

# Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

The **Trauma and Coping Research Group (TCRG)** conducts research on psychological trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the ways in which people cope with trauma and subsequent psychological sequela. In particular, this lab has a special interest in PTSD and co-occurring substance use disorders among Veteran and military populations. The goal is to identify activity patterns that appear particularly detrimental in terms of PTSD severity or functional impairment. In addition to substance abuse comorbidity, we have also examined other comorbidity patterns in the context of PTSD, including complicated grief, suicidality, and personality disorders.

## -Key Research Contributions and Directions-

Dr. McDevitt-Murphy receives grant support from the US Department of Defense to investigate behavioral activity patterns among military veterans with PTSD. She and her team have worked to develop efficacious psychosocial (i.e., non-pharmacological) interventions for military veterans with alcohol use disorders as well as PTSD.

Recent work approaches PTSD from a novel theoretical perspective, in the hopes that this may shed light on possible targets for new interventions. The TCRG aims to establish a set of metrics reflecting behavioral economic variables that have relevance to PTSD, (for example, proportion of activity involvement that is related to avoidance) and then to investigate these variables across trauma populations (e.g., military veterans, civilian trauma survivors, sexual assault survivors).



## -Recent Publications-

Luciano, M. T., McDevitt-Murphy, M. E., Acuff, S. F., Bellet, B. W., Tripp, J. C., & Murphy, J. G. (in press). Posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms improve after an integrated brief alcohol intervention for OEF/OIF/OND veterans. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*.

McDevitt-Murphy, M. E., Luciano, M. T., Tripp, J. C., & Eddinger, J. E. (in press). Drinking motives and PTSD-related alcohol expectancies among combat Veterans. *Addictive Behaviors*.

Luciano, M. T., & McDevitt-Murphy, M. E. (in press). Posttraumatic stress and physical health functioning: Moderating effects of deployment and postdeployment social support in OEF/OIF/OND Veterans. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*.

Tripp, J. C., & McDevitt-Murphy, M. E. (2016). Trauma-related guilt mediates the relationship between posttraumatic stress disorder and suicidal ideation in OEF/OIF/OND veterans. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. Online First.

Henschel, A. V., & McDevitt-Murphy, M. E. (2016). How do aftermath of battle experiences affect returning OEF/OIF veterans?. *Military Behavioral Health*. Online First.

Tripp, J. C., & McDevitt-Murphy, M. E. (2015). Emotion dysregulation facets as mediators of the relationship between PTSD and alcohol misuse. *Addictive Behaviors*, 47, 55-60.

For more information please visit:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/tcrglab/>

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