

# Lindsay S. Shaffer

PhD Candidate

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Department of Psychology

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## Education

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### Doctor of Philosophy, Psychology (Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience)

George Mason University, 2018 – Present (*Projected Graduation: Spring/Summer 2025*)

Advisor: Craig G. McDonald, PhD

Dissertation: "Does the Reward Positivity Encode Information About State Representations?"

### Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2011 – 2013

### Associate of Arts, General Studies

Montgomery College, 2007 – 2011

## Publications

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† corresponding author, \*\* mentee

### Under Review

1. **Shaffer LS**†, Crowder HD\*\*, Kakalec PA, Duong LT\*\*, McDonald CG, Thompson JC. The reward positivity does not encode current reward value. [*revised & re-submitted to Psychophysiology*] ([pdf](#))

### Pre-prints

1. Thompson JC, Indelele E\*\*, **Shaffer LS**. Identity-specific devaluation of social outcomes. (Preprint: <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/te3nq>)

### Accepted

1. Richie-Halford A, Cieslak M, Ai L, Caffarra S, Covitz S, Franco AR, Karipidis II, Kruper J, Milham M, Avelar-Pereira B, Roy E, Sydnor VJ, Yeatman, **The Fibr Community Science Consortium**\*\*, Satterthwaite TD, Rokem A. An open, analysis-ready, and quality controlled resource for pediatric brain white-matter research. *Scientific Data*. 2022;9:616. doi:10.1038/s41597-022-01695-7.  
\*\*see Appendix 4 for listed co-authorship: **Shaffer LS**, Schneider JT\*\*
2. Sedlak TW, Nucifora LG, Koga M, **Shaffer LS**, Higgs C, Tanaka T, Wang AM, Coughlin JM, Barker P, Fahey JW, Sawa A. Sulfuraphane augments glutathione and influences brain metabolites in human subjects: A clinical pilot study. *Molecular Neuropsychiatry*. 2018;3(4):214-222. doi:10.1159/000487639.
3. Mills EW, **Shaffer LS**, Goes FS, Sawa A, Nucifora Jr FC. Case of secondary tics associated with olanzapine in an adult. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. 2017;8:150. doi:10.3389/fpsy.2017.00150.

## Presentations

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### Symposia presentations

1. **Shaffer LS**, Crowder HD, Kakalec PA, Duong LT, McDonald CG, Thompson JC. Does the reward positivity encode current reward value? Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting. October 23–26, 2024. Prague, Czechia.

2. Kuga H, Faria AV, **Shaffer L**, Crawford J, Ogaru T, Schretlen DJ, Mori S, Sawa A. Abnormality of resting-state functional connectivity in right insular cortex in patients with first episode psychosis. Society for Neuroscience meeting, Washington D.C., November 11–15, 2017.
3. Sedlak TW, Koga M, **Shaffer L**, Fahey J, Snyder S, Barker P, Sawa A. 175.2 A Glu That Binds Inflammation and Neurotransmission: Glutathione as a Glutamate Reservoir. Schizophr Bull, 2017;43,suppl\_1:S89.

