

## Benjamin J. Zubaly

Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

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Citizenship USA

Updated October 11, 2025

### EDUCATION

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**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

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Evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution, gene-culture coevolution, evoked culture, moral psychology, social psychology, psychology of religion, health psychology, meta-science, scientific fraud

### PAPERS

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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.

<sup>‡</sup>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.** (in press). Why I declare a conflict of interest and you should not. *Theory and Society*.

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>

<sup>‡</sup> Indicates equal authorship contributions.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 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 86<sup>th</sup> 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

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- 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

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- 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

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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

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### 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**

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**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**

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2024           Reviewer, Student Research Awards, Association for Psychological Science

2024           Reviewer, Student Crant Competition, Association for Psychological Science

**ACADEMIC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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