

# Lindsay S. Shaffer

PhD Candidate

George Mason University

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: Summer 2025*)

Advisor: Craig G. McDonald, PhD

Dissertation: "Hedonic And Motivational Influences On The Reward Positivity"

### 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

### In Preparation

1. **Shaffer LS†**, Dumas E\*\*, Effley TM\*\*, Tsang RM\*\*, McDonald CG. Informational content of Pavlovian cues and the reward positivity.
2. **Shaffer LS†**, Dumas E\*\*, Ly KV\*\*, McDonald CG. Equally probabilistic presentation of distinct identity-specific Pavlovian cues evoke a reward negativity, not a positivity.

### Accepted

1. **Shaffer LS†**, Crowder HD\*\*, Kakalec PA, Duong LT\*\*, McDonald CG, Thompson JC. The reward positivity is insensitive to reinforcer devaluation. [*in press at Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*]  
(Preprint: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.03.27.645774v2>)

### Preprints

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

### Published

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 PA\*\*, **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. (Paper: [pdf](#))  
\*\*authors contributed equally

## Awards and Honors

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2025	<b>Provost's Summer Graduate Research Assistantship Award</b> , George Mason University (\$9000)
2024	<b>Family Care Grant</b> , Society for Psychophysiological Research (\$500)
2024	<b>Graduate Student Travel Fund</b> , George Mason University (\$1000)
2024	<b>Dept. Chair Travel Award</b> , George Mason University (\$1000)
2023	<b>OSCAR Research Mentoring Excellence Award</b> , George Mason University ( <a href="#">About</a> ) ( <a href="#">Interview</a> ) (\$3000)

## Grants

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2020 – 2022	<b>NSF DGE1922598</b> National Research Training (NRT) Program ( <a href="#">About</a> ) Principal Investigator: Siddhartha Sikdar, PhD Role: Graduate Fellow Amount: \$34,000.00/year (salary)
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## 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

2025 – Present	Rebecca Tsang (Psychology) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
2025 – Present	Thomas Effley (Psychology) – Undergraduate Research Assistant
2024 – Present	Erica Dumas (Psychology) – Post-baccalaureate Research Assistant
2023 – 2025	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 – 2025 **The Writing Center**, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA  
 Department of English  
 Supervisor: Susan Lawrence, PhD  
 Role: Thesis/Dissertation Consultant  
 Provided consultation for university-wide PhD students and faculty on dissertation chapters, manuscripts, grant applications, and conference submissions across various stages of writing process. Prepared 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 3T MRI data collected from people with early onset of psychosis and healthy volunteers. Collected metabolic and 7T 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**
- Society of Psychophysiological Research (SPR)

## Teaching

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Fall 2018, Spring 2019  
Fall 2018  
Spring 2019  
Spring 2020, Fall 2022  
Fall 2022, Spring 2023,  
Summer 2023

PSYC 304 - Psychology of Learning (Lab Section TA)  
PSYC 100 – General Principles of Psychology (Grading TA)  
PSYC 300 – Research Methods in Psychology I (Grading TA)  
PSYC 372 – Biopsychology (Lecturer)  
PSYC 373 – Biopsychology Lab (Lecturer)