

# BRENDAN CULLEN

I am a PhD student and [National Science Foundation GRFP Fellow](#) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Oregon. As an aspiring data scientist, my long-term goal is to contribute to open-source software and to apply my computational skills as a researcher within an industry setting focused on enhancing health across the lifespan.



## 🎓 EDUCATION

2022  
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2017

- **PhD Student, Psychology**  
University of Oregon 📍 Eugene, OR
  - My research takes a translational (neuro)science approach toward predictive modeling of real-world health behaviors and health outcomes within a precision medicine framework.
  - I am currently pursuing a 5-course [Data Science Specialization](#) taught entirely in R, focused on data visualization, functional programming, and machine learning.

2019  
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2017

- **MS, Psychology**  
University of Oregon 📍 Eugene, OR
  - Thesis: Comparing cognitive and affective predictors of craving

2015  
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2011

- **BA, Neuroscience**  
Middlebury College 📍 Middlebury, VT
  - Thesis: Neurophysiological correlates of self-referential activity in meditators and non-meditators

## 🏆 HONORS & AWARDS

2023  
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2018

- **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship**  
National Science Foundation

2020

- **Center on Parenting and Opioids Pilot & Training Core Travel Award**  
University of Oregon

2020

- **Graduate School “Special Opps” Travel & Research Award**  
University of Oregon

2019

- **Graduate Education Committee Travel Award**  
Department of Psychology, University of Oregon

2017

- **Graduate School Recruitment Award**  
University of Oregon

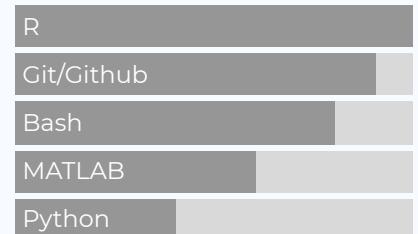
2017

- **Mind and Life Summer Research Institute Fellow**  
Mind and Life Institute

## CONTACT

- 🌐 [bcullen.rbind.io](http://bcullen.rbind.io)
- ✉️ [bcullen@uoregon.edu](mailto:bcullen@uoregon.edu)
- 🐦 [@\\_bcullen](https://twitter.com/_bcullen)
- 👤 [brendanhcullen](https://brendanhcullen.com)
- linkedin [linkedin.com/in/bcull](https://linkedin.com/in/bcull)
- 📞 [901-826-9547](tel:901-826-9547)

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS



- 2017 ● **International Symposium for Contemplative Studies Scholarship**  
Mind and Life Institute
- 2015 ● **BA in Neuroscience with Highest Honors, Summa Cum Laude**  
Middlebury College
- 2015 ● **Elected to Phi Beta Kappa**  
Middlebury College
- 2015 | 2011 ● **Dean's Honor List (8 semesters)**  
Middlebury College
- 2015 ● **Rosalin Lieberman-Reiss Memorial Award**  
Department of Psychology, Middlebury College  
• Awarded to a graduating senior who shows the greatest promise to contribute to the treatment and cure of severe mental illness.
- 2015 ● **Mind and Life Summer Research Institute Fellow**  
Mind and Life Institute
- 2014 ● **International Symposium for Contemplative Studies Scholarship**  
Mind and Life Institute
- 2014 ● **Academic Conference Travel Fund Award**  
Middlebury College
- 2014 ● **Senior Research Project Supplement**  
Middlebury College
- 2014 ● **Bicentennial Fund for Research Partnerships in the Sciences Fellowship**  
Middlebury College
- 2013 ● **Fred M. Roddy Research Fellowship in Biomedical Science**  
Middlebury College

## PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018 | 2017 ● **Graduate Employee**  
Social and Affective Neuroscience Lab  University of Oregon  
• Selected self-report measures and co-designed interventions for NCI-funded RCT comparing behavioral response and cognitive reappraisal interventions for de-valuing unhealthy food  
• Created automated workflow for daily backup of fMRI backup via a high performance computing cluster
- 2017 | 2015 ● **Research Assistant**  
Clinical and Affective Neuroscience Lab  Brown University  
• Cleaned and scored self-report data (20+ measures) from an NIH-funded 3-armed RCT comparing focused awareness meditation, open-monitoring meditation, and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy on clinical efficacy for depression  
• Led a project investigating the effects of meditation training on EEG and behavioral measures of self-referential processing

2017  
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2015

- **Research Assistant**  
Embodied Neuroscience Lab 📍 Brown University
  - Collected EEG data for pilot RCT testing a neuro-muscular-immune model of chronic fatigue in female cancer survivors
  - Designed custom software in MATLAB to implement novel EEG/EMG paradigm for measuring neural correlates of tactile acuity and precision grip strength

2016

- **Recruitment Specialist**  
Women's Medicine Collaborative,  
Miriam Hospital 📍 Providence, RI
  - Developed strategies to recruit specialized patient populations for randomized controlled trials, including female cancer survivors and patients with asthma

2015  
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2014

- **Research Assistant**  
Social Psychology of Meditation Lab 📍 Middlebury College
  - Led a study on relationship between mindfulness, hormones, empathy, and prosocial behavior
  - Recruited and interviewed participants, administered surveys and cognitive tests, and analyzed salivary cortisol and testosterone assays

2014  
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2013

- **Research Assistant**  
Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Lab 📍 Middlebury College
  - Collected animal behavior data on the dose-dependent effects of testosterone replacement on spatial memory
  - Performed behavioral testing, prepared brain samples, collected microscopy data and assisted with manuscript preparation



## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020

- **Lab Instructor**  
[PSY 612: Data Analysis II](#) 📍 University of Oregon
  - Designed and taught lab sections on [Correlations](#), [Univariate Regression and the General Linear Model](#), [Regression with Categorical Predictors](#), [Interactions](#), and [Factorial ANOVA](#).

I believe that learning open source data science tools can empower us to be better scientists. During my third year of graduate school, I served as a teaching assistant and lab instructor for a graduate-level advanced data analysis sequence and have spent a significant amount of time creating educational resources about working with data in R. I have relished the opportunity to help equip my fellow graduate students learn R and increase the efficiency and reproducibility of their own research projects.

2019

- **Lab Instructor**  
[PSY 611: Data Analysis I](#) 📍 University of Oregon
  - Designed and taught lab sections on [R Basics and Descriptive Statistics](#), [Matrix Algebra](#), [Data Transformation with dyplr](#), [Pre-registration](#), and [Paired samples t-tests](#).

2015

- **Teaching Assistant**  
[PSYC 301: Physiological Psychology](#) 📍 Middlebury College
  - Assisted with lab and discussion sections, held exam review sessions, prepared experimental equipment, and conducted animal testing for student projects

## WORKSHOPS TAUGHT

2020

- **Introduction to Git and Github**  
Psychology First Year Research Seminar  University of Oregon
  - Introductory workshop for first-year psychology PhD and Masters students on basics of using Git and Github for version control

2019

- **Intermediate Git and Github**  
UO Data Science Club  University of Oregon
  - Intermediate Git/Github workshop for University of Oregon's Data Science Club, including discussion of merge conflicts, branching, pull requests, and best practices for collaborative Github projects

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2018

- **Dismantling Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy: Creation and validation of 8-week Focused Attention and Open Monitoring interventions within a 3-armed randomized controlled trial**  
*Behaviour and Research Therapy*, 101, 92-107.
  - Britton, W.B., Davis, J., Loucks, E.B., Peterson, B., Cullen, B., Reuter, L., Rando, A., Rahrig, H., Lipsky, J. & Lindahl, J. (2018).

