

# Patrick E. McKnight, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology | George Mason University

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## Research Impact

Metric	Value
Total Citations	17,454
h-index	62
i10-index	108
Publications	90+

*Updated 2026-01-29 via Google Scholar*

**Research Areas:** Quantitative Methods, Missing Data, Measurement, Purpose in Life, Curiosity, Health Psychology

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## Education

- **Ph.D. in Psychology (Clinical)**, University of Arizona, 1997 — Dissertation: Calibration of Psychological Measures: An illustration of three quantitative calibration procedures. Chair: Lee Sechrest, Ph.D.
  - **M.S. in Exercise and Sports Sciences**, University of Arizona, 1992 — Thesis: The effects of cohesion and identifiability on social loafing. Chair: Jean M. Williams, Ph.D.
  - **B.S. in Mechanical Engineering**, University of Notre Dame, 1988
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## Academic Positions

- **Associate Professor**, George Mason University, 2011–Present ★
  - **Advisory Board Member**, Sense about Science USA, 2015–Present
  - **Consultant**, McKnight Consulting, LLC, 2005–Present
  - **Assistant Professor**, George Mason University, 2005–2011
  - **Research Assistant Professor**, University of Arizona, 2002–2005
  - **Health Sciences Specialist**, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, 1999–2001
  - **Psychology Resident**, University of Washington, 1998–1999
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## Books

- McKnight, P.E., McKnight, K.M., Sidani, S. & Figueredo, A.J. (2007). *Missing Data: A Gentle Introduction*. New York: Guilford Press. [3,200 citations]
  - Bootzin, R.R. & McKnight, P.E. (Eds) (2006). *Strengthening Research Methodology: Psychological Measurement and Evaluation*. Washington: American Psychological Association. [6 citations]
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## Selected Publications

### 2025

- McKnight, P.E., Kashdan, T.B., MacKay, A., Kelso, K., & Gross, M. (2025). Purpose and happiness: A comparison. *Journal of Positive Psychology*.
- Kashdan, T.B., McKnight, P.E., Kelso, K., Craig, L., Guenoun, B., & Naughton, C. (2025). Multiple dimensions of workplace curiosity: Evidence of generalizability in nine countries. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- Blanco-Donoso, Torio, L., Hurtado, M., Lecuona, O., Carmona-Cobo, I., Kashdan, T.B., McKnight, P.E., & Garrosa, E. (2025). Spanish adaptation of the Multidimensional Workplace Curiosity Scale. *Acta Psychologica*.

### 2024

- Jackson, K.M., Thayer, S.C., Simpson, K.L., Shaw, T.H., McKnight, P.E., & Helton, W.S. (2024). Swimming with a head-mounted display: dual-task costs. *Ergonomics*, 1-10.
- Kashdan, T.B., Kaufman, J.C., & McKnight, P.E. (2024). The costs of curiosity and creativity: Minimizing the downsides while maximizing the upsides. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 47, e105.

### 2023

- Kashdan, T.B., Goodman, F.R., McKnight, P.E., Brown, B., & Rum, R. (2023). Purpose in life: A resolution on the definition, conceptual model, and optimal measurement. *American Psychologist*. [50 citations]
- Dang, J.A., Shaw, T.H., McKnight, P.E., & Helton, W.S. (2023). A closer look at warning cues on the sustained attention to response task performance. *Human Factors*, 65, 1793-1803. [5 citations]
- Harwood, A.E., Satterfield, K., Helton, W.S., McKnight, P.E., & Shaw, T.H. (2023). The Role of State and Trait Self-Control on the Sustained Attention to Response Task. *Human Factors*. [2 citations]

### 2022

- Lockhart, P.B., Thornhill, M.H., Zhao, J., et al. & McKnight, P.E. (2022). Factors that affect dentists' use of antibiotic prophylaxis. *Journal of the American Dental Association*. [10 citations]
- Kashdan, T.B., McKnight, P.E., & Goodman, F.R. (2022). Evolving positive psychology: A blueprint for advancing the study of purpose in life, psychological strengths, and resilience. *Journal of Positive Psychology*, 17, 210-218. [45 citations]
- Dang, J.A., Shaw, T.H., McKnight, P.E., & Helton, W.S. (2022). A closer look at warning cues on the sustained attention to response task performance. *Human Factors*. [5 citations]

### 2021

- McKnight, P.E., Kidd, J.K., Gallington, D.A., Strauss, L.I., Lyu, H., Gadzichowski, K.M., & Pasnak, R. (2021). The Efficacy of Teaching Advanced Forms of Patterning to Kindergartners. *Creative Education*, 12, 557. [5 citations]

