

CHRISTINA M. LECKFOR

Curriculum Vitae
cmleckfor@pitt.edu

EDUCATION

- 2024 **Ph.D. in Social Psychology**, University of Georgia
Quantitative Methods in Family and Social Sciences Certificate
Effective College Teaching Certificate
- 2020 **M.S. in Social Psychology**, University of Pittsburgh
- 2017 **B.A. in Psychology**, *summa cum laude*, Youngstown State University

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2025– **Teaching Assistant Professor**, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh

HONORS & AWARDS

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- 2024 **Graduate Diversity Leadership Award**, Behavior & Brain Sciences Program, UGA (\$250)
- 2024 **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**, Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA
- 2023 **Future Faculty Fellow**, Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA (\$600)
- 2022 **Marsh Research Mentoring Award**, Psychology Department, UGA (\$200)

RESEARCH

- 2024 **A. S. Edwards Outstanding Graduate Accomplishment Award**, Psi Chi, UGA (\$2,000)
- 2024 **Smock Outstanding Research Award**, Behavior & Brain Sciences Program, UGA (\$1,000)
- 2023 **Outstanding Publication Award**, Behavior & Brain Sciences Program, UGA
- 2022 **Walker Johnson Social Psychology Award**, Behavior & Brain Sciences, UGA (\$500)
- 2022 **Kernis Research Talk Award**, Behavior & Brain Sciences Program, UGA
- 2022 **Graduate Poster Award**, Society of Personality and Social Psychology (\$100)

ADDITIONAL GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2022 **Graduate Travel Award**, Society of Personality and Social Psychology (\$500)
- 2019 **Travel Grant**, Konstanz International School on Motivation Science (\$1,554)
- 2013-17 **Dean's Scholarship of Excellence**, Youngstown State University (\$11,000)
- 2017 **Guterba Outstanding Psychology Student Award**, Youngstown State University (\$100)
- 2016 **Jones Scholarship in Psychology**, Youngstown State University (\$1,625)

TEACHING

Teaching Interests: Social Psychology, Close Relationships, Research Methods, General Psychology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Social Research Advanced Lab (PSY 1145)

- Small (24 students) upper-level undergraduate lab where students read, evaluate, design, and analyze research based on social psychological theory.
- 2 sections taught: Spring 2025, Fall 2025 (in progress)

Close Relationships (PSY 1137)

- Small (30 students) upper-level undergraduate seminar introducing theory and research on close and intimate relationships from a social psychological perspective.
- 1 section taught: Fall 2025 (in progress)

Introduction to Social Psychology (PSY 0105)

- Large (~250 students) lower-level undergraduate lecture introducing social psychological theory and research on how people think about, influence, and relate to one another.
- 2 sections taught: Spring 2025, Fall 2025 (in progress)

Research Methods Lab (PSY 0037)

- Small (22 students) writing-intensive undergraduate lab where students design and disseminate psychological research in an APA-formatted paper.
- 1 section taught: Spring 2025

Introduction to Psychology (PSY 0010)

- Small (19 students) lower-level undergraduate course on the basic goals, topics, methods, and concepts that characterize psychology as a science of behavioral and mental processes.
- 1 section taught: Summer 2020 (asynchronous online)

Athens Technical College, Athens, GA

Introductory Psychology (PSYC 1101)

- Small (~25 students) dual-enrolled high school course on the basic goals, topics, methods, and concepts that characterize psychology as a science of behavioral and mental processes.
- 2 sections taught: Spring 2024, Fall 2024

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Social Psychology (PSYC 4200)

- Large (~140 students) upper-level undergraduate lecture introducing social psychological theory and research on how people think about, influence, and relate to one another.
- 1 section taught: Fall 2023

Research Design in Psychology (PSYC 3980)

- Small (~35 students) writing-intensive undergraduate course introducing research methods in psychological science and how to write an APA-formatted research paper.
- 3 sections taught: Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

