

FREYA WHITTAKER, M.S.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Oregon State University, Engineering Psychology	Anticipated June 2026
M.S.	Oregon State University, Engineering Psychology	2024
B.A.	Dickinson College, Psychology & French <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Honors in Psychology Honors in French & Francophone Studies	2021
Study Abroad	Danish Institute for Study Abroad Copenhagen, DK	2019

HONORS AND AWARDS

Herbert F. Frolander Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant	2025
University-level award for excellence in graduate student teaching	
Oregon Lottery Graduate Scholarship	2023
State-level award for graduate student academic merit and service	
Oregon State University Provost Distinguished Graduate Scholarship	2022
Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and promise	
Phi Beta Kappa	2021
Academic Honor Society	
Caroline Heath Kennedy French Literature Prize	2021
For excellent French Honors thesis	
Pi Delta Phi	2021
National French Honor Society	
Psi Chi	2019
Psychology Honor Society	
Selma K Asbell Award	2019
For exceptional scholastic performance in the study of French	
Benjamin and Portia Hosler Scholarship	2019
For overall undergraduate academic achievement	
James G Stemler Study Abroad Scholarship	2019
Full funding for study abroad awarded based on academic merit	
Alpha Lambda Delta	2017
National First-Year Honor Society	

PUBLICATIONS

Whittaker, F.*, DeFalco, A.* , Goldblum, R.S., Curtin, J.J., Bradford, D.E. (2025). Alcohol's effects on decision making and cognitive processing in a reward uncertainty task. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. [doi: 10.1037/adb0001105](https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0001105)

*These authors contributed equally

Whittaker, F., DeFalco, A., Sanders, S. M., Perkins, E. R., Joyner, K. J., & Bradford, D. E. (2024). Racial Biases in Skin Conductance Response-Based Polygraphs and Their Legal Implications. *Nature Human Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-02025-0>

Oldham J.R., DeFalco, A., Willwerth, S., Nagle, S., **Whittaker, F.**, Mannix, R., Meehan, W.P., Bradford, D.E. (2024) Concussion-Related Suppression of General Startle Reactivity in Adolescent Athletes. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/HTR.0000000000000979>

Guardino, C., **Whittaker, F.**, Williams, E., Franchini, M. (2023). Resilience Resources, Coping, and Health Outcomes in College Students during the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Journal of American College Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2023.2269446>

Bradford, D. E., Dev, A. S., DeFalco, A., **Whittaker, F.**, Timpano, K. A. (2023). Increasing ecological validity in neuropsychopharmacology research on the relationship between alcohol use and uncertain stressors. *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-023-01672-7>

Whittaker, F., & Kingston, S. (2022). Stress, social support, and substance use in the COVID-19 pandemic. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, 18, 1-17.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000322>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PREPARATION

Buchmeier, S.A., **Whittaker, F.**, Liu, S., Rankin, I., & Wilson, C.G. (under review). Supervisory Control for Human-Robot Field Science Data Collection: Insights from a Disciplinary Geology Field Mission.

Pfeiffer, M., **Whittaker, F.**, Puente, K., & Wilson, C.G. (under review). Visualizations of Tactile Information to Support Human-Supervised Underwater Robot Grasps.

Rankin, I., Liu, S., **Whittaker, F.**, Buchmeier, S.A., Bouffard, L., & Wilson, C.G. (under review). Robot-Assisted Exploration Decisions during a Planetary Analog Field Science Campaign.

Whittaker, F., Elhusseini, S., Loskot, T., La Bash, H., Thomas, F., Finley, E., Lagdamen, J., Monson, C., & Wiltsey Stirman, S. (under review). Comparing and Evaluating Methods of Coding Qualitative Interviews in Implementation Research.

Zhao, Z., **Whittaker, F.**, Bradford, D. E., & Green, C. S. (under review). Lack of evidence for increase in video game addiction symptoms in college-aged gamers over an eight-year period (2017-2024).