### Posters

1. **Shaffer LS**, Crowder HD, Kakalec PA, Duong LT, McDonald CG, Thompson JC. Does reward positivity encode current reward value? Society for Psychophysiological Research meeting. October 23–26, 2024. Prague, Czechia.
2. **Shaffer LS**, Crowder HD, Duong LT, McDonald CG, Thompson JC. The reward positivity does not encode current reward value. Social and Affective Neuroscience Society meeting. Santa Barbara, CA. April 26–29, 2023.
3. **Shaffer LS**, Crowder HD, Duong LT, Thompson JC. Integration of reward value and motivational state in the reward positivity. Social and Affective Neuroscience Society meeting, Virtual meeting. May 4–6, 2022.
4. Thompson JC, Indelele E, **Shaffer LS**. Selective devaluation of identity-specific representations of social rewards. Social and Affective Neuroscience Society meeting, Virtual meeting. May 4–6, 2022.
5. Thompson JC, Hassan E, **Shaffer L**. Identity-specific representation of social reward in orbitofrontal cortex. Social and Affective Neuroscience Society meeting. Virtual meeting. April 28–May 1, 2021.
6. Thompson JC, Hassan E, **Shaffer L**. Expectations of Identity-Specific Social Outcomes in Orbitofrontal Cortex. Organization of Human Brain Mapping meeting. Virtual meeting. June 23–July 3, 2020.
7. Kuga H, Faria A, **Shaffer L**, Crawford J, Ohgaru T, Schretlen D, Mori S, Sawa A. F232. Abnormality of Resting-State Functional Connectivity in Insular Cortex in Patients with First Episode Psychosis. Society of Biological Psychiatry meeting. New York, NY. May 10–12, 2018.
8. Lavoie J, Na CH, **Shaffer LS**, Ward R, Schretlen D, Ishizuka K, Pandey A, Sawa A. Proteomic signatures associated with cognitive deficits in schizophrenia. Society for Neuroscience meeting, San Diego, CA. November 12–16, 2016.

### Conference Papers

1. Kakalec P\*\*, **Shaffer LS\*\***, Roy B, Izquierdo AM, Thompson JC. Amygdala and dmPFC input modulates state dynamics of vmPFC during a naturalistic viewing task. Social and Affective Neuroscience Society meeting. Virtual meeting. May 4–6, 2022. ([pdf](#))  
*\*\*authors contributed equally*

### Grants

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2020 – 2022      **NSF DGE1922598** National Research Training (NRT) Program ([About](#))  
 Principal Investigator: Siddhartha Sikdar, PhD  
 Role: Graduate Fellow  
 Amount: \$34,000.00/year (salary)

### Awards and Honors

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2024      **Family Care Grant**, Society for Psychophysiological Research (\$500)  
 2024      **Graduate Student Travel Fund**, George Mason University (\$1000)  
 2024      **Dept. Chair Travel Award**, George Mason University (\$1000)  
 2023      **OSCAR Research Mentoring Excellence Award**, George Mason University ([About](#)) ([Interview](#)) (\$3000)

### Service

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#### Organized symposia

October 2024      “Hedonic And Motivational Influences On The Reward Positivity: From Circuits To Behavior” (organizer & chair). Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR) annual meeting, October 23–26, 2024. Prague, Czechia.

**Invited talks**

- October 2022 "The reward positivity does not encode subjective value", CASBBI Seminar Series, George Mason University
- April 2019 "Investigating selective devaluation of social rewards", CASBBI Seminar Series, George Mason University

**Organized workshops**

- March 2024 "An introduction to writing an effective research proposal", STEM Fellowship Day, Office of Fellowships, George Mason University

**Mentorship**

- 2024 – Present Erica Dumas (Psychology) – Post-baccalaureate Research Assistant
- 2023 – Present Khang Ly (Physics) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
- 2023 – 2024 Manahil Malik (Information Systems) – Post-baccalaureate Research Assistant
- 2022 – 2023 Joseph Boyle (Psychology – CBN) – Master's NSF NRT Fellow
- 2022 – 2023 Beth Foote (Psychology – Clinical) – Doctoral NSF NRT Fellow
- 2022 – 2023 Donovan Troy Fontenot (Social Work) – Master's NSF NRT Fellow
- 2022 – 2023 Kelly Poretti (Kinesiology) – Doctoral NSF NRT Fellow
- 2021 – 2022 Holly Crowder (Neuroscience) – Undergraduate & Post-baccalaureate Research Assistant
- 2021 – 2023 Alexa Young (Psychology – CBN) – Undergraduate & Master's Research Assistant
- 2020 – 2021 Margret Howard (Psychology) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
- 2020 – 2021 Jonathan Schneider (Psychology) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
- 2019 – 2022 Egette Indelele (Psychology – CBN) – Undergraduate & Master's Research Assistant
- 2019 – 2021 Lam Duong (Computer Science) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
- 2018 – 2020 Leah Downie (Neuroscience) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
- 2018 – 2020 Amara Olimb (Psychology) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
- 2018 – 2019 Eslam Hassan (Psychology) – Undergraduate Research Assistant

