

Mary Kate Koch, Ph.D.

526 McCarty C, Gainesville, FL 32603
Department of Psychology, University of Florida
m.koch@ufl.edu | <https://marykatekoch.github.io>

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Cornell University Developmental Psychology Committee: Jane Mendle, Anthony Burrow, Qi Wang	May 2022
M.A.	Cornell University Developmental Psychology	December 2018
B.A.	Gonzaga University Psychology with Honors, <i>summa cum laude</i> History with Honors	2011-2015

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor	Gonzaga University, Department of Psychology	2024 – present
Postdoctoral Research Fellow	University of Florida (Advisors: Susan Bluck, Carma Bylund) Department of Psychology, Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics	2022 – 2024
Lecturer	Cornell University, Department of Psychology	2021 – 2022

I. RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

* *Denotes trainee*

Refereed Journals:

Koch, M.K., Maggiore, S.*, Bylund, C. L., Chochinov, H. M., Kittelson, S., Wilkie, D. J., & Bluck, S. (in press). Communion supports dignity for older adults with serious cancer: Quantitative findings from dignity therapy intervention. *Palliative & Supportive Care*.

Koch, M.K., Bluck, S., Maggiore, S.*, Chochinov, H. M., Cogdill-Richardson, K.R., & Bylund, C. L. (2024). Facing off-time mortality: Leaving a legacy. *Psychology and Aging*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/pag0000815>

Crowe, A.,* **Koch, M. K.**, Amin, T., Thomas, L., Bluck, S., Wilkie, D. J., Fitchett, G., & Bylund, C. L. (2024). Factors and topics associated with empathic self-disclosure during

- dignity therapy of cancer patients. *PEC Innovation*. 100289.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecinn.2024.100289>
- Lind, M., **Koch, M. K.**, & Bluck, S. (2024). Nursing students' empathic communication: Role in recognizing and treating chronic pain patients. *Patient Education and Counseling*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2024.108236>
- Koch, M. K.**, Burd, K. A. & Mendle, J. (2023). Same crime, same time? Differences in visual maturity affect opinion of adolescent culpability. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*.
<http://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4092>
- Garavito, D. M. N., & **Koch, M. K.** (2023). Coming of age in the eyes of the law: The conflict between Miranda, J.D.B., and puberty. *American Criminal Law Review*.
- Porcelli, S., **Koch, M. K.**, & Mendle, J. (2023). Impulsivity and adolescent relationships: Negative urgency predicts interpersonal problems in youth. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2023.101584>
- Koch, M. K.**, & Mendle, J. (2022). In their own words: Finding meaning in girls' experiences of puberty. *Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13836>
- Koch, M. K.**, & Mendle, J. (2021). Real world skills in a virtual world: An innovative activity for teaching developmental psychopathology. *Teaching of Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00986283211042309>
- Koch, M. K.**, Mendle, J., & Beam, C. R. (2020) Psychological distress amid change: Role disruption in girls during the adolescent transition. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 48, 1211-1222. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10802-020-00667-y>
- Mendle, J., Beam, C. R., McKone, K. M. P., & **Koch, M. K.** (2020). Puberty and transdiagnostic risks for mental health. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 30, 687-705. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12552>
- Mendle, J., & **Koch, M. K.** (2019). The psychology of puberty: What aren't we studying that we should? *Child Development Perspectives*, 13, 166-172.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12333>
- McGuire, T. G., McCormick, K. C., **Koch, M. K.**, & Mendle, J. (2019). Pubertal maturation and longitudinal trajectories of depression during early adolescence. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01362>
- Chapters:*
- Bluck, S. & **Koch, M. K.** (in prep). Aftermath concerns: A novel aspect of communion in the life story. In *Narrative Complexities of Later Life*. Oxford University Press.
- Bluck, S., & **Koch, M. K.** (in press). Getting a life: A historical analysis of the life story literature. In *Autobiographical Memory and the Life Story: New Perspectives on*

Narrative Identity. Cambridge University Press.

