



Michael J. Root

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Department of Psychology, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA 02325

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Education

University of New Hampshire

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY

Durham, NH

1999 — 2005

Springfield College

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY, GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Springfield, MA

1998 — 1999

Springfield College

MASTER OF SCIENCE, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Springfield, MA

1996 — 1998

Springfield College

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY

Springfield, MA

1988 — 1992

Teaching Experience

Bridgewater State University—Assistant Professor of Psychology

COURSES TAUGHT

- Statistics for Psychology
- Research Methods in Psychology
- Conducting Research: Research Methods II
- Social Psychology
- Internship: Peer Assisted Learning
- Research

Bridgewater, MA

2017 — Present

Bridgewater State University—Full-Time, Temporary Assistant Professor of Psychology

COURSES TAUGHT

- Statistics for Psychology
- Research Methods in Psychology
- Social Psychology

Bridgewater, MA

2016 — 2017

Minnesota State University, Moorhead—Fixed-Term Assistant Professor of Psychology

COURSES TAUGHT

- General Psychology
- Experimental Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Learning and Memory

Moorhead, MN

2015 — 2016

Bridgewater State University—Full-Time, Temporary Assistant Professor of Psychology

COURSES TAUGHT

- Statistics for Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Psychology of Learning
- Research Methods in Psychology
- Introduction to Psychology

Bridgewater, MA

2013 — 2015

Coastal Carolina University—Assistant Professor of Psychology

COURSES TAUGHT

- General Psychology (including Honors)
- Introduction to Scientific Communication: Psychological Perspectives
- Research Methods
- Cognitive Processes (including Honors)
- History and Psychology of Psychology

Conway, SC

2006 — 2009

COURSES TAUGHT

2004 — 2006

- General Psychology
- Elementary Statistical Reasoning
- Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences
- Human Learning and Cognitive Processes
- History and Systems of Psychology (Graduate)

Research Interests

- Public Understanding of Psychology
 - Psychology Myth Prevalence
- Pedagogical Topics
 - Moral Evaluation of Educational Categories
 - Student Entitlement
- Cheater Detection in Social Exchange
 - Source Memory for Faces of Cheaters
- Cognitive Biases in Risky Decisions
 - Border Bias Heuristic
 - Better-Than-Average Effect on Environmental Conservation
- 20th Century History of Psychology
 - Interdisciplinarity
 - Boundary-Work
- Modern and Robust Statistical Procedures

Funding and Professional Development

ATP Summer Grant Mentorship

STUDENT RESEARCH MENTOR

Bridgewater State University

2019

- \$2000

Professional Development Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridgewater State University

2019

- \$827

Professional Development Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridgewater State University

2018

- \$838

CARS Research Grant

PROJECT: CONTENT ANALYSIS OF CURRENT HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY TEXTBOOKS

Bridgewater State University

2017

- \$2,000

Office of Undergraduate Research

APS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Bridgewater State University

2017

- \$325

Professional Development Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridgewater State University

2017

- \$844

Professional Development Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridgewater State University

2016

- \$821

Professional Development Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridgewater State University

2014

- \$750

SOTL Grant, Center for Effective Teaching and Learning

PROJECT: USING WEBCT TO ENHANCE TEST PERFORMANCE

Coastal Carolina University

2006

- \$2,500

Dissertation

Boundary-Work in United States Psychology: A Study of Three Interdisciplinary Programs
(William R. Woodward, Chairperson)

Publications

Root, M. J. & Stanley, C. M. (2018). Class dis-mythed: Exploring the prevalence and perseverance of myths in upper-level psychology courses. In R. L. Miller and A. Martinez (Eds.). *Teaching Tips: A Compendium of Conference Presentations on Teaching, 2016-2017*. Retrieved from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology web site: <http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/>

Root, M. J. (2015). Thriving in a stressful world. [Review of the book *Hardiness: Turning stressful circumstances into resilient growth*, by S. R. Maddi]. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, 29(3), 335-337. doi:10.1080/10720537.2015.1071212

Root, M. J. (2013). Social psychology. *Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology*. <http://teachpsych.org/Resources/Documents/otrp/syllabi/MR14social.pdf>

Root, M. J. (2011). [Review of the book *A conceptual history of psychology*, by J. D. Greenwood]. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 47, 116-117.

