

Benjamin J. Zubaly

Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

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Citizenship USA

Updated November 11, 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

Evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution, gene-culture coevolution, evoked culture, moral psychology, social psychology, psychology of religion, health psychology, 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

- 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 by KA.*
- Zubaly, B.**, Arbeau, K., Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Religiosity and the behavioral immune system. *Poster presented at 2025 at SPSP in Denver, USA and the 2024 Trinity Western CREATE Conference in Langley, Canada.*
- Zubaly, B.**, Palmer-Hague, J. (2024). Does parental dominance influence offspring sex? *Poster presented virtually at 2024 Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference in Niagra 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 2023 Trinity Western University CREATE Conference in Langley, BC, Canada.*
- Zubaly, B.** (2022). Why get involved in research at TWU? *Virtual talk at the 2022 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

Ayers Psychology and Evolution (APE) Lab, Boise State university
 Lab Director: Jessica Ayers, Ph.D.

2025

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 Crant 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 Honors 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, CA
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	Undergraduate Student Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2024-Present	Student Member, Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science
2023-Present	Undergraduate Student Member, Association for Psychological Science
2023-Present	Student Member, Human Behavior and Evolution Society
2023-2024	Undergraduate Student Affiliate, American Psychological Association
2022-2024	Member, Psi Chi Honors Society, Trinity Western University Chapter

SOFTWARE COMPETANCIES

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