Koch, M. K., & Wang, Q. (2022) Autobiographical memory. In Levesque, R. J. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Adolescence*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-32132-5_827-1

Under review:

Koch, M. K., Merritt, H., McCormick, K., Innis-Thompson, M. & Mendle, J. (under review). Gender stereotypes in 100 years of coming-of-age novels.

Mroz, E., Amin, T., Kittleson, S., **Koch, M.K.**, Crowe, A., Bluck, S., Hauser, J., Handzo, G., Wilkie, D. J., & Bylund, C., L. (under review). Sharing “off-script”: A qualitative analysis of providers’ empathic self-disclosures during dignity therapy.

Aliev, J.,* Burd, K.A., & **Koch, M. K.** (under review). The impact of physical maturity and judicial instruction on jury decision making in child sexual abuse cases.

Merritt, H., **Koch, M.K.**, Jo, Y., Chumin, E., & Betzel, R. (under review). Social ‘envirotyping’ the ABCD study contextualizes dissociable brain organization and diverging outcomes.

Manuscripts in preparation:

Koch, M. K., Merritt, H., & Mendle, J. (in prep). AI does not bleed: Puberty representations by youth, ChatGPT, and television.

Koch, M. K., Ratner, K., Crowe, A.*, Bylund, C. L. & Bluck, S. (in prep). Existential integrity supports mental and physical health in older adults with cancer.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

Hershel D. Thornburg Dissertation Award, Society for Research on Adolescence	2023
Finalist for Provost Diversity Fellowship, Cornell University	2021
Finalist for Best Poster Award, Society for Research on Adolescence	2020
Center for Teaching Innovation, Senior Graduate Teaching Fellow	2020-2021
Martha E. Foulk Fellowship for Outstanding Research Cornell University	2020
Center for Teaching Innovation Graduate Teaching Fellow	2019-2020
Cornell Graduate School Travel Award	2019
Society for Research on Child Development Graduate Student Travel Award	2019
Program for Research on Youth Development and Engagement Fellowship, Funded by the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research	2017-2018
APA Advanced Training Institute Fellowship: Structural Equation Modeling	2017

RESEARCH FUNDING

External, funded

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues 2023
The School (Resource Officer)-to-Prison Pipeline? The Influence of Youth Race and Maturation Bias on School Resource Officer Decision Making
 Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Chen Zuckerberg Institute 2019
Transforming philanthropy: Evaluating how funding sources perpetuate deficit-based conceptualizing of youth
Role: Consultant

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Research Grants Program 2017
Society for the Teaching of Psychology
Open-Source Tools for Psychological Research
Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Internal, funded

Harold Feldman Fellowship for Dissertation Research 2020
Cornell University, Department of Psychology
Experiences at puberty situated in individual, social, and cultural contexts
Role: Principal Investigator

HEAA Alan D. Mathios Research and Service Grant Award 2019
Cornell University, College of Human Ecology
Same time, same crime? Maturation bias in the juvenile justice system
Role: Co-Principal Investigator

CHAired SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

Text Mining Tools for Narrative Analysis and Other Mixed-Method Research, 2021 November.
Pre-conference workshop at the 2021 Biennial Meeting of the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood, Virtual.
Role: Organized (with K. Ratner, M. Azmita) and delivered workshop

Computational Text Analysis Methods for Developmental Research, 2021 April. Symposium at the 2021 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual.
Role: Organized panel and presented paper.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* *Denotes trainee*

Bylund, C. L., **Koch., M.K.** Crowe, A., Crotty, M., & Bluck, S. (2024, November). The presence of empathic communication in Dignity Therapy. Poster presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. Seattle, WA.

Bylund, C. L., **Koch., M.K.** Crowe, A., Crotty, M., & Bluck, S. (2024, September). The presence of empathic communication in Dignity Therapy. Talk presented at the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare. Zaragoza, Spain.