Root, M. J. (2009). The evolution of psychologists' recommended child-rearing practices in the United States. In Zhukov, R., Mardahaev, L., DeCenzo, D., & Wiseman, D. (Eds.) *Family and Childrearing: Russia and the USA, A Cross-Cultural Analysis*. Moscow, Russia: Russia State Social University Press.

Root, M. J. (2009). [Review of the book *Borrowed knowledge: Chaos theory and the challenge of learning across disciplines*, by S. H. Kellert]. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 45, 395-396.

Root, M. J. (2008). The evolution of psychologists' recommended child-rearing practices in the United States. In Wiseman, D. G. (Ed.). *The American Family: Understanding its Changing Dynamics and Place in Society* (pp. 97-111). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

Root, M. J. (2008). The origins of psychiatric care in Germany. [Review of the book *The University Department of Psychiatry in Munich: From Kraepelin and his predecessors to molecular psychiatry*, by H. Hippus, H. Möller, N. Müller, & G. Neundörfer-Kohl]. *PsycCRITIQUES*, 53(24).

Root, M. J. (2006). The power of group processes: Unrecognized forces in historical change. [Review of the book *Past impersonal: Group process in human history*, by R. Binion]. *PsycCRITIQUES*, 51(9).

Root, M. J. (2006). Francis Galton. In G. L. Albrecht (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Disability* (Vol. 2, pp. 758-759). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Root, M. J. (2005). Keller, Fred S. In Carnes, M. C. (Ed.). *American National Biography* (Supplement 2, pp. 305-307). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Root, M. J. (2003). [Review of the book *Sir Francis Galton: From African exploration to the birth of eugenics*, N. W. Gillham]. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 39, 393-395.

Root, M. J. (2003). Great psychologists. *Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology*. <http://teachpsych.org/resources/Documents/otrp/syllabi/mr02historyf.pdf>

Root, M. J. (2002). Introduction to psychology. *Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology*. <http://teachpsych.org/resources/Documents/otrp/syllabi/mr01introf.pdf>

Root, M. J. (2002). [Review of the book *Fighting for the good cause: Reflections on Francis Galton's legacy to American hereditarian psychology*, by G. Sweeney]. *The Cheiron Newsletter*, Spring-Summer, 28, 7.

Presentations

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(**bold** indicates student collaborators)

Root, M. J., Hayes-Bohanan, P., & Spievak, E. R. (2020, August — November). *Do librarians really wear halos? The moral value of libraries and their workers*. [Poster session]. 2020 New England Library Association Conference. <http://nelib.org/news/upcoming-events/> (Poster sessions cancelled)

Faria, C. M., Root, M. J., & Spievak, E. R. (2020, June 1 — September 1). *More human than humane: Stereotype content model perceptions on the mentally ill*. [Poster session]. 2020 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Chicago, IL. <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/2020-virtual-poster>

Wasserman, N. B., Fitian, A. A., Root, M. J., & Spievak, E. R. (2020, June 1 — September 1). *Guiding metaphors: Entitlement, grade expectation, and educational values*. [Poster session]. 2020 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Chicago, IL. <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/2020-virtual-poster>

Root, M. J., Hayes-Bohanan, P., & Spievak, E. R. (2020, May). *Librarians as boundary-objects: Creating a new role for information scientists in interdisciplinary research*. 2020 May CARS Celebration. Bridgewater, Ma. (Conference cancelled)

Tang, M., & Root, M. J. (2020, April — May). *The moral evaluation of college-related items*. [Poster session]. 2020 StARS Virtual Conference, Bridgewater, MA.

Durocher, B. R., Root, M. J., & Spievak, E. R. (2019, November). *Myth trusters: Psychology myth prevalence in introductory psychology students*. [Poster session]. 2019 New England Psychological Association Conference, Manchester, NH.

Tang, M., & Root, M. J. (2019, November). *Judgment day: The moral evaluation of college-related items*. [Poster session]. 2019 New England Psychological Association Conference, Manchester, NH.

Bernique, A., & Root, M. J. (2019, June). *Line in the sand: Is border bias evidence of an environmental threat response mechanism?* [Poster session]. 2019 Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference, Boston, MA.

