

LAUREN NICOLE LESKO

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles 2018 - Present
Social Psychology PhD Program
M.A. Fall 2019

University of California, Los Angeles 2013 - 2017
Anthropology B.S.
Ecology, Behavior, & Evolution B.S.

SPECIALIZED RESEARCH TRAINING AND SKILLS

- Programs and programming languages: SQL syntax, R, SPSS, Bash, FSL, Blimp, Git
- Data analysis courses and workshops attended: Multilevel Modeling, Missing Data, ANOVA, Regression, Statistics for Neuroimaging, Biostatistics, Power Analysis, Longitudinal Data Analysis
- Data science skills: GitHub, cluster computing, web scraping, cloud computing, Shiny for interactive documents
- Fieldwork training in Dja rainforest, Cameroon: ethograms and wildlife observation
- Teaching & mentorship training: Mentoring Up - Maintaining Effective Communication (1.5 hrs); Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experience in Research (CIMER) Mentor Training (1 unit, 15 hours); 495 Teaching Preparation courses A, B, M, N, & O (10 units total, approximately 150 hours)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research

March 2022 - Present

- The Physical Activity Study is a mixed-methods investigation of daily fluctuations in women's hormones, behaviors, and attitudes using saliva samples, LH tests, smart watches, and nightly surveys (daily diary). I design research protocols, recruit and schedule participants, train and mentor a team of 10+ research assistants, and collate participants' biosamples.

Graduate Student Researcher in the Haselton Lab

September 2018 - Present

- Using surveys in Qualtrics to collect both qualitative and quantitative data
- Analyzing data in R: multilevel modeling, item response theory, factor analysis, linear regression
- Working on five projects and managing teams of four to eight undergraduates for each: Using GitHub and R to collaboratively code, using Qualtrics to program surveys, reviewing literature, IRB applications, participant scheduling and management, and write-up

Undergraduate Student Researcher

September 2014 - June 2017

- Studied wildlife in Dja Rainforest, Cameroon using ethograms and camera traps
- Assisted Dr. Joseph Manson with a study of psychopathy by running participants through the study on computers
- Assisted Dr. Kenneth Chapin with a study of whip spiders by annotating videos and scoring ethograms
- Assisted Dr. Graeme Ruxton with a study of sexism in academia by coding citation counts and author genders

AWARDS AND HONORS

UCLA Psychology Graduate Student Association J. Arthur Woodward Peer Mentoring Award 2023
UCLA Academic Senate Grant 2022 (with advisor)
UCLA Academic Senate Grant 2020 (with advisor)
UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program 2019
NSF GRFP 2018
NSF GRFP Honorable Mention 2017

A.R. Wallace Scholarship for International Field and Marine Research 2016
Holmes O. Miller Scholarship for Field Study 2016
UCLA Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Research Scholarship 2016
Highest Departmental Honors in Ecology, Behavior, & Evolution 2017
UCLA College Honors Program 2013 - 2017

PUBLICATIONS

*Denotes a mentee**

Peng, S., Lesko, L., & Haselton, M. (2024, forthcoming). Hormones and Women's Social Behavior: What We Know and What We Need to Know. *Annual Review of Psychology*. **Review Article**

Lesko, L., & Miller, C. (2022). Open Commentaries to "Ten Steps Toward a Better Personality Science: How Quality may be Rewarded More in Research Evaluation" (Leising et al.). *Personality Science*, 3, 1-61. <https://doi.org/10.5964/ps.9227>
[Comment](#)

Gangestad, S., Haselton, M., Dinh, T., & Lesko, L. (2021). Characterizing Women's Desires Across the Ovulation Cycle. *Handbook of Human Mating*. [Chapter](#)

PUBLICATIONS IN PREP

*Denotes a mentee**

Lesko, L., Moore, T., & Haselton, M. Updating our model of relationship psychology: a five-study investigation.

Lesko, L., Curran, Z., & Haselton, M. Impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on gendered household labor and sexual desire.

Larson, C., Lesko, L., & Haselton, M. Cycle Shifts in Attraction among Naturally Cycling Women as Compared with Women Using Hormonal Contraceptives: A Daily Diary Investigation.

PRESENTATIONS

Lesko, L., Moore, T., & Haselton, M. (2023). Updating our model of evolved mating psychology: Attraction to many or few potential partners. **Talk** presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society Conference.

Lesko, L., Moore, T., & Haselton, M. (2022). Distinguishing Sexual Attraction from Sexual Desire. **Datablitz** presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Sexuality Preconference.