LaBash, H., **Whittaker, F.**, Elhusseini, S., Monson, C., & Wiltsey Stirman, S. (in preparation). Combinations of facilitators and barriers that result in successful and unsuccessful CPT implementation across US and Canadian healthcare systems.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Bradford, D.E., DeFalco, A., **Whittaker, F.**, Dooley, C., Curtin, J.J. *Risky business: alcohol increases the subjective value of uncertain rewards in a gambling task.* (2023, October). Invited presentation for the Oregon Problem Gambling Services Fall Summit, Lincoln City, OR.

Whittaker, F. *Stress, Social Factors, and Health Outcomes in the Age of COVID-19.* (2023, September). Invited talk presented for the Rotary Club of Greater Corvallis, Corvallis, OR.

Whittaker, F. *Womanhood in STEM: why sex differences in research cannot be ignored.* (2023, July). Invited talk presented to Oregon State University's summer 2023 cohort of Saturday Academy's Apprenticeships in Science & Engineering Program interns.

Whittaker, F. (2023, June). *Navigating diversity in the classroom: considerations for teaching team members.* Invited talk presented at training for Oregon State University Teaching Assistants, Corvallis, OR.

Whittaker, F. (2021, May). *Femininity in the French diaspora: blackness, womanhood, and power.* Invited presentation at the Dickinson College 2021 Women of Color Summit, Carlisle, PA.

Whittaker, F. (2021, May). *Les femmes folles: Representation of female madness in 19th century French literature.* Invited presentation at the 2021 Dickinson College Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (ROWGS) Symposium, Carlisle, PA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Whittaker, F., Oldham, J. R., Boylan, L. E., Goldblum, R. S., Marra-Dotts, J., Rutherford, M., Hooper, C., Byrne, L. M., Truong, L. T., & Bradford, D. E. *Cleared but Not Recovered: Persistent Startle Reactivity Changes After Concussion in Adolescent Athletes.* (2025, October). Poster to be presented at the 65th annual Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting, Montréal, QC.

Goldblum, R. S., **Whittaker, F.**, Respini, S. E., Perez, M., Hull, E. L., Admire-Novak, J. & Bradford, D. E. *Let's Talk About Sex... Differences in Alcohol's Pharmacological Effects on Startle Potentiation: A Multiverse Approach.* (2025, October). Poster to be presented for the Society for Psychophysiological Research 2025 Meeting, Montreal, QC.

Hull, E., **Whittaker, F.**, Perez, M., Goldblum, R. S., Respiñi, S. E., & Bradford, D. E. *Bringing Fear of the Dark into the Light through a Multi-Measurement Approach*. (2025, October). Poster to be presented at the 65th annual Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting, Montréal, QC.

Marra-Dotts, J. L., Xu, C. P., Goldblum, R. S., **Whittaker, F.**, Dietch, J. R., & Bradford, D. E. *Timing Matters: The Impacts of Circadian Rhythm on Dark Enhanced Startle*. (2025, October). Poster to be presented at the 65th annual Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting, Montréal, QC.

Tepe, L. R., **Whittaker, F.**, Gilmore, E. M., Respiñi, S. E., Ransford, K., Doran, N. C., Hull, E. L., Goldblum, R. S., & Bradford, D. E. *The Effects of Drinking Frequency on Physiological Stress and Alcohol's Response Dampening*. (2025, August). Poster presented for the American Psychological Association 2025 Meeting, Denver, CO.

Dooley, C., **Whittaker, F.**, Respiñi, S. E., Gilmore, E. M., Stern, G. M., Perez, M., Slangan, C. S., Hart, T. & Bradford, D. E. *Shedding Light on Fear of the Dark Using Multimodal Assessment*. (2025, August). Poster presented for the American Psychological Association 2025 Meeting, Denver, CO.

Whittaker, F., Respiñi, S. E., Gilmore, E. M., Tognoli, M. I., Ransford, K., Byrne, L., Xu, C. P., Ma, Q., & Bradford, D. E. *Shots In The Dark: Alcohol Dampens Startle Potentiation In A Novel Threat Of Darkness Paradigm*. (2024, October). Poster presented at the 64th annual Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting, Prague, Czech Republic.