2018

- **Comparing embodiment experiences in expert meditators and non-meditators**  
*Consciousness and Cognition*, 65, 325-333.
  - Xu, A., Cullen, B., Penner, C., Zimmerman, C., Kerr, C.E., & Schmalzl, L. (2018)

2018

- **Dose-dependent effects of testosterone on spatial memory in adult male rats**  
*Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 89, 120-130.
  - Wagner, B., Braddick, V., Batson, C., Cullen, B., Miller, E. & Spritzer, M. (2018).

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

2020

- **The contributions of focused attention and open monitoring in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy: a 3-armed randomized dismantling trial**  
In prep
  - Cullen, B., Eichel, K., Lindahl, J., Rahrig, H., Kini, N., Flahive, J. & Britton, W.B.

2020

- **Neural correlates of emotion reactivity and emotion regulation in women with borderline personality disorder: A replication of the literature with novel extensions**  
In prep
  - Lewis, J., Cullen, B., Giuliani, N., & Zalewski, M.

- 2020 ● **Comparing cognitive and affective predictors of craving**  
In prep  
· Cullen, B., DeStasio, K., Cosme, D., & Berkman, E.T.
- 2020 ● **The teacher matters: Instructor related effects of a pilot mindfulness intervention RCT in a school setting**  
In prep  
· Canby, N., Lipsky, J., Cullen, B., Eichel, K., & Britton, W.B.

## SELECTED POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 ● **Cognitive versus affective predictors of craving**  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  Portland, OR  
· Cullen, B., DeStasio, K., Cosme, D., & Berkman, E.T. (2019)
- 2019 ● **Personalized stop-signal training to improve inhibitory control among adults who experienced early adversity**  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  Portland, OR  
· DeStasio, K., Cullen, B., Shaffer, K., & Berkman, E.T. (2019)
- 2018 ● **A pilot randomized control trial investigating brain-body mechanisms of Qigong meditative movement practice for cancer-related fatigue**  
Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting  San Diego, CA  
· Zimmerman, C., Penner, C., Temereanca, S., Daniels, D., Cullen, B., Jones, S., & Kerr, C.
- 2017 ● **Teacher effects in a school-based mindfulness intervention**  
Mind and Life Summer Research Institute  Garrison, NY  
· Cullen, B., Canby, N., & Britton, W. B.
- 2017 ● **Sustained Attention in Focused Attention versus Open Monitoring Meditation: Behavioral and Neurophysiological Changes**  
29th Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention  Boston, MA  
· Eichel, K., Essien, G., Cullen, B., Rogers, A. & Britton, W.B.
- 2017 ● **Dose-dependent effects of testosterone on spatial memory in young and adult male rats**  
International Meeting for Steroids and the Nervous System  Turin, Italy  
· Spritzer, M.D., Batson, C.G., Braddick, V.C., Chyr, C.U., Cullen, B., Goins, E.C., Jaeger, E.C.B., Miller, L.E., Super, C., & Wagner, B.A.

