

Debra Lindsay (she/her)

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San Diego, CA, United States

Education

<i>Current</i>	PhD in Experimental Psychology (6th Year) University of California San Diego - San Diego, United States
<i>2020</i>	Master Arts in Experimental Psychology University of California San Diego - San Diego, United States
<i>2017</i>	Post Baccalaureate Program in Psychology and Social Behavior University of California Irvine - Irvine, United States
<i>2014</i>	Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honors IIA) University of Queensland - Brisbane, Australia <i>Major: Psychology</i>
<i>2004</i>	Bachelor of Arts Griffith University - Nathan, Australia <i>Major: Contemporary Art</i> <i>Minor: Studies in the Creative Industries</i>

Research

2018 – Present

Current Graduate Program

Department of Psychology

University of California, San Diego

Connection to Nature and pro-environmental behavior

I am interested in how people view their individual and collective connection to non-human nature and how this predicts attitudes and behaviors towards conservation issues. I am currently focusing on how best to operationalize and measure connection to nature. This includes exploring the dimensional structure of the construct by focusing on how people's fundamental views about how humans relate to nature impacts their connection to nature. I am also interested in how to leverage connection to nature to increase pro-environmental behavior, in particular, the difficult types of behavior that are required for meaningful action against climate change. Currently, I am focusing on how both self-transcendent experiences and personal definitions of nature can impact both one's connection to nature and their motivation to engage in difficult pro-environmental behaviors.

Character strengths, belief, and psychological wellbeing

During the first year of my graduate program I took over the running of an existing study which explored the effects of belief on character strength interventions aimed at improving psychological wellbeing. This involved leading the direction of the research based on prior literature, updating the experiment methodology based on pilot study results, overseeing four undergraduate research assistants, analyzing and writing up the preliminary results, and presenting these at the end of year department conference. I am currently analyzing and writing up the results of this study. We are currently running a follow-up study which introduces the causal role of belief.

September 2016 – August 2018

Research Assistant

School of Social Ecology
University of California, Irvine

Political Bias, Moral Reasoning, and Fake News

While completing my post-baccalaureate program I worked in the Hot Cognition Lab with Dr. Pete Ditto with a focus on motivated reasoning. I conducted two studies under his supervision where I sourced real-world political headlines from fact-checking websites which allowed us to view truth as a continuous variable. I was directly responsible for conducting the background literature search and developing the study materials. I worked with graduate students in the lab to analyze the data in R and we are currently in the process of writing up the results of one of these studies for publication.

Facial Feedback

I also held the position of lead research assistant and was responsible for overseeing several undergraduate research assistants. This involved recruiting undergraduate research assistants, training them in facial coding techniques (including the development of training protocol for future lead research assistants) and overseeing their work on facial coding as part of a project on facial feedback. As lead coder I was responsible for ensuring the coding work was completed on time and correctly also compiling the independent coding results and arranging meetings to resolve discrepancies.

Academic outcomes from Sexual Harassment

I worked as a collaborator on a project exploring the academic outcomes of victims of sexual harassment on university campuses in the US. This involved conducting extensive literature searches, collaborating on the development of a data analysis plan, and co-authoring a research paper which is currently in preparation.

Science Educator Training

I assisted graduate student to develop a literature search for a meta-analysis paper. During this work I was responsible for conducting further literature searches and provided feedback based on my findings in the literature.

November 2014 – January 2015

Research Assistant

School of Psychology
University of Queensland

Effect of Mindfulness on Biases

I collaborated on a project exploring the effects of mindfulness meditation on prejudicial attitudes and political ideology. During this project I was responsible for developing the stimulus materials and conducting the experiment. I managed the logistics of scheduling participants, setting up test site and equipment, and maintaining experimental conditions needed for mindfulness study. The results of this study showed that by inducing a mindful state prejudicial attitudes were reduced via a reduction in the sense of self. This work introduced me to the potential of using interventions that reduced individuals focus on the self as a way of ameliorating belief in extreme beliefs that were tied up with a strong self-concept with one's political ideology.