Whittaker, F., Respiñi, S. E., Watkins, G. M., Gilmore, E. M., DeFalco, A., Peavey, N., Tepe, L. R., Rifkin, E. J., Perez, M., & Bradford, D. E. *Lost in the Shadows: a Novel Dark-Enhanced Startle Task*. (2024, August). Poster presented for the American Psychological Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

*Nominated for poster award

DeFalco, A., **Whittaker, F.**, Dooley, C., Curtin, J.J., Bradford, D.E. *Risky business: alcohol increases the subjective value of uncertain rewards*. (2023, October). Poster presented for the International Council for Responsible Gaming Conference on Gambling and Addiction, Las Vegas, NV.

*Honorable mention for poster award

Whittaker, F., DeFalco, A., Tognoli, M.I., Gilmore, E., & Bradford, D.E. (2023, September). *A refined dark enhanced startle task*. Poster presented at the 63rd annual Society for Psychophysiological Research, New Orleans, LA.

DeFalco, A., **Whittaker, F.**, Dooley, C., Curtin, J.J., Bradford, D.E. (2023, September). *Spirited away: alcohol may dull error monitoring and encourage risky choices*. Poster presented at the 63rd annual Society for Psychophysiological Research, New Orleans, LA.

La Bash, H., **Whittaker, F.**, Elhusseini, S., Mallard-Swanson, K., Lagdamen, J., Masina, T., Song, J., Aajmain, S., Loskot, T., Liebman, R., Lane, J., Finley, E., Shields, N., Monson, C.,

& Wiltsey Stirman, S. (2022, September). *Use of a novel method to identify combinations of facilitators and barriers that result in successful and unsuccessful CPT implementation across US and Canadian healthcare systems*. Poster presented at Society for Implementation Research Collaboration, San Diego, CA.

Mallard-Swanson, K., Wiltsey Stirman, S., Monson, C., Haine-Schlagel, R., Miller, C., Liebman, R., La Bash, H., & **Whittaker, F.** (2022, September). *A comparison of continuous quality improvement and fidelity-based learning collaboratives for Cognitive Processing Therapy*. Poster presented at Society for Implementation Research Collaboration, San Diego, CA.

Loskot, T., **Whittaker, F.**, Thomas, F., Lagdamen, J., Mustchler, C., Kannan, K., Burdo, J., Finley, E., Monson, C., & Wiltsey-Stirman, S. (2021, December). *Therapist perspectives on multi-level factors influencing cognitive processing therapy implementation across three healthcare systems*. Poster presented at the 14th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, Virtual.

Whittaker, F. & Kingston, S. (2021, April). *Stress, Social Support, and Substance Use in the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Poster presented at Dickinson College All Sciences Research Symposium.

Whittaker, F., Williams, E., Dionisos, V., Shah, P., & Guardino, C. (2021, March). *Coping, Perceived Stress, and Mental Health Outcomes During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Poster presented at Eastern Psychological Association 2021 Virtual Conference.

Whittaker, F. (2019, December). *Food Insecurity and Social Psychiatry Treatment Outcomes*. Poster presented at Danish Institute for Study Abroad Student Research Symposium, Copenhagen, Denmark.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Project Assistant, Robotics and Applied Decisions (RAD) Lab June 2025 –
Supervisor: Cristina G. Wilson, PhD.
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

- Designed and led a field study to evaluate a supervisory control framework for human-robot teams performing geologic data collection through NASA's Legged Autonomous Surface Science In analog Environments (LASSIE) Project
- Collect eye-tracking and behavioral data from a computerized task to evaluate operator behaviors and preferences when supervising an underwater robotic arm
- Measure and model human uncertainty and decision-making when performing field science to derive insights for system design

Graduate Researcher, Biology and Emotion of Addiction Sept 2022 –
via Experimental and Reproducible Science (BEAVERS) Lab
Supervisor: Daniel Bradford, PhD.
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

