predicting social anxiety*. Poster accepted for presentation at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.
7. \*Smaltz, J., **Szwedo, D.E.**, & Allen, J.P. (2022, March). *Social media behaviors as predictors of romantic jealousy*. Poster accepted for presentation at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.

## Dr. Sri Siddhi N. Upadhyay

### Current Research

As a cognitive psychologist, Dr. Upadhyay's research focuses on understanding the cognitive processes that inform reading. Discourse processing - or text and narrative comprehension - involves more than simply understanding the individual words on a page. Our mental representations for what we read build from the smallest units of language to the broadest higher-order representations, and include word and sentence level comprehension, memory, attention, and pragmatic information. Several broad questions guide Dr. Upadhyay's research: We know our memory for the information we read is not infinite; what captures our attention? In digital communication that lacks pragmatic cues, like tone of voice or facial expressions, how do we overcome this gap in communication? What other cues do we create or use to communicate via text or email? Currently, Dr. Upadhyay is focused on investigating digital communication, specifically how we read, process, and comprehend cues in text messaging. Several conference abstracts, posters, and manuscripts are in-progress for this line of research.

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### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection	X			
Data Entry	X			
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review	X			
IRB Preparation	X			
Study preparation	X			
Research Assistant Training	X			
Participant recruitment			X	
Data cleaning	X			
Data management	X			
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted		X		
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development	X			
Professional development	X			

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X
Have direct contact with human participants		X		

### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** No. Email Dr. Upadhyay and be prepared to discuss your research interests with her. Prior to meeting with Dr. Upadhyay, it is helpful for you to review her [publications](#) to make sure your research interests align with the lab.
- **Website?** No.
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Yes, two consecutive semesters preferred.
- **Are 203 students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** Yes. An interest in cognitive psychology, specifically reading, language, and memory. Completion of the methodology core and completion of PSYC 380 Cognitive Psychology (preferably with Dr. Upadhyay).
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** An interest in reading, memory, and language research and a desire/focus to pursue experimental psychology is preferred but not required.
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** No, not at this time.

### Recent Publications (within the past 18 months)

Poirier, R.C., Upadhyay, S. S. N., & Klin, C.M. (2025). Complement set focus after positive quantifiers: The influence of context. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 29(1), 43-62.



## Dr. Tracy Zinn

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### Current Research

**Primary:** Work-Family integration, work-family policies, perceptions of and support for working parents, family-friendly policies; Universal Design for Learning and accessibility in education; Education assessment

**General:** University systems as an organization; applications of I/O concepts to the university environment, including concept of procedural justice, perceptions of diversity and affirmative action, student/faculty interactions, universal design for learning, university & belonging, work/life balance and well-being for students.

**Other:** Behavioral approaches to teaching/training, specifically, investigations of interteaching

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### Typical responsibilities/experiences of research assistants

	<b>Often</b> (All students experience this multiple times each semester)	<b>Sometimes</b> (Most students experience this each semester)	<b>Rarely/Optional</b> (Students may engage in these experiences but it is not typical)	<b>Never</b> (Students will never engage in this experience)
Data Collection		X		
Data Entry		X		
Article Discussion	X			
Study Development	X			
Writing Group		X		
Post Hoc studies			X	
Literature Review		X		
IRB Preparation		X		
Study preparation		X		
Research Assistant Training			X	
Participant recruitment		X		
Data cleaning		X		
Data management		X		
Data analysis	X			
Lab meetings	X			
Manuscript preparation/publications submitted or accepted			X	
Grant writing			X	
Conference attendance		X		
CV development		X		
Professional development		X		
Conduct research with non-human subjects				X

Have direct contact with human participants			X	
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### Things to know before getting involved

- **Is there an application to join the lab?** Yes, [https://jmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8BAqfYdVXchafo8](https://jmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8BAqfYdVXchafo8)
- **Website?** No
- **Is there a minimum commitment for this lab?** Usually two semesters, but some exceptions are made
- **Are 203 (formerly 203) students accepted?** Yes
- **Are there required prerequisites?** No
- **Are there preferred prerequisites?** Yes, prefer if students have completed PSYC 211 or PSYC 213
- **Do you mentor honors thesis projects?** Yes, but prefer students to have completed PSYC 402 with me if they are going to do an honor's thesis

Contact Dr. Zinn for a list of publications and presentations.

[zinnte@jmu.edu](mailto:zinnte@jmu.edu)