**Professional employment**

- 2023 – Present **The Writing Center**, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA  
Department of English  
Supervisor: Susan Lawrence, PhD  
Role: Thesis/Dissertation Consultant  
Provide consultation for universitywide PhD students and faculty on dissertation chapters, manuscripts, grant applications, and conference submissions across various stages of writing process. Prepare informational materials for workshops or tutorials relevant to research output (e.g., grant proposals).
- 2020 – 2022 **Center for Adaptive Systems of Brain-Body Interactions (CASBBI)**, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA  
PI: Siddhartha Sikdar, PhD  
Role: NSF NRT Fellow  
Worked in a multi-disciplinary team and community stakeholders to develop a mobile app targeted toward improving communications between people with Parkinson's disease, their care partners, and their primary healthcare provider. Mentored new NRT fellows during the program's duration.
- 2017 – 2018 **Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHU SOM)**, Baltimore, MD, USA  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
PI: Akira Sawa, MD, PhD  
Role: Research Program Coordinator  
Analyzed resting-state MRI data collected from people with early onset of psychosis and healthy volunteers. Collected metabolic and MRI data for a pilot study examining changes in glutathione levels before and after ingesting broccoli sprout extract.

- 2015 – 2017 **Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHU SOM)**, Baltimore, MD, USA  
 Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
 PI: Akira Sawa, MD, PhD  
 Role: Research Program Assistant  
 Recruited participants diagnosed with schizophrenia (early onset, chronic, treatment-resistant) and mood disorders (bipolar disorder) to examine genetic and environmental interactions related to pathophysiology and pathogenesis of psychiatric symptoms. Collected data from MRI (3T & 7T), neuropsychological testing, smell tests, blood draws, lumbar punctures, and biopsies (skin, nasal).
- 2014 – 2015 **Sheppard Pratt Health System**, Baltimore, MD, USA  
 Role: Educational Assistant  
 Provided educational and social support to adolescents diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and mood disorders in an outpatient school environment. Collected data on target behaviors relevant for intervention.
- 2012 – 2014 **Kennedy Krieger Institute**, Baltimore, MD, USA  
 Neurobehavioral Unit  
 Role: Clinical Assistant  
 Provided extensive support for children and adolescents in an inpatient setting with activities of daily living, educational progress, and social behaviors. Collected data on target behaviors relevant for treatment progress.

#### Departmental service

- 2019 Independent Consultant, The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Neurosymposium, George Mason University  
 2017 – 2018 Organizer, "Mind the Gap" Workshop Series, JHU SOM  
 2017 Organizer, The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Johns Hopkins Schizophrenia Symposium, JHU SOM  
 2016 – 2017 Committee Member, Psychiatry Student Training and Research (P-STAR) Program, JHU SOM  
 2015 – 2018 Organizer, Johns Hopkins Schizophrenia Seminar Series, JHU SOM  
 2015 Organizer, The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Johns Hopkins Schizophrenia Symposium, JHU SOM

#### Training & Professional development

- July 2019 UCL Computational Psychiatry Summer Workshop, New York, NY, USA  
 May 2019 Computational Social & Affective Neuroscience Pre-conference, Miami, FL, USA

#### Competitions

- May 2022 Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS) Naturalistic fMRI Data Analysis Challenge, Virtual meeting.

#### Memberships

- Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)  
 Society of Psychophysiological Research (SPR)

## Teaching

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| Fall 2018, Spring 2019              | PSYC 304 - Psychology of Learning (Lab Section TA)       |
| Fall 2018                           | PSYC 100 – General Principles of Psychology (Grading TA) |
| Spring 2019                         | PSYC 300 – Research Methods in Psychology I (Grading TA) |
| Spring 2020, Fall 2022              | PSYC 372 – Biopsychology (Lecturer)                      |
| Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023 | PSYC 373 – Biopsychology Lab (Lecturer)                  |