- Burd, K.A., **Koch, M. K.**, & Aliev, J.* (2024, June). The school (resource officer)-to-prison pipeline? Youth race and maturation bias. Talk presented at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Summer Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Koch, M. K.** (2024, April). Supporting dignity for older adults with serious cancer: Benefits of communion during Dignity Therapy. Talk given at the 2024 Geriatric Oncology for the Advanced Practice Provider: Delivering Person Centered Care, Virtual.
- Koch, M. K.**, Merritt, H., & Mendle, J. (2024, April). Sexualized and sanitized: Puberty according to youth, ChatGPT, and television. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- Merritt, H., **Koch, M.K.**, Jo, Y., Chumin, E., & Betzel, R. (2024, April). Social environment quality defines hierarchical and dynamic clusters with dissociable brain network organization. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- Koch, M.K.**, Maggiore, S.*, Bylund, C. L., & Bluck, S. (2023, November). Acknowledging Illness When Life is ‘Cut Short’: Increased Communion in Legacies. Poster presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.
- Bluck, S., **Koch, M.K.**, Maggiore, S., Bylund, C. L., & Chochinov, H. M. (2023, November). Dignity Therapy for older adults with cancer: Communion in the Life Story. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. Tampa, FL.
- Bylund, C. L., Mroz., Amin, T., Kittleson, S., **Koch., M.K. (presenting author)**, Crowe, A., Thomas, L., Wilkie, D., Bluck, S. (2023, October). Empathic self-disclosure in Dignity Therapy interviews: What are providers sharing? Talk presented at the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare. Rio Mar, Puerto Rico.
- Koch, M. K.**, Bluck, S., Bylund, C., Wilkie, D., & Chochinov, H. M. (2023, August). Having cancer and acknowledging severity: Relation to narrating a positive legacy. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Applied Memory and Cognition Biennial Meeting. Nagoya, Japan.
- Merritt, H., **Koch, M.K.**, Jo, Y., Chumin, E., & Betzel, R. (2023, July). Differences in functional connectivity across phenotypic clusters based on social environment quality in adolescence. Poster presented at the Organization for Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting. Montreal, Quebec.
- Koch, M. K.** (2023, April). Gender stereotypes in coming-of-age novels: Implications for identity development. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA.
- Merritt, H., **Koch, M.K.**, Jo, Y., Chumin, E., & Betzel, R. (2023, April) Social Environment Quality Defines Hierarchical and Dynamic “Envirotypic” Clusters with Dissociable Brain

Network Functional Connectivity. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Social Affective Neuroscience Society. Toronto, Canada.

Koch, M. K., & Mendle, J. (2022, March). Anger or an Accident? Differences in Explanations of Adolescents' Behavior in Ambiguous Legal Scenarios by Sex x Race x Maturation. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

Koch, M. K., & Mendle, J. (2021, April). Text analysis of puberty experiences from retrospective and concurrent perspectives. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. Virtual.

Porcelli, S., **Koch, M. K., & Mendle, J.** (2021, April). Untangling rumination and negative urgency: An exploration of emotional cascade theory in adolescents. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. Virtual.

Koch, M. K., Wright, A.J.,* Mendle, J. (2020, March) Early adolescent girls' experiences of puberty: A comparison of grounded theory and topic model methods. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting. Virtual.

Porcelli, S., **Koch, M. K., & Mendle, J.** (2019, May). Negative urgency and interpersonal conflict: The mediating role of depressive symptoms. Poster presented at the 31st APS Annual Convention. Washington, DC.

Koch, M. K., Kubi, G.*, & Mendle, J. (2019, March). Text analysis approaches to predicting depression in early adolescent girls. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development. Baltimore, MD.

Koch, M. K., Royer, C., & Mendle, J. (2019, March). Same time, same crime? Pubertal maturation and juvenile sentencing. Paper presented at the American Psychology and Law Society Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.