- “The benefits of incorporating teaching faculty into an R1 psychology teaching program: How to build a teaching community and leverage its expertise” (2025, October 17). *Annual Conference on Teaching, Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Minneapolis, MN* (poster accepted).
- “Teaching-focused careers in psychology” (2025, June 3). *Summer Undergraduate Research Education Program (SUREP), Department of Psychology, UGA* (invited speaker).
- “Incorporating AI – Why and how” with Libertus, K. (2025, April 25). *Teaching Program Lunch & Learn Series, Department of Psychology, Pitt.*
- “Academic and industry careers in psychology” (2025, March 26). *Professional Development Seminar for Psychology PhD Students, UGA* (invited panelist).
- “Advanced Achievement in the Teaching of Psychology (AATOP): A teaching mentoring program for graduate students” with Cousins, J., Ciccocioppo, M., Hunter-Rue, D., Hirsch, J., Brand, J., Colvin, M., Cross, M., Ganger, J., Hawthorne, W., Hofrichter, R., Kucinski, B., Libertus, K., Richey, E., & Streeter, S. (2025, March 14). *Lightning Talk at the 8th Annual Mentoring and Advising Summit, Pitt.*
- “Talking about TAing panel” (2025, January 24). *Teaching Program Lunch & Learn Series, Department of Psychology, Pitt.*
- “A global classroom: Welcome international students in our teaching” with González-Ferrer, M., Kraft-Ainsworth, T., & Wang, Y. (2023, November 2). *TA Café, Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA.*
- “Teaching resources at UGA” (2023, October 2). *Seminar for Psychology Graduate Teaching Assistants, UGA* (invited speaker).
- “What I wish I knew as a new TA” (2023, August 15). *Teaching Assistant Orientation, UGA* (invited panelist).
- “Feedback over failure: An exploration of three feedback-based grading strategies” (2023, April 5). [Poster]. *Spring Teaching Symposium, UGA.*
- “Minding your words: Communicating effectively with students” with Day, S., González-Ferrer, M., Rojas, J., & Wood, C. (2023, March 1). *TA Café, Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA.*
- “Pursuing a teaching-focused career in academia” with Farkas, A., McMains, J., & Reilly, T. (2022, October 12). *Behavior and Brain Sciences Program, UGA.*
- “How to write a teaching philosophy statement” (asynchronous, self-paced modules developed in 2022). *Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA.*

TEACHING & PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2025	Better Grading and Feedback with Gradescope , Teaching Center, Pitt
2025	Active Learning with Top Hat Classroom , Teaching Center, Pitt
2025	Canvas Refresher: Building Your Course , Teaching Center, Pitt
2024	Generative AI 101 for TAs , Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA
2024	Dawg Ally: LGBTQIA+ Support Training , UGA
2024	Classroom Etiquette: Managing Incivility, Disruption, and Distress , Workshop, UGA
2024	Making Sense of Student Experience Surveys , Workshop, UGA
2023	Future Faculty Fellow Program , Center for Teaching and Learning, UGA
2022-23	Mentee (Mentor: Kate Thorson), Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions Committee Mentoring Program, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2022	Center for Teaching and Learning Summer Intern , UGA
2022	College Teaching , Course, UGA
2022	Balancing Act: Teaching as Part of a Larger Whole , Workshop, UGA
2021	Applying a Trauma-Informed Lens to Teaching , Workshop, UGA
2021	Psychology of Race and Racism , Course, University of Georgia
2020	Graduate Teaching Seminar , Course, UGA
2020	Effective and Efficient Grading Strategies , Workshop, UGA
2020	Why Failure is Essential for Student Learning , Workshop, UGA
2019	Teaching in Psychology , Course, Pitt

MENTORING

STUDENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS († indicates mentored student)

- †Hernandez, A., †Hu, H., Brand, D. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, & Slatcher, R. B. (2024, February). *Do our parents live rent-free in our relationships? Examining the association between perceptions of interparental relationships and partner relationship quality*. [Poster]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA, USA.
- †Matthews, K., Brand, D. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, & Slatcher, R. B. (2023, July). *Correlating family communication patterns in childhood to conflict resolution styles in close relationships in adulthood*. [Poster]. Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA.
- †Holyoke, D., **Leckfor, C.M.**, Zoppolat, G., Slatcher, R. B., & Balzarini, R. N. (2022, February). *Trapped inside: The roles of attachment and relationship boredom on sexual and relationship quality during COVID-19*. [Data blitz]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Sexuality Preconference, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- †Badejoh, O., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2022, February). *The harmful effects of COVID-19 information consumption on distress and the buffering role of social support*. [Poster]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA, USA. **Undergraduate Poster Award Finalist.**

†Brand, D. R., **Leckfor, C.M.**, Zoppolat, G., Slatcher, R. B., & Balzarini, R. N. (2022, February). “*What do we do now?*”: Examining the interactive effects of time with partner and self-expansion on relational boredom during COVID-19. [Poster]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Virtual.

STUDENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

2024- **Emily Bosche**, Master’s Thesis, Pitt

RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

2023-24 **Andrea Hernandez**, Close Relationships Lab, UGA
2023-24 **Hannah Hu**, Close Relationships Lab, UGA
2023 **Katherine Queen**, High School Research Program, Close Relationships Lab, UGA
2022-23 **Sriya Chatterjee**, High School Research Program, Close Relationships Lab, UGA
2021-22 **Oreoluwa “Ore” Badejoh**, Close Relationships Lab, UGA
2021-22 **Danielle Alexis Holyoke**, Close Relationships Lab, UGA
2021 **Meredith Bennett Camp**, Undergraduate Thesis, UGA

SERVICE MENTORSHIP

2023-24 **Peer Mentor in Statistics and Research Methodology**, Quant Family Collective
2022-24 **Graduate Co-Advisor**, Psi Chi Chapter, UGA
2021-23 **Mentor**, Psychology Undergraduate Mentoring Program, UGA
2021, 23 **Session Leader**, Summer Undergraduate Research Education Program, UGA
2020-21 **Mentor**, Psi Chi Chapter Undergraduate Mentoring Program, UGA
2019-20 **Peer Mentor**, Psychology Department, Pitt

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

“Learning about applying to and studying in Ph.D. programs in psychology” (2024, March 21). *Psychology Professional Development Series, Youngstown State University* (invited panelist).
“Visualizing data with graphs” with Bell, C. (2023, June 20). *Summer Undergraduate Research Education Program (SUREP), Department of Psychology, UGA*.
“The CV: Is it just a résumé?” with Brown, K. (2023, June 1). *SUREP, Department of Psychology, UGA*.
“What is open science?” with Bell, C. (2023, May 30). *SUREP, Department of Psychology, UGA*.
“Conducting literature reviews & developing research questions” with Brown, K. (2023, May 23). *SUREP, Department of Psychology, UGA*.
“Selecting a graduate program and how to apply” with La Barrie, D. (2023, May 16). *SUREP, Department of Psychology, UGA*.

“All about open science” with Sharpe, B. (2023, March 21). *Psychology Undergraduate Mentoring Program, UGA* (invited speaker).

RESEARCH

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (* indicates shared first authorship)

12. **Leckfor, C. M.**, Wood, N. R., Slatcher, R. B., & Orehek, E. (in press). Not such fast friends? The effect of intimate conversation on social connection in text-based getting-acquainted interactions. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. [doi](#).
11. Brand, D. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, & Slatcher, R. B. (2025). “Is it (un)romantic in here or is it just me?”: Examining the effects of physical settings on relationship initiation processes. *Collabra: Psychology*, 11(1), 140690. [doi](#).
10. **Leckfor, C. M.**, Wood, N. R., Kwiatek, S. M., & Orehek, E. (2024). Expectations and experiences of screen time, social interaction, and solitude. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 164(6), 1008-1023. [doi](#). [Study Finds](#), [UGA Today](#)
9. Wood, N. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Wicks, S. G., & Hales, A. H. (2023). Ghosting from the workplace: The impact of feedback (or lack thereof) on applicants’ psychological needs satisfaction. *Routledge Open Research*, 2(3). [doi](#).
8. ***Leckfor, C. M.**, *Wood, N. R., Slatcher, R. B., & Hales, A. H. (2023). From close to ghost: Examining the relationship between the need for closure, intentions to ghost, and reactions to being ghosted. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 40(8), 2422-2444. [doi](#). [Discover Magazine](#), [El País](#), [HuffPost](#), [New York Times](#), [PsyPost](#), [StudyFinds](#), [UGA Today](#), [WUGA](#)
7. Juergensen, J., & **Leckfor, C.** (2019). Stop pushing me away: Facebook addiction relates to automatic approach motivation for Facebook stimuli. *Psychological Reports*, 122(6), 2012-2025. [doi](#).

