

# Matthew Nearents

nearents@nmsu.edu  
827 N. San Pedro St. Las Cruces, NM 88001  
208-403-5097

## Education

2012 - 2014 **New Mexico State University** - Las Cruces, NM  
MA Psychology (*Expected Dec 2014*)  
Advisor: Igor Dolgov  
GPA: 3.96

2008 - 2012 **Brigham Young University-Idaho**, Rexburg, ID  
BS Psychology  
Clusters in CIT and Mathematics

## Publications

Dolgov, I., Graves, W. J., **Nearents, M. R.**, Schwark, J. D., & Volkman, C. B. (2014). Effects of cooperative gaming and avatar customization on subsequent spontaneous helping behavior. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 33, 49-55.

## Professional Presentations

**Nearents, M.**, Dolgov, I., Volkman, C. B., & Dass, N. (upcoming). Spontaneous helping behavior increases when playing video games cooperatively versus competitively. Object Perception, Attention, & Memory conference 2014, Long Beach, California.

Dolgov, I., **Nearents, M.**, Graves, W., Volkman, C. B., & Schwark, J. (2013). A Wii bit of help: Cooperative gaming increases number of subsequent spontaneous helping between the players. Poster presented at the Society for Computers in Psychology's Annual Meeting. Toronto, Ontario.

**Nearents, M.R.**, Dahle, P., Harris, K., Walton, D., Ricks, T. (2012, May). Running May Not Effectively Release Students from Proactive Interference. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science, Chicago, Illinois.

North, A., **Nearents, M.** (2012, May). The Effectiveness of Computerized Treatments for Depression: A Meta-Analysis. Paper presented at the meeting of the Brigham Young University-Idaho Research & Creative Works Conference, Rexburg, Idaho.

**Nearents, M.R.** Dahle, P., Walton, D., Harris, K. (2011, December). Effects of Running On Proactive Interference in College Students. Poster presented at the meeting of the Brigham Young University-Idaho Research & Creative Works Conference, Rexburg, Idaho.

North, A., Dahle, P., Dalbeck, T., Garn, P., Lathem, K., Matthews, A., **Nearents, M.**, Vasquez, I. (2011, December). Self-directed CBT may not be effective for college students. Poster presented at the meeting of the Brigham Young University-Idaho Research & Creative Works Conference, Rexburg, Idaho.

**Nearents, M.R.** (2011, April). Cars Produce Inconsistent Trait Attributions when Brand Identifiers Are Removed. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

**Nearents, M.R.** (2010, December). The Faces of Cars: Impacts on Trait Attribution. Poster presented at the meeting of the Brigham Young University-Idaho Research & Creative Works Conference, Rexburg, Idaho.

## Research Experience

2012 - Present **PACMANe Lab, NMSU**

Graduate Researcher (PI: Dr. Igor Dolgov)

Completed my first year-project and am currently working on my master's research project. My first-year project explored the effects of cooperative and competitive video games and avatar customization on prosocial behavior after gameplay. My master's thesis continues this research and will look at the effects of cooperation with and without inter-group competition on prosocial behavior after video game play.

2011 - 2012 **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, BYU-Idaho**

Undergraduate Researcher (PI: Dr. Eric Gee)

Conducted a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of cognitive behavioral therapy delivered in an electronic format. This study involved developing hypotheses, reviewing the literature, and developing inclusion criteria for the articles in our analysis. We collected 30 articles and calculated Cohen's D for effect size.

Jan - Apr 2011 **Proactive Interference, BYU-Idaho**

Undergraduate Researcher (PI: Dr. Travis Ricks)

Designed a research project to assess whether running could release students from the effects of proactive interference. Reviewed relevant literature and submitted the proposal to the IRB. I assisted in developing a paired-associates methodology to create proactive interference. Recruited participants and carried out the study.

Jan - Apr 2011 **Instructional Design, BYU-Idaho**

Undergraduate Research Assistant (PI: Bruce C. Kusch)

I worked on a team to count words, number of posts, and post lengths of online class discussion board transcripts weekly in order to explore social aspects of online learning. We used the *Content Analysis of Social Presence in Computer-Mediated Communication* to code the transcripts.

Sep - Dec 2010 **Anthropomorphization of Automobiles, BYU-Idaho**

Undergraduate Researcher (PI: Dr. Eric Gee)

I Reviewed relevant literature and submitted the proposal to the IRB. Contacted participants and administered survey designed with Qualtrics online software. Used SPSS to conduct regression analysis, Chi-square analyses, and reliability analysis (Cronbach's alpha).

## Teaching Experience

Jan - May 2013 **Teaching Assistant, NMSU**

Introduction to Psychology (Instructor: Dr. Igor Dolgov)

Aug - Dec 2012 **Teaching Assistant, NMSU**  
Introduction to Psychology (Instructor: Lausanne Renfro-Fernandez)

May - Jul 2012 **Statistics Tutor, BYU-Idaho**