- 2016
- **An open-source system for EEG neurofeedback and transcranial current stimulation control: Applications for meditation research**  
International Symposium for Contemplative Studies, San Diego, CA  
Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting  
• Cullen, B., Santoyo, J., Black, C., McFarlane-Blake, C. & Kerr, C.
- 2016
- **A Neurofeedback Informed Meditation Technique (NIMT) for modulating posterior cingulate cortex activity: Proof-of concept for a novel mental-training paradigm with clinical applications**  
International Symposium for Contemplative Studies, San Diego, CA  
Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting  
• Santoyo, J., Cullen, B., & Kerr, C.
- 2016
- **The role of social relationships in contemplative development**  
Mind and Life Summer Research Institute Garrison, NY  
• Canby, N., Margolis, C., Cullen, B., Rahrig, H., Alejandra-Lara, A., Noorani, M., Lindahl, J. & Britton, W.
- 2016
- **The impact of social relationship factors on clinical outcomes in Mindfulness-Based Interventions**  
Brown University Mind Brain Research Day Providence, RI  
Brown University Public Health Research Day  
• Cullen, B., Rahrig, H., Dumais, T., Canby, N., Lindahl, J., & Britton, W.
- 2015
- **Neurophysiological correlates of self-referential activity in meditators and non-meditators**  
Mind and Life Summer Research Institute Garrison, NY  
• Cullen, B., Bruns, M., Paritsky, A., McGuirk, E., Ogle, T., Kimble, M., & Cronise, K.
- 2015
- **Neurophysiological correlates of self-referential activity in meditators and non-meditators**  
Advances in Meditation Research New York, NY  
• Cullen, B., Bruns, M., Paritsky, A., McGuirk, E., Ogle, T., Kimble, M., & Cronise, K.
- 2014
- **Do expert meditators differ from novice and non-meditators in emotion identification, physiological competitive reactions, or prosocial responses?**  
Center for Compassion and Altruism Research San Francisco, CA  
and Education Science of Compassion Conference  
• Cullen, B., Stallworthy, I., Lesenskyj, A., Boles, L., Weinert-Stein, M., Perce-  
lay, R., Kahn, H.; McGuirk, E., Sellers, J., & Cronise, K.
- 2014
- **Effects of testosterone dose on spatial memory in adult male rats**  
Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting Washington, D.C.  
• Cullen, B., Spritzer, M., Batson, C., Spillane, S., & Wagner, B.

## TALKS

- 2018 ● **Effects of focused attention and open monitoring meditation on error-related processing: Behavioral and neurophysiological changes**  
International Conference of the European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience  Leiden, Netherlands  
• Eichel, K., Cullen, B., & Britton, W.
- 2017 ● **Dismantling effects of focused attention and open monitoring techniques in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for affective disturbances**  
Annual Meeting and Expo of the American Public Health Association  Atlanta, GA  
• Chang, B., Cullen, B., Kini, N., Rahrig, H., & Britton, W.
- 2016 ● **Movement, embodiment and interoception in the context of contemplative practices (Panel)**  
International Symposium for Contemplative Studies  San Diego, CA  
• Schmalzl, L., Powers, C., Yetz, N., Groessl, EJ., Saron, C., Kerr, C., Zimmerman, C., Cullen, B., Clark, D., Mostofsky, SH., Feinstein, J., Khalsa, S., Simmons, K., & Paulus, M.
- 2016 ● **Effects of focused attention and open monitoring meditation on sustained attention**  
International Symposium for Contemplative Studies  San Diego, CA  
• Eichel, K., Cullen, B., & Britton, W.

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2020 ● **Introduction to Machine Learning with the Tidyverse**  
`rstudio::conf(2020)`  San Francisco, CA  
• Two-day workshop on machine learning with tidymodels taught by Alison Hill

## SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- 2020 ● **Co-organizer**  
[Cascadia R Conf 2020](#)  Eugene, OR  
• Updated website for 2020 conference, designed new hex sticker, secured additional sponsors
- 2018 ● **Co-organizer**  
[Eugene Brainhack](#)  Eugene, OR  
• Co-organized a two-day Brainhack event hosted at the University of Oregon that involved collaborative software development projects related to computational neuroscience and psychology

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| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Science communication ambassador</b><br/><i>The People's Science</i></li></ul>   |  Eugene, OR     |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trained to be a coach to assist people with communicating their scientific work to the general public</li></ul>   |  |
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Lab Tour Guide</b><br/>Intel Science Fair</li></ul>  |  Eugene, OR     |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gave a presentation for middle- and high-school students as part of a science outreach event during the regional Intel Science Fair in Eugene</li><li>• Gave students a tour of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Lab and hosted a Q&amp;A session about scientific careers</li></ul> |  |
| 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Co-organizer</b><br/><i>Mindfulness, Healing and Empathy in Healthcare Speaker Series</i>,<br/>Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University</li></ul>  |  Providence, RI |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinated with guest speakers for a 6-part lecture series for Brown University medical students and community members</li><li>• Created a website to advertise the public talks and to provide community members with information about mindfulness resources</li></ul>                 |  |