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

6. Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Holyoke, A. D., Brand, D. R., & Slatcher, R. B. (under review). Making the most of your time together: The role of self-expansion in promoting sexual and relationship quality through reduced relational boredom.
5. Allen, Z. A., Zajic, C. J., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Dolan, E. L., & Tuma, T. T. (under review; [preprint](#)). Are they funny? Associations between instructors’ humor and student emotions in undergraduate lab courses.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION (^ indicates a full draft is available)

4. ^Leckfor, C. M., vanDellen, M. R., Wright, J. W. C., Slatcher, R. B., & Lipkus, I. M. (in prep.). Responsive Support for Smoking Scale: Development and validation for provided and received support in single- and dual-smoker couples.
3. ^Leckfor, C. M., Bierstetel, S. J., Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (in prep.). Is more really merrier? The interpersonal costs and emotional rewards of social interactions in groups.
2. ^Leckfor, C. M., vanDellen, M. R., & Slatcher, R. B. (in prep.). Why do people (not) talk to strangers? A review of instigating, impelling, and inhibiting factors.
1. ^Wood, N. R., Leckfor, C. M., & Orehek, E. (in prep.). An initial investigation of the effect of time spent alone on extreme beliefs and implicit interest in extreme groups.

INVITED RESEARCH TALKS

“From close to ghost: Examining the relationship between need for closure and ghosting” (2022, March 31). *GradSPRI, Arizona State University (virtual)*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Leckfor, C. M., Bierstetel, S. J., Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2024, November). *Two is company, three (or more) is a crowd: Interpersonal closeness is diminished in group conversations, especially for video chats*. [Symposium talk]. Southeastern Society of Social Psychologists Conference, Memphis, TN, USA.

Leckfor, C. M., Bierstetel, S. J., Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2024, July). *Fighting to feel seen: Perceived responsiveness is diminished in group conversations, especially for video chats*. [Symposium talk]. International Association for Relationship Research Conference, Boston, MA, USA.

Balzarini, R. N., **Leckfor, C. M.,** Brand, D. R., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2022, November). *Making the most of your time together: Can self-expansion help buffer couples' boredom and promote sexual and relationship quality?* [Symposium talk]. Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Virtual.

Leckfor, C. M., Wood, N. R., Hales, A. H., & Slatcher, R. B. (2022, February). *From close to ghost: The effects of ghosting and need for closure on psychological needs satisfaction*. [Data blitz]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Close Relationships Preconference, San Francisco, CA, USA