Lesko, L. (May 2020). Distinguishing between sexual attraction and sexual desire. **Talk** presented to the Social Area of the UCLA Psychology Department.

Lesko, L. (November 2019). Are sexual attraction and sexual desire separable? **Talk** presented to the Quantitative Area of the UCLA Psychology Department.

Lesko, L., & Haselton, M. (May 2019). Distinguishing between sexual attraction and sexual desire: The case of asexuality. **Poster** presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society

MENTEE POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

*Denotes a mentee**

FeiziLighvan, R., & Lesko, L. (2023). The Explicit and Implicit Biases Toward Various Body Types. Poster presented at the Weight & Stigma Conference

Curran, Z., & Lesko, L. (2023). Investigating the Impacts of COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ Identity on Perceived Household Labor Inequities. Presentation at UCLA's Undergraduate Research Week

Watson, C., & Lesko, L. (2023). The Intersectionality and Effects of Gender and Ethnicity on Perspectives of Sexual Activity and Attitudes. Poster presented at the UCLA chapter of Psi Chi's Undergraduate Research Conference

Allenback, J., Farrukh, U., Garcia, C., Tran, L., Watson, C., Lesko, L., & Strickland, L.M. (2022). Investigating Disgust Attitudes and Anti-LGBT Attitudes. Poster presented at UCLA's Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference

Miller, C., Venkatesh, A., Shearin, O., Garza, D., Lesko, L., & Strickland, L. M. (2021). Investigating Compliance with Public Health Guidance for COVID-19. Poster presented at UCLA's Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference

SELECTED TEACHING, MENTORING, AND OUTREACH

Instructor of Record: Evolutionary Psychology

Spring 2023

Designed and instructed a Writing II seminar course. Crafted course objectives, assignments, readings, and lectures. Graded assignments and provided feedback on writing. Student work is visible [here](#).

Evolution of Life and the Cosmos Teaching Assistant

September 2022 - Present

Leading laboratory sections, teaching writing, grading assignments, and leading discussions. Teaching science and scientific writing to non-science majors.

Manager of Twenty-Nine Research Assistants

September 2021 - Present

Coordinating research assistants for five projects. Mentoring them through the research process, including literature review, IRB applications, survey methods, participant scheduling and management, data analysis in R, and write-up.

Mentor for Psychology Research Opportunity Programs (PROPS)

January 2022 - June 2022

Mentoring two undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds through a project involving lit review, survey data collection, analysis in R, and writing up.

Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC) Graduate Assistant

March 2022 - June 2022

Evaluating undergraduate abstract submissions, recruiting other graduate student reviewers, performing inter-reviewer bias correction on abstract scores using many-facet Rasch modeling, recruiting faculty to attend the conference.

Reviewer for Social-Personality Undergraduate Research (SPUR) Program

November 2021

An internship program seeking to increase research opportunities for students from historically underrepresented racial backgrounds.

Graduate-Undergraduate Mentor (GUM)

January 2021 - June 2021

Attended mentorship training workshops. Met with an undergraduate once per month to mentor her through applying to graduate programs in psychology.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentor

Fall 2020 - June 2022

Mentoring an undergraduate in the Anthropology department through her research design, data collection, and write-up for her Honors Thesis.

Underrepresented Graduate Students in Psychology Brownbag Committee

September 2019 - Present

Spearheaded an alumni speaker event in Fall 2019, coordinated a discussion of issues facing minority faculty in Winter 2020, organized and moderated a mentor event in Fall 2020, organized and moderated a finance event in Winter 2021.

Volunteer at 826LA Mar Vista

September 2019 - March 2020

Tutoring underprivileged youth aged six to seventeen. Tutoring in all subjects, but with a focus on writing. Met with students three hours per week.

Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Psychology (Psych 10)

Winter 2019

Managed discussion groups once per week, held office hours, graded lab reports, graded free response test questions, and proctored exams.

Science Aide at Paradise Canyon Elementary School

September 2017 - June 2018

Helped the school to implement the Next Generation Science Standards by designing lesson plans, educating teachers, and teaching lessons.

Philanthropy as Civic Engagement at UCLA

Spring 2017

Researched the philanthropic organization Kindred Spirits Care Farm and wrote a series of grant proposals that ultimately won the organization \$49,000.

English Teacher near Yangshuo, China

Summer 2016

Taught children aged 6 to 16, spent six weeks developing lesson plans and teaching, successfully taught students basic conversation.