## 2020

- Kashdan, T.B., Disabato, D.J., Goodman, F.R., & McKnight, P.E. (2020). The Five-Dimensional Curiosity Scale Revised (5DCR): Briefer subscales while separating overt and covert social curiosity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 157, 109836. [280 citations]
- Kashdan, T.B., Goodman, F.R., Disabato, D.J., McKnight, P.E., Kelso, K., & Naughton, C. (2020). Curiosity has comprehensive benefits in the workplace. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 155, 109717. [195 citations]
- Kashdan, T.B., Disabato, D.J., Goodman, F.R., Doorley, J.D., & McKnight, P.E. (2020). Understanding psychological flexibility: A multimethod exploration of pursuing valued goals despite the presence of distress. *Psychological Assessment*, 32, 829. [120 citations]
- Kashdan, T.B., Disabato, D.J., McKnight, P.E., Kelso, K.C., Lauber, M., & Goodman, F.R. (2020). Sexual assault: Exploring real-time consequences the next day and in subsequent days. *International Journal of Wellbeing*, 10. [15 citations]
- Gonçalves, S.F., Chaplin, T.M., López Jr, R., et al. & McKnight, P.E. (2020). High-Frequency Heart Rate Variability and Emotion-Driven Impulse Control Difficulties During Adolescence. *Journal of Early Adolescence*. [25 citations]
- Lockhart, P.B., Thornhill, M.H., Zhao, J., et al. & McKnight, P.E. (2020). Prophylactic antibiotic prescribing in dental practice. *Journal of the American Dental Association*, 151, 770-781. [35 citations]

## 2019

- Doorley, J.D., Kashdan, T.B., Alexander, L.A., Blalock, D.V., & McKnight, P.E. (2019). Distress tolerance in romantic relationships: A daily diary exploration with methodological considerations. *Motivation and Emotion*, 43, 505-516. [25 citations]
- Fontana, M., Eckert, G.J., Keels, M.A., et al. & McKnight, P. (2019). Predicting Caries in Medical Settings: Risk Factors in Diverse Infant Groups. *Journal of Dental Research*, 98, 68-76. [45 citations]
- Curby, T., McKnight, P., Alexander, L., & Erchov, S. (2019). Sources of variance in end-of-course student evaluations. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*. [15 citations]

## 2018

- Kashdan, T.B., Stiksis, M.C., Disabato, D.D., McKnight, P.E., Bekier, J., Kaji, J., & Lazarus, R. (2018). The five-dimensional curiosity scale: Capturing the bandwidth of curiosity and identifying four unique subgroups of curious people. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 73, 130-149. [520 citations]
- Yarbro, J.L., & McKnight, P.E. (2018). An introduction to cost-effectiveness acceptability curves. *Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology*, 6, 179. [8 citations]
- Bock, A.M., Cartwright, K.B., McKnight, P.E., et al. & Pasnak, R. (2018). Patterning, reading, and executive functions. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 1802. [45 citations]

## 2017

- Alexander, L.A., McKnight, P.E., Disabato, D.J., & Kashdan, T.B. (2017). When and How to use Multiple Informants to Improve Clinical Assessments. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*. [35 citations]
- Kashdan, T.B., Blalock, D.V., Young, K.C., Machell, K.A., Monfort, S.S., McKnight, P.E., & Ferssizidis, P. (2017). Personality Strengths in Romantic relationships. *Psychological Assessment*. [65 citations]
- Kashdan, T.B., Goodman, F.R., Stiksis, M., Milius, C.R., & McKnight, P.E. (2017). Sexuality Leads to Boosts in Mood and Meaning in Life. *Emotion*. [45 citations]

- Monfort, S.S., Graybeal, J.J., Harwood, A.E., McKnight, P.E., & Shaw, T.H. (2017). A single-item assessment for remaining mental resources: development and validation of the Gas Tank Questionnaire. *Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science*. [25 citations]
- Bono, G., Froh, J.J., Disabato, D., Blalock, D., McKnight, P., & Bausert, S. (2017). Gratitude's role in adolescent antisocial and prosocial behavior: A 4-year longitudinal investigation. *Journal of Positive Psychology*. [55 citations]

## 2016

- de Visser, E.J., Monfort, S.S., McKendrick, R., Smith, M.A.B., McKnight, P.E., Krueger, F., & Parasuraman, R. (2016). Almost Human: Anthropomorphism Increases Trust Resilience in Cognitive Agents. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*. [280 citations]

