

# FREYA WHITTAKER, M.S.

---

[freya.whittaker@oregonstate.edu](mailto:freya.whittaker@oregonstate.edu) | [www.linkedin.com/in/freya-whittaker](https://www.linkedin.com/in/freya-whittaker)

---

## EDUCATION

---

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

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

<b>Herbert F. Frolander Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant</b>	2025
University-level award for excellence in graduate student teaching	
<b>Oregon Lottery Graduate Scholarship</b>	2023
State-level award for graduate student academic merit and service	
<b>Oregon State University Provost Distinguished Graduate Scholarship</b>	2022
Awarded for outstanding academic achievement and promise	
<b>Phi Beta Kappa</b>	2021
Academic Honor Society	
<b>Caroline Heath Kennedy French Literature Prize</b>	2021
For excellent French Honors thesis	
<b>Pi Delta Phi</b>	2021
National French Honor Society	
<b>Psi Chi</b>	2019
Psychology Honor Society	
<b>Selma K Asbell Award</b>	2019
For exceptional scholastic performance in the study of French	
<b>Benjamin and Portia Hosler Scholarship</b>	2019
For overall undergraduate academic achievement	
<b>James G Stemler Study Abroad Scholarship</b>	2019
Full funding for study abroad awarded based on academic merit	
<b>Alpha Lambda Delta</b>	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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 65<sup>th</sup> 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., Respini, 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., Respini, 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.**, Respini, 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.**, Respini, 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 64<sup>th</sup> annual Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting, Prague, Czech Republic.

**Whittaker, F.**, Respini, 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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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

MATLAB

Python

Qualtrics

R

Working experience

Intermediate

Intermediate

Advanced

Advanced

REDCap  
SPSS  
SQL

Advanced  
Advanced  
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](mailto:daniel.bradford@oregonstate.edu)

**Dr. Cristina G. Wilson**

Assistant Research Professor, Oregon State University

Phone: (503) 298-8636

Email: [cristina.wilson@oregonstate.edu](mailto: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](mailto:sws1@stanford.edu)

**Dr. Christine Guardino**

Assistant Professor, Stony Brook University

Phone: (717) 245-8373

Email: [christine.guardino@stonybrook.edu](mailto:christine.guardino@stonybrook.edu)