Koch, M. K., McKone, K. M. P., & Mendle, J. (2018, April). The pubertal transition and perceived role disruption. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.

Mentee research presentations (National conferences):

Maggiore, S.*, **Koch, M.K.,** Bylund, C. L., & Bluck, S. (2023, November). Prognostic acknowledgement in older adult cancer patients. Poster to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. Tampa, FL.

Aliev, J.*, Burd, K.A., & **Koch, M. K.** (2023, March). The impact of victim physical maturity and judicial instruction on jury decision-making in child sexual abuse cases. Paper presented at the American Psychology and Law Society Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Crowe, A.*, **Koch, M. K.**, Amin, T., Thomas, L., Bluck, S., Wilkie, D. J., Fitchett, G., & Bylund, C. L. (2023, March). Factors and Topics Associated with Empathic Self-Disclosure in Dignity Therapy of Cancer Patients. Poster presented at the 20th Annual American Psychosocial Oncology Society Conference. Portland, OR.

Kubi, G.*, **Koch, M. K.**, Ratner, K., & Mendle, J. (2021, March). Perfect fit, or perfectly fixed?: Identity's role in anxiety and perfectionism. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting. Virtual.

Rosenthal, E.*, **Koch, M. K.**, & Mendle, J. (2019, March). Is age just a number? Exploring the association among relative age, pubertal timing, and depression. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

Mentee research presentations (Local conferences):

Maggiore, S.*, **Koch, M.K.**, Bylund, C. L., & Bluck, S. (2023, April). Acknowledging the end: Positive legacy in older adults with cancer. Poster presented at the University of Florida Psychology Graduate Student Organization Research Forum.

Rodriguez-Zingg, N.*, **Koch, M.K.**, & Bluck, S. (2023, April). Efficacy of Dignity Therapy: A systematic review. Poster presented at the University of Florida Psychology Undergraduate Student Organization Research Forum.

INVITED TALKS

In whose words? Experiences at puberty situated in individual, social, and cultural contexts. Talk given at the University of Rochester, November 2022.

Effects of visual maturity on juvenile justice decision-making. Talk given at University of Wyoming Social Cognition and Law Lab meeting, October 2022.

Getting a life: Twenty years later. Talk given at Aarhus University for the Symposium on Life Stories in honor of Tilmann Habermas, September 2022.

Making sense of puberty: Girls' narratives of navigating physical and social change. Talk given at the University of Florida for the Postdoctoral Association lecture series, June 2022.

In their own words: Finding meaning in girls' experiences of puberty. Talk given at Washington University in St. Louis, November 2020.

SPECIALIZED SKILLS AND TRAINING

Data analysis: R, Python, Mplus, SAS, SPSS

Computational text analysis: topic modeling, word embeddings, sentiment analysis

Content analysis: communion, meaning-making, purpose, empathic communication

Methods in Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling – Cornell University 2016

APA Advanced Training Institute on Structural Equation Modeling 2016

II. TEACHING AND MENTORING

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD | Cornell University, Department of Psychology

Overall average teaching score: 4.72/5

I independently developed the syllabi, materials, and assignments, as well as independently taught the following courses:

- **Unequal Childhoods: First-Year Writing Seminar** (HE1150, class size: 17) Fall 2021
- **Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood** (HD1170, class size: 45+) Summer 2021
- **Narratives of Women's Lives** (HD2520, class size: 50) Spring 2021

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS | Cornell University, Department of Psychology

- Developmental Psychopathology Fall 2020
 - Graded assignments, wrote exam questions, designed mental health summit
- Research Methods Fall 2018, Fall 2019
 - Mentored student teams through two research projects, taught R programming
- Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood 2017-2020
 - Guest lectured on puberty, wrote exam questions, graded assignments
- Policy Analysis & Management Senior Capstone Spring 2019
 - Mentored student teams in analyzing data about recidivism, writing research reports, and presenting final product to community stakeholders
- Aging and Adulthood Fall 2016
 - Guided students through literature reviews, graded research papers