- Collect, process and analyze electromyography (EMG) and electroencephalography (EEG) psychophysiological and behavioral data to support multiple studies
 - Design novel experimental tasks to assess performance and psychophysiological responses to laboratory stressors
 - Program experimental paradigms using Psychophysics Toolbox in MATLAB
 - Process, analyze, and visualize psychophysiological, behavioral, and self-report data using R, Python, and MATLAB
 - Supervise and train 18 undergraduate students in experimental design and data collection and oversee 5 undergraduate honors thesis projects

Research Assistant, Fidelity, Adaptation, Sustainability, and Training (FAST) Lab

July 2021 – Sept 2022

Supervisor: Shannon Wiltsey Stirman, PhD.

Stanford University/ National Center for PTSD, Palo Alto, CA

- Coordinated a multisite, NIMH-funded study designed to disseminate and evaluate the efficacy of Written Exposure Therapy (WET) in VA clinics
 - Coordinated a NIMH-funded study comparing methods of quantifying interview data
 - Rated Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) sessions for treatment protocol fidelity, and working alliance to support projects aimed at evaluating the sustainability of CPT implementation programs at VA sites, and testing innovative methods to assess fidelity of CPT delivery in routine mental healthcare settings
 - Prepared and submitted materials for IRB review
 - Cleaned and analyzed quantitative data in R

Psychology Honors Thesis

Aug 2020 – May 2021

Stress, Social Support, and Substance Use Behaviors in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Advisor: Sharon Kingston, PhD.

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Designed and executed a study investigating the extent to which greater stress and social isolation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic were associated with increased substance use
 - Performed literature reviews to develop novel hypotheses and evaluate measurement instruments
 - Collected, analyzed, and interpreted quantitative self-report data

French Honors Thesis

Aug 2020 – May 2021

Representations of Female Madness in 19th Century French Literature

Advisor: Adeline Soldin, PhD.

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Read and analyzed the portrayal of female mental illness and emotional distress in French literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries
 - Demonstrated the broader implications of these portrayals in reflecting and shaping contemporary stereotypes about women
 - Produced significant literary analysis (55 pages) in French

Research Assistant, Stress, Resilience, and Health Lab

Aug 2020 – May 2021

Supervisor: Christine Guardino, PhD.

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Quantified target outcome variables and developed hypotheses in a longitudinal study investigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on undergraduate students' mental and physical health
- Conducted literature searches and assisted in the preparation of manuscripts for conferences and peer-reviewed journals
- Performed statistical analyses (e.g., regression, correlations), scored and managed quantitative data in SPSS

Research Assistant, Improving Outcomes for Children of Caregivers with Substance Use Disorders

Jan 2020 – May 2021

Supervisor: Sharon Kingston, PhD.

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Developed instruments to evaluate effectiveness of a community-based intervention for children impacted by caregiver substance use disorder
- Collected, managed, scored, and analyzed data from interviews with adults and children
- Prepared reports and presentations for local professionals, funding sources, and peer-reviewed journals

Independent Research

Sept 2019 – Dec 2019

Nutritional Access and Social Psychiatry Treatment Outcomes

Advisor: Eleftherios Saftis, M.A.

Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Copenhagen, DK

- Designed and developed a correlational study on the extent to which a healthful, nutrient-dense diet was associated with more positive outcomes of psychological interventions in the Danish welfare state-funded social psychiatry network
- Collected, coded, and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative data
- Conducted literature searches and review
- Communicated findings and implications of independent research to stakeholders and the general public

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Instructor of Record, Department of Psychology

March 2023 –

PSY 202: General Psychology

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

- Generate and present lectures to classes of 50 students
- Design lesson plans, materials, assignments, etc. based on desired student learning outcomes and undergraduate psychology program requirements
- Assess student work through grading written assignments

Undergraduate Mentor, OSU STEM Leaders Program

Jan 2023 –

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

- Involved 2 first-year undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds in research experiences and guided their growth as a researcher
- Facilitated mentees' application to additional research and professional development experiences

