

Benjamin J. Zubaly

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Citizenship: USA

Updated November 13, 2025

EDUCATION

University of Michigan 2031 (expected)

Ph.D. in Social Psychology

Primary Advisor: Josh Ackerman

Secondary Advisor: Shinobu Kitayama

Trinity Western University 2024

B.A. (Honours) in Psychology with Great Distinction

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social psychology, evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution, moral psychology, psychology of religion, meta-science, scientific fraud

PAPERS

Arbeau, K., Steeves, K., Todd, H., **Zubaly, B.**, Thorpe, C. (under revision). Drawings of the self during COVID-19 reveal lived experiences of the pandemic.

[‡]Acem, E., Aczel, B., Albayrak-Aydemir, N., Brown, N., Dudda, L., Elsherif, M., Gjoneska, B., Kowal, M., Krishna, A., Miłkoś, S., Paruzel-Czachura, M., Patel, J., Pypno-Blajda, K., Scharlau, I., Verheyen, S., **Zubaly, B.** (2025). Why I declare a conflict of interest and you should not. *Theory and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-025-09641-3>

Palmer-Hague, J., Stobbart, J., **Zubaly, B.** (2025). Women's intrasexual competitiveness, but not fertility, predicts greater competitive behavior toward attractive women across the menstrual cycle. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 46(6), 106760. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2025.106760>

Zubaly, B., Arbeau, K., & Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Sociosexual attitudes mediate the relationship between behavioral immune system reactivity and religiosity. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ebs0000388>

Zubaly, B., Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Fathers' facial dominance predicts first-born sons in parent dyads. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*, 11(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40750-024-00254-1>

[‡] Indicates equal authorship contributions.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Zubaly, B.**, Palmer-Hague, J., Stobbart, J. (2026). Women's intrasexual competitiveness, but not fertility, predicts greater competitive behavior toward attractive women across the menstrual cycle. *Poster to be presented at SPSP in Chicago, IL.*
- Arbeau, K., Thorpe, C., **Zubaly, B.**, Steeves, K. (2025). Drawing of the self during COVID-19 reveal lived experiences of the pandemic. *Poster presented at the 86th Annual Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) National Convention in St. Johns, NL by KA.*
- Zubaly, B.**, Arbeau, K., Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Religiosity and the behavioral immune system. *Poster presented at SPSP in Denver, CO, USA and the Trinity Western CREATE Conference in Langley, BC.*
- Zubaly, B.**, Palmer-Hague, J. (2024). Does parental dominance influence offspring sex? *Poster presented virtually at the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference in Niagara Falls, NY.*
- Zubaly, B.**, Friesen, K., Fitchner, J., Venema, C., Moran-Linares, D., Arbeau, K. (2023). Disgust and religious behavior: Testing an adaptive hypothesis of religiosity. *Poster presented at the Trinity Western University CREATE Conference in Langley, BC.*
- Zubaly, B.** (2022). Why get involved in research at TWU? *Virtual talk at the Trinity Western University CREATE Conference in Langley, BC, Canada.*

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Dolan, E. (2025). Religiosity may function as a mating strategy shaped by disease avoidance psychology. *PsyPost*. <https://www.psypost.org/religiosity-may-function-as-a-mating-strategy-shaped-by-disease-avoidance-psychology/>
- Dolan, E. (2025). Fathers with more dominant-looking faces are more likely to have sons. *PsyPost*. <https://www.psypost.org/fathers-with-more-dominant-looking-faces-are-more-likely-to-have-sons/>

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Zubaly, B.** (2025). Why Understanding Friendship Requires Evolutionary Psychology: Social Behavior is Fundamental to Survival and Reproduction. *Ayers Psychology and Evolution Lab Blog*. <https://www.ayerslab.org/blog/why-understanding-friendship-requires-evolutionary-psychology>

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023-2024	Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, Trinity Western University
2024	Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA), Trinity Western University
2023	American Enterprise Institute Summer Honors Program Scholar
2022	Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA), Trinity Western University
2020-2024	Dean's List Honoree, Trinity Western University
2020-2024	U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian Award

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant	2025
Ayers Psychology and Evolution (APE) Lab, Boise State University Lab Director: Jessica Ayers, Ph.D.	
Research Assistant	2023-2025
Health Psychology Lab, Trinity Western University Lab Director: Kelly Arbeau, Ph.D.	
Research Assistant	2021-2025
Social Neuroendocrinology Lab, Trinity Western University Lab Director: Jaime Palmer-Hague, Ph.D.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Statistics Tutor	February-April 2024
Department of Athletics, Trinity Western University Supervisor: Sam Jung, Associate Director of Athletics	
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant	September-December 2023
Department of Psychology, Trinity Western University PSYC 105: Introduction to Psychology Instructor: Todd Dutka, M.A.	
Writing Tutor	September-December 2021
Writing Centre, Trinity Western University Learning Commons Supervisor: Emily Keery, M.A.	

SERVICE

2024	Reviewer, Student Research Awards, Association for Psychological Science
2024	Reviewer, Student Grant Competition, Association for Psychological Science

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

2024-2025	Senator, Trinity Western University Student Association
2023-2024	Junior Senator, Trinity Western University Student Association
2022-2023	President, Psi Chi Honor Society, Trinity Western University Chapter
2022-2023	Social Sciences Representative, Trinity Western University Student Association

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025	Behavior Technician, Maraca Learning, Boise, ID
2023	Proofreader, Dr. Kelly Arbeau, Associate Professor of Psychology, Langley, BC
2021	Behavior Technician, Focused Behavior Solutions, Spokane, WA

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2021-2024	President's Scholarship, Trinity Western University
2020-2024	Spartan Athletic Scholarship, Trinity Western University
2020-2021	Provost's Scholarship, Trinity Western University
2020-2021	Dr. Riggs Leadership Scholarship, Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center

AFFILIATIONS

2025-Present	Evolution and Human Adaptation Program, University of Michigan
2024-Present	Student Member, Cultural Evolution Society
2024-Present	Student Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2024-Present	Student Member, Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science
2023-Present	Student Member, Association for Psychological Science
2023-Present	Student Member, Human Behavior and Evolution Society
2023-2024	Student Affiliate, American Psychological Association
2022-2024	Member, Psi Chi Honor Society, Trinity Western University Chapter

SOFTWARE COMPETENCIES

R, SPSS, Bash, Git, GitHub, SONA, WebMorph, Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC), The Lexical Suite, some Fiji (ImageJ), some Python