Professional Development Seminars:

Moving from Doctoral Student to Post-doctoral Appointment Spring 2023

Presentation to Cancer Center and Population Sciences trainees on acquiring a postdoc

Designing a Learner-Centered Syllabus Spring 2021

Presentation to Cornell graduate teaching assistants on syllabus design for the Center for Teaching Innovation

How Do I Know My Students Are Learning? Spring 2020

Presentation to Cornell graduate teaching assistants on in-class assessments for the Center for Teaching Innovation

Professional Development in Translational Research (HD4850, class size:10) Fall 2019

Presentation to Cornell undergraduates on planning their research careers

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT:

Women & Science: 4H course for high school students Summer 2019

Taught three-day course on overcoming barriers to promote equity in STEM

Benefits of writing about puberty Spring 2018

Presentation to 4H community partners on best practices in working with adolescents

PRYDE Wreck-it Book November 2017

Collaborated with Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research to create curriculum of evidence-based psychological exercises to promote positive youth development
Expressive writing guidebook October 2017
Developed guidebook for community practitioners to administer expressive writing interventions in New York State 4-H programs for adolescents
Junior Scientist May 2017
Designed hands-on workbook to introduce middle schoolers to psychological science

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAININGS

Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Florida, Online Training Summer 2022
Course provided overview of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity at UF, policies and expectations regarding diversity and inclusion
Theater Techniques for Teaching Fall 2019
Completed 6-week course on techniques for hands-on teaching methods

RESEARCH MENTORING EXPERIENCES

Supervised team of undergraduate research assistants to engage with large dataset (N = 203) of cancer patients' life narratives 2022

- Supervised coding organization, coder training, and reliability analyses
- Mentored undergraduate students presenting posters at local and national conferences
- Mentored postbaccalaureate in writing first first-author research article

Supervised team of undergraduate research assistants to collect and engage with data (N=185) on youth experiences of puberty 2019-2020

- Supervised data collection, coder training, and reliability analyses
- Mentored undergraduate students presenting posters at national conferences

Mentor for Cornell's Program of Research on Youth Development and Engagement undergraduate scholars program. 2017-2019

- Mentored students through research design, data collection, and analysis

III. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Ad-hoc journal reviewer

Developmental Psychology, Journal for Research on Adolescence; Development and Psychopathology; Child Development Perspectives, Sex Roles; Cognitive Development; Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology; Scientific Reports; Journal of Adult Development; Frontiers in Psychology; Narrative Inquiry; American Journal of Sexuality Education; Mind, Memory, and Media

Committee service

Co-chair, Media and Communications Committee for the Society for Research on Adolescence for 2024-2026 term

Member, Media and Communications Committee for the Society for Research on Adolescence for 2022-2026 term

Conference reviewer

Society for Research on Child Development 2022
Society for Research on Adolescence 2022

Conference committees

Co-organizer, Cornell University-Wide GET SET Teaching Conference. October 19, 2019
at Cornell University Ithaca, NY.

Co-organizer, Purpose in Context: Ecological Perspectives Conference. November 9-10, 2018 at
Cornell University Ithaca, NY.

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Organizer, Prospective graduate student recruitment, Cornell University 2018-2021

Member, Open rank faculty search for Social Networks, Cornell University 2018

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Staff affiliate, University of Florida Queer Nation 2022-2023

- Worked with LGBTQ+ students to advocate for equitable policies and promote visibility on campus

Volunteer, Pride Community Center of North Central Florida 2022

- Provided sexual health education, safe space for queer youth in community

Volunteer, 4-H Career Explorations through Cornell Cooperative Extension 2019

- Organized college and career information sessions for high school girls

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Research on Adolescence; Society for Research on Child Development; Society for Research on Applied Memory and Cognition