March 2014 – November 2014

Undergraduate Honors Thesis

School of Psychology
University of Queensland

Seen it, Pinned it, Done it: The effects of vicarious goal satiation and “pinning” on Pinterest users’ goal motivation

I developed my honors project exploring whether using the inspirational pin board website Pinterest would deplete user's intrinsic motivation, despite their belief it would spur them in their goals. I was responsible for developing the materials for both a pilot and primary study, preparing the proposal for the ethics board, recruiting participants and running the experiment. The results of this study were presented at the School of Psychology Honors Student Conference and submitted as my final thesis.

August 2013 – September 2013

Research Assistant

School of Psychology
University of Queensland

Identity Rejection and Wellbeing

I assisted with a project exploring identity rejection in Asia-Australian students. During this project I was responsible for administering the experiment materials which included performing a deception manipulation where I rejected participants Australian identity. Given the deception nature of this study I was responsible for fully debriefing participants after the study ensuring we met with the university ethical guidelines.

March 2011 – November 2014

Teaching

Instructor of Record

University of California, San Diego
2023 - Current

Classes

- Psyc137 – Social Cognitive Psychology
- Psyc193L – Environmental Psychology Research Lab

Teaching Assistantships

University of California, San Diego
2018 - Current

Classes

- Psyc6 – Social Psychology Foundations
- Psyc60 – Introduction to Statistics
- Psyc160 – Behavioral Neuroscience
- Psyc162 – Psychology and the Law
- Psyc185 – The Psychology of the Climate Crisis
- Psyc137 – Social Cognitive Psychology
- Psyc71 – Research Methods
- Psyc104 – Social Psychology
- Psyc168 – Psychological Disorders in Childhood
- Psyc172 – Human Sexuality

Mentoring

Graduate Mentorship Facilitator

University of California, San Diego
2022 - Current

Serve as a resource for other graduate students who have questions about mentoring undergraduate students within their labs as well as serve as a liaison to the department about mentorship issues.

Presentations

- Ditto, P., Rode, J., & **Lindsay, D.** (2020) *Tribalism and the Truth: Political Affinities Shape Factual Belief*. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference in New Orleans, LA.
- Lindsay, D.**, Dobkins, K. (2020) *Belief that a practiced character strength is “you” predicts improvements in well-being*. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference in New Orleans, LA.
- Lindsay, D.**, Dobkins, K. (2019) *Belief, Signature Strengths, & Wellbeing*. Presented at “Little APS” Research Meeting at the University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA.
- Lindsay, D.**, Rode, J., & Ditto., P. (2017) *Fake News! Judging true and false in political news*. Presented at the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Symposium at the University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA.
- Lindsay, D.**, Tobin, S.J. (2014) *Seen it, Pinned it, Done it: The effects of vicarious goal satiation and “pinning” on Pinterest users’ goal motivation*. Presented at the Psychology Honors Conference at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Publications

- Dobkins, K., Dickenson, J., **Lindsay, D.**, & Bondi, T. (2023) Changing the landscape of mental health among college students: a community case study of a course on learning sustainable well-being. *Frontiers Public Health*, 11.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1175594>
- Lindsay, D.**, Dobkins, K. (in prep.) Belief that a practiced character strength is “you” predicts improvements in well-being.

Fellowships & Research Programs

2022	Mind and Life Summer Research Institute – Othering, belonging, and becoming
2021	Mind and Life Summer Research Institute – The mind, the human-earth connection, and the climate crisis
2019	Anderson McGill Summer Research Fellowship

Honors and Commendations

2017	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Poster Commendation
2015	Essay selected as exemplary sample for Senior Level class: Judgment and Decision Making
2014	Commendation for Socio-genomics Seminar Presentation
2011 – 2014	Dean’s List, Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences
2004	Dean’s List, Faculty of Arts

Professional Affiliations

- Student member of the Society for Social Psychology
- Student member of the American Psychology Association
 - Membership in Division 34 - Environmental, Population, and Conservation Psychology
[Secretary – current]