Root, M. J., **LePage, J., Brenner, S., & Gomm, A.** (2019, May). *Double trouble: Psychology undergraduates' misconceptions about twins*. [Poster session]. 2019 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Washington, DC.

Root, M. J., Ramos-Goyette, S., & **Logan, J. F.** (2019, May). *Myth-told tales: Neuromyth prevalence in undergraduate biopsychology students*. [Poster session]. 2019 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Washington, DC.

Fitian, A., Root, M. J., & Spievak, E. (2019, May). *No A's for effort: The relationship between entitlement and college students' grade expectations*. [Poster session]. 2019 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Washington, DC.

Root, M. J., Ramos-Goyette, S., & **Logan, J. F.** (2019, April). *Myth-told tales: Neuromyth prevalence in undergraduate biopsychology students*. [Poster session]. 2019 Student Arts and Research Symposium (StARS), Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA.

Fitian, A., Root, M. J., & Spievak, E. (2019, April). *No A's for effort: The relationship between entitlement and college students' grade expectations*. [Poster session]. 2019 Student Arts and Research Symposium (StARS), Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA.

Root, M. J. & **Bourget, I.** (2017, May). *Myth-taken knowledge: Psychology myth prevalence in introductory psychology students*. [Poster session]. 2017 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Boston, MA.

Bourget, I., Carlson, T., Pollack, K., & Root, M. J. (2017, May). *Should I stay or should I go?: Questioning the evidence for border bias*. [Poster session]. 2017 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Boston, MA.

- Birkholz, S.,** Hessler, E., & Root, M. J. (2017, April). *Retroactive interference effects on procedural memory*. [Poster session]. 2017 Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Bourget, I.** & Root, M. J. (2017, April). *Myth-taken knowledge: Psychology myth prevalence in introductory psychology students*. [Poster session]. 2017 Student Arts and Research Symposium, Bridgewater State University (StARS), Bridgewater, MA.
- Bourget, I., Carlson, T., Pollack, K.,** & Root, M. J. (2017, April). *Should I stay or should I go?: Questioning the evidence for border bias*. [Poster session]. 2017 Student Arts and Research Symposium (StARS), Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA.
- Root, M. J. & Stanley, C. M. (2017, January). *Class dis-mythed: Exploring the prevalence and perseverance of myths in upper-level psychology courses*. [Poster session]. 2017 National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Comeau, R. L., Guaraldi, B. M.,** Root, M. J., **Molloy, B. K.,** & Spievak, E. R. (2016, May). *Whose line is it anyway?: Where the borders are made up and the disasters don't matter*. [Poster session]. 2016 American Psychological Society Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Gwozdz, D., Snyder, A.,** Root, M. J., **Klapatch, L.,** & Spievak, E. R. (2016, May). *What's luck got to do with it?: The relationship between belief in luck and illusion of control*. [Poster session]. 2016 Association for Psychological Science Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Carlson, T., Pollack, K.,** & Root, M. J. (2016, April). *Disasters and border bias*. [Poster session]. 2016 Red River Psychology Conference, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND.
- Carlson, T., Pollack, K.,** & Root, M. J. (2016, April). *Stigmas of border bias*. [Poster session]. 2016 Student Academic Conference, Minnesota State University: Moorhead, Moorhead, MN.
- Stanley, C., & Root, M. J. (2016, January). *What to cut and what to keep when teaching an introduction to psychology course*. [Conference workshop]. National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology Conference, Saint Pete Beach, FL.
- Root, M. J., **Steele, J.,** & **Maldett, C.** (2009, February). *Eugenics: Uncovering a hidden story from psychology's past*. [Conference presentation]. 2009 Celebration of Inquiry, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC.
- Root, M. J. (2008, July). *Designing minds: Connecting psychology and cognitive science*. [Conference presentation]. 2008 Three Societies Conference, Oxford University, Oxford, England.
- Root, M. J., Palm, L. J., Brallier, S., & Podeschi, C. (2008, March). *Using online practice tests to improve test performance*. [Poster session]. 2008 Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Root, M. J., Podeschi, C., Palm, L. J., & Brallier, S. (2008, February). *Using computer based practice tests to enhance exam performance*. [Poster session]. 2008 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Symposium, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC.
- Root, M. J., & **Steele, J.** (2008, February). *The role of podcasting in education*. [Conference presentation]. 2008 Celebration of Inquiry, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC.
- Root, M. J., & **Steele, J.** (2008, February). *Myth-making in the history of psychology: What students really need to know*. [Conference presentation]. 2008 Celebration of Inquiry, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC.
- Root, M. J. (2003, August). *Psychology at its boundaries: A study of three interdisciplinary movements*. [Conference presentation]. 2003 American Psychological Association Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- Root, M. J. (2003, August). *Unification through chaos: Can chaos theory unify psychology?* [Poster session]. 2003 American Psychological Association Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- Root, M. J. (2003, June). *Boundary-work in psychology: Three interdisciplinary movements*. [Conference presentation]. 2003 Cheiron: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conference, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.
- Root, M. J. (2002, August). *The strange attraction of psychology to chaos*. [Conference presentation]. 2002 American Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