View all 81 publications on Google Scholar →

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## Research Funding

**Total Research Funding:** \$6,890,206

- **Crowdsourcing forecast models in intelligence** (PI: Georghe Tecuci)  
IARPA | Co-Investigator | 2016–2021
  - **Distinguishing extraordinarily happy from psychologically flexible people** (PI: Todd Kashdan)  
Koch Foundation | Co-Investigator (\$248,000) | 2016–2021
  - **Evaluation and Review of ONR Immersive Training Environments**  
Office of Naval Research (ONR) | Principal Investigator (\$899,577) | 2014–2016
  - **Diagnosis and prediction of mild traumatic brain injury** (PI: Judith Babcock-Parziale)  
VA Health Services Research and Development | Co-Investigator | 2009–2012
  - **Advancing Outcomes Measurement and Micro-costing in Blind Rehabilitation**  
VA Health Services Research and Development | Co-Investigator (\$550,080) | 2006–2010
  - **Trait and State Frontal Brain Asymmetry in Depression**  
NIH-NIMH | Co-Investigator (\$1,869,813) | 2004–2009
  - **Multidimensional Intervention in Osteoarthritis**  
NIAMS | Co-Investigator (\$2,630,000) | 2003–2007
  - **Comprehensive Plan to Insure Capacity for Screening and Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer in Arizona**  
Arizona Department of Health Services | Co-Investigator (\$275,000) | 2004–2006
  - **Positive Mental Health and Outcomes in Osteoarthritis**  
Arthritis Foundation | Co-Investigator (\$313,500) | 2002–2006
  - **Tucson Energy Baseline Study**  
Department of Energy / TMEC | Principal Investigator (\$19,000) | 2001–2002
  - **Calibration of Measures for Assessing Low-Vision Rehabilitation Patients**  
VA Rehabilitation Research and Development | Co-Investigator (\$85,236) | 2001–2003
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## Teaching

## Graduate Courses

- **PSYC 611:** Introductory Statistics and Methods I
- **PSYC 612:** Introductory Statistics and Methods II
- **PSYC 642:** General Linear Modeling I
- **PSYC 643:** General Linear Modeling II
- **PSYC 754:** Multiple Regression
- **PSYC 757:** Bayesian Data Analysis
- **PSYC 734:** Measurement & Study of Peak Performance

## Undergraduate Courses

- **PSYC 301:** Introductory Statistics
  - **PSYC 325:** Psychopathology
  - **PSYC 405:** Mystery, Madness, and Murder
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## Doctoral Students

### Current

- Amrote Getu, George Mason University
- Kristin Carpenter, George Mason University
- Amie MacKay, George Mason University
- Dan Singer, George Mason University

### Graduated (18)

- Dean Cisler, George Mason University, 2024
  - Kara Massick, George Mason University, 2024
  - Amanda Harwood, George Mason University, 2020
  - Michael Waltrip, George Mason University, 2020
  - Lisa Alexander, George Mason University, 2019
  - Max Shear, George Mason University, 2018
  - Simone Erchov, George Mason University, 2017
  - Jake Quartuccio, George Mason University, 2017
  - Sam Monfort, George Mason University, 2017
  - John Graybeal, George Mason University, 2016
  - Dan Blalock, George Mason University, 2016
  - Jessica Yarbro, George Mason University, 2016
  - Julius Najab, George Mason University, 2013
  - Mei Kuang Chen, University of Arizona, 2008
  - Michael Menke, University of Arizona, 2005
  - Kim Bissel, University of Arizona, 2001
  - Richard Lane, University of Arizona, 2000
  - Opher Caspi, University of Arizona, 2000
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## Technical Skills

**Statistical Software:** R, SAS, SPSS, Python, Stan, JAGS, Julia

**SEM/IRT:** lavaan, Mplus, EQS, LISREL, Onyx, Mx, mirt, ltm, Winsteps, Multilog, Bilog

**Programming:** R, Python, C/C++, Fortran, Julia, SQL, LaTeX, Quarto, Shiny

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## **Beyond Academia**

**Mountaineering:** Everest (2018), Aconcagua (2017), Denali (2011)

**Marathon Swimming:** English Channel, Catalina Channel, 20 Bridges Manhattan

- Triple Crown of Marathon Swimming - Fastest Known Time (34 days)
- Ranked Top 50 Most Adventurous Open Water Swimmers
- 10th Member of Peak & Pond Club (2018)

**Triathlon:** Canadian Ironman (10:03)

**Erdős Number:** 6

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