Student Mentor, Project SHORT Jan 2023 – Jan 2025

- Provide one-on-one mentorship about application and assimilation to graduate programs to incoming and prospective students from low-income backgrounds
- Lead programming to support Project SHORT (Students for Higher Education Opportunities and Representation in Training)'s goal of shrinking socioeconomic gaps and increasing diversity in medical and graduate school

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology Sept 2022 – March 2023
PSY 202: General Psychology
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

- Assessed student work through grading written assignments
- Created exams, study guides, presentations, and other teaching materials
- Presented lectures to classes of 300+ students

Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology Aug 2020 – Dec 2020
PSY 120: Introduction to Health Psychology
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Supervised and facilitated class discussions based on course content
- Instructed students in applying and differentiating between course concepts
- Supported teaching activities as a liaison between instructor and 41 undergraduate students

Statistics Tutor, Department of Psychology Jan 2019 – May 2020
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Worked with a total of 7 undergraduate students individually to facilitate an understanding of statistical logic and analyses in psychological research
- Developed student competencies in SPSS and statistical computer programming

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Student Interviewer, Dickinson College Office of Admissions Aug 2020 – May 2021
Carlisle, PA

- Conducted evaluative interviews with prospective undergraduate students to assess interpersonal factors that contribute to undergraduate admission outcomes
- Maintained professionalism with prospective students and families
- Adhered to strict confidentiality protocols regarding details of students' admission materials and decisions

Summer Data Assistant, University of Massachusetts Med. School June 2020 – Aug 2020
Worcester, MA

- Worked with Director/ PI for the University of Massachusetts Medical School's MassAHEC (Area Health Education Center) Network
- Learned and used federal software to complete data entry and analysis
- Coordinated and performed data entry for the federal Annual Performance Report (USDHHS/HRSA Grant #U77HP03016), making zero errors

Clinical Psychology Practicum Student Aug 2019 – Dec 2019

Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Copenhagen, DK

- Observed, assessed, and interviewed mental health service users to inform intervention planning
- Applied cognitive behavioral and psychodynamic approaches to psychotherapeutic support in a welfare-funded community mental health center

SERVICE

OSF Ambassador Sept 2023 –

Open Science Framework

Organized advocacy for open science principles of research integrity, openness, and reproducibility through delivering presentations and creating training material for my home institution.

Reviewer, Psychophysiology

Co- Reviewer, Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, Biological Psychiatry, Psychophysiology, International Journal of Psychophysiology, Stress & Health

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member Jan 2024 –
Oregon State University Honors College

Committee Member, Diversity and Outreach Student Subcommittee Oct 2022 – Aug 2024
Society for Psychophysiological Research

Committee Member, Project SHORT Planning Committee Jan 2023 – Jan 2024
Project SHORT (Students for Higher Education Opportunities and Representation in Training)

Title IX Peer Educator Jan 2019 – May 2020
Dickinson College Office of Title IX

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Technical Skills

Julia	Working experience
MATLAB	Intermediate
Python	Intermediate
Qualtrics	Advanced
R	Advanced

REDCap	Advanced
SPSS	Advanced
SQL	Working experience

Foreign Languages

French	Advanced Reading Proficiency
	Advanced Writing Proficiency
	Intermediate Speaking Proficiency

REFERENCES

Dr. Daniel E. Bradford

Assistant Professor, Oregon State University

Phone: (334) 333-5277

Email: daniel.bradford@oregonstate.edu

Dr. Cristina G. Wilson

Assistant Research Professor, Oregon State University

Phone: (503) 298-8636

Email: cristina.wilson@oregonstate.edu

Dr. Shannon Wiltsey Stirman

Associate Professor, Stanford University / Principal Investigator, National Center for PTSD

Phone: (215) 459-4200

Email: sws1@stanford.edu

Dr. Christine Guardino

Assistant Professor, Stony Brook University

Phone: (717) 245-8373

Email: christine.guardino@stonybrook.edu