- Root, M. J. (2002, March). *Cheater detection content effects on the Wason selection task*. [Poster session]. 2002 Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Root, M. J. (1998, August). *The complex adapted mind: Rediscovering the mind with complexity and evolutionary psychology*. [Conference presentation]. 1998 Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and the Life Sciences Conference. Boston University, Boston, MA.
- Root, M. J. (1997, November). *Introductory fundamentals of chaos and complexity theory*. [Invited address] 1997 Green Mountain College, Poultney, VT.
- Root, M. J. (1997, July). *George Kelly's theory of personal constructs and chaos theory: A confluence of ideas*. [Conference presentation]. 1997 Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and the Life Sciences, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.
- Root, M. J. (1997, June). *Chaos theory in counseling, psychotherapy and psychology*. Professional Development Workshop, Department of Counseling, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID.
- Root, M. J. (1997, February). *Reconstructing Kelly's construct system in phase space*. [Conference presentation]. 1997 Vermont Chaos Conference, Waterbury, VT.

Awards and Fellowships

Teaching Recognition

PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION

Bridgewater State University
2014

Student Academic Achievement Award

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

Springfield College
1998 — 1999

Teaching Fellowship

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

Springfield College
1997 — 1999

Service and Professional Activities

External Service

ACTIVITIES

Various

- Archivist/Historian-elect for the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (2021)
- Manuscript Reviewer for the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium held at UNC-Asheville (2007)
- Reviewer for PsycCRITIQUES (Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books) (2005 — 2008)
- Ad hoc Reviewer for the journal History of Psychology (2002)

Bridgewater State University Service

ACTIVITIES

Bridgewater State University
2016 — Present

- Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship (CARS) Advisory Committee (2020)
- Psychology Search Rules Committee
- Honors Committee
- Laboratory Advisory Committee
- Special 1-Year Retention Review Committee (2017)

Minnesota State University Service

ACTIVITIES

Minnesota State University
2015 — 2016

- Departmental IRB Committee
- Liberal Arts and Science Curriculum Committee

Coastal Carolina University Service

ACTIVITIES

Coastal Carolina University
2005 — 2009

- University Teacher Evaluation Committee
- Sociology Faculty Search Committee
- Celebration of Inquiry College Liasons Committee
- Psychology Faculty Search Committee
- Psychological Communications Committee

University of New Hampshire Service

ACTIVITIES

University of New Hampshire
2003

- Manuscript Reviewer for Cheiron, The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences 35th Annual Conference
- Conference Coordinator, The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences 35th Annual Conference

- Chairperson, Scholarship Committee
- Conference Coordinator, Sixth Annual Winter Chaos Conference

Professional Organization Memberships

- Association for Psychological Science
- Society for the Teaching of Psychology
- Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society

Professional References

Sandra Neargarder, Ph.D., Dept. Chair, Psychology Dept., 90 Burrill Ave., Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA 02325, sneargarder@bridgew.edu, 508-531-2378

Christine Malone, Ph.D., Dept. Chair, Psychology Dept., 360 G Bridges Hall, Minnesota State University Moorhead, MN 56563, malonech@mnstate.edu, 218-477-2804

William R. Woodward, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, Conant Hall, 10 Library Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, William.Woodward@unh.edu, 603-862-3199