Leckfor, C. M., Bierstetel, S. J., Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2021, February). *Feeling gloom after Zoom: The psychological effects of video chat vs. face-to-face interactions*. [Data blitz]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Psychology of Media and Technology Preconference, Virtual.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Brand, D. R., Cloonan, S. A., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Zoppolat, G., Balzarini, R. B., & Slatcher, R. B. (2024, May). *Compensatory connection: Examining the buffering role of romantic connection on social disconnection and well-being during COVID-19*. The Love Consortium, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.
- Cloonan, S. A., Brand, D. R., Zoppolat, G., Balzarini, R. B., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Alonso-Ferres, M., & Slatcher, R. B. (2024, May). *Associations between communal strength, motivation, and well-being across the COVID-19 pandemic*. The Love Consortium, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Bierstetel, S. J., Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2024, February). *Is more really merrier? Examining the influence of group size on closeness in face-to-face and video chat interactions*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA, USA.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Brand, D. R., & Slatcher, R. B. (2023, February). *Unmasking the effects of mask wearing on social connection*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Wood, N. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, Slatcher, R. B., & Hales, A. H. (2023, February). *The need for closure and ghosting intentions: Individual differences in emerging adults' relationship dissolution strategies*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Wood, N. R., Hales, A. H., & Slatcher, R. B. (2022, February). *From close to ghost: The effects of ghosting and need for closure on psychological needs satisfaction*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA, USA. **Graduate Poster Award Winner.**
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Bierstetel, S. J., Balzarini, R. N., Zoppolat, G., & Slatcher, R. B. (2021, November). *Do extraverts feel more gloom after Zoom? The interactive effects of personality and communication channel*. Technology, Mind, and Society, Virtual.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Wood, N. R., & Orehek, E. (2021, February). *"Tell me about it:" Intimate conversation promotes social connection in texting exchanges*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Virtual.
- Wood, N. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, & Orehek, E. (2021, February). *Social isolation increases violent extremism* [Conference poster]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Extremism Preconference, Virtual.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Wood, N. R., Orehek, E. (2020, February). *Home alone: Investigating the motives that drive social isolation*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Motivation Preconference, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- Wood, N. R., **Leckfor, C. M.**, & Orehek, E. (2020, February). *Adventures in solitude: The association between social isolation and extremism*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Motivation Preconference, New Orleans, LA, USA.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, Wood, N. R., Kwiatek, S. M., & Orehek, E. (2019, May). *Mistakenly seeking smartphones? Forecasted and experienced affect when alone, talking to a stranger, and using a smartphone*. Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC, USA.
- Leckfor, C. M.**, & Juergensen, J. (2017, May). *Self-reported Facebook addiction is related to implicit approach behavior*. Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA, USA.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025 **Occasional Staff Scientist**, Health Promotion Research Center, University of Oklahoma
Principal Investigator: Michelle R. vanDellen
- 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Social Psychology of Research Experiences and Education
Lab, University of Georgia
Principal Investigator: Erin L. Dolan
- 2021-24 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Motivation and Behavior Lab, University of Georgia
Principal Investigator: Michelle R. vanDellen

SKILLS & PROFICIENCIES

Methods Behavioral Coding, Experimental Design, Intensive Longitudinal Designs, Self-Report
Analysis General Linear Model, Linear Regression, Multilevel Modeling, Structural Equation Modeling
Software Mplus, Prolific.co, Qualtrics, R (programming language), SONA, SPSS

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

AD HOC REVIEWING

Deviant Behavior
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (with mentor, Richard B. Slatcher)
Personal Relationships (3 manuscripts)
Scandinavian Journal of Psychology
Society of Personality and Social Psychology Graduate Student Poster Award (2022)
Society of Personality and Social Psychology Graduate Student Travel Award (2022)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh

- 2025- Psychology Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Community (PEIC): Undergraduate
Education Subcommittee
- 2025 Reviewer, Social Program Graduate Student Publication Award
- 2025 Reviewer, Moskowitz Graduate Teaching Award, Psychology Department
- 2025 Teaching Evaluation and Mentoring Committee, Psychology Department

University of Georgia

- 2023-24 Graduate Student Representative, Behavior and Brain Sciences Program
- 2022-24 Graduate Co-Advisor, Psi Chi Chapter

2021, 23 Session Leader, Summer Undergraduate Research Education Program
2021-23 Graduate Applicant Visit Day Committee, Behavior & Brain Sciences
2020 Graduate Pre-Application Event Co-Facilitator, Behavior & Brain Sciences Program

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

“As online dating grows, why is ghosting on the rise as well? What are the effects?” by River Gracey (2023, October 28). [WUGA](#)

“Socializing boosts mood more than screentime” by Erica Techo (2023, September 12). [UGA Today](#)

“What does being ‘ghosted’ mean and why does it make us feel so bad?” by Sara Novak (2023, July 26). [Discover Magazine](#)

“What to do if a friend ghosts you” by Catherine Pearson (2023, April 12). [The New York Times](#)

“What science knows about ghosting: It’s worse than direct rejection” by Karelia Vázquez. (2023, March 7). *El País* ([Spanish](#) and [English](#) versions)

“People with a high need for closure are more likely to ghost, yet also feel more distressed when they are ghosted” by Eric. W. Dolan (2023, February 19). [PsyPost](#)

“The relationship between ghosting and closure” by Erica Techo. (2023, February 13). [UGA Today](#)

“Healthy Relationships 101: Advice from the UGA community” by Maddy Franklin (2021, August 19). [The Red & Black](#), pp. 14-15

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)
Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology
Psychology of Technology Institute
Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP; APA Division 2)