Patrick E. McKnight, Ph.D.

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Associate Professor of Psychology
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030

pmcknigh@gmu.edu | GMU Profile | Google Scholar

Research Interests

Measurement methodology, missing data analysis, program evaluation, psychological assessment, purpose in life, trust, anxiety, depression, and health psychology. Expertise spans medicine (rehabilitation, cardiology, rheumatology, gerontology), psychology (substance abuse, neuroscience, well-being), and education with emphasis on quantitative methods.

Education

Degree	Institution	Year	Field
Ph.D.	University of Arizona	1997	Clinical Psychology
M.S.	University of Arizona	1992	Exercise & Sport Sciences
B.S.	University of Notre Dame	1988	Mechanical Engineering

Dissertation: *Calibration of Psychological Measures: An Illustration of Three Quantitative Calibration Procedures* **Chair:** Lee Sechrest, Ph.D.

Academic Appointments

Current

Associate Professor | George Mason University | 2008 – Present Department of Psychology, Fairfax, VA

- Founding member, Measurement, Research methodology, Evaluation, and Statistics group (MRES)
- Director of graduate training in quantitative methods
- Primary teaching: Statistics, Multiple Regression, Bayesian Statistics, Psychopathology

Previous

Assistant Professor | George Mason University | 2006 – 2008 Department of Psychology

Research Assistant Professor | University of Arizona | 2002 – 2006 Department of Psychology, Evaluation Group for Analysis of Data (EGAD)

Health Sciences Specialist | VA Puget Sound Health Care System | 1999 – 2001 Center of Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATE), Seattle, WA

Psychology Intern | University of Washington Medical School | 1998 – 1999 Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (APA-accredited)

Professional Affiliations

- American Evaluation Association (Chair, Quantitative Methods TIG)
- American Psychological Association
- Association for Psychological Science
- Society for the Science of Clinical Psychology

Citation Metrics

Total Citations: 17,400+ | **h-index:** 60+ | **i10-index:** 100+

Metrics from Google Scholar

Selected Publications

Books

McKnight, P.E., McKnight, K.M., Sidani, S., & Figueredo, A.J. (2007). *Missing Data: A Gentle Introduction.* New York: Guilford Press.

Recent Peer-Reviewed Articles

Kashdan, T.B., McKnight, P.E., Kelso, K., Craig, L., & Gross, M. (2025). Enhancing curiosity with a wise intervention to improve political conversations and relationships. *Scientific Reports.*

McKnight, P.E., Kashdan, T.B., MacKay, A., Kelso, K., & Gross, M. (in press). 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.*

Kashdan, T.B., Goodman, F.R., Disabato, D.J., McKnight, P.E., Kelso, K., & Naughton, C. (2020). Curiosity has comprehensive benefits in the workplace: Developing and validating a multidimensional workplace curiosity scale in United States and German employees. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 155, 109717.

Kashdan, T.B., Stiksma, M.C., Disabato, 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.

Kashdan, T.B., & McKnight, P.E. (2013). Commitment to a purpose in life: An antidote to the suffering by individuals with social anxiety disorder. *Emotion*, 13, 1150-1159.

Classic/Foundational Works

Sechrest, L., McKnight, P., & McKnight, K. (1996). Calibration of measures for psychotherapy outcome studies. *American Psychologist*, 51(10), 1065-1071.

Figueredo, A.J., McKnight, P.E., McKnight, K.M., & Sidani, S. (2000). Multivariate modeling of missing data within and across assessment waves. *Addiction*, 95(Suppl 3), 361-380.

Baer, J.S., Kivlahan, D.R., Blume, A., McKnight, P.E., & Marlatt, G.A. (2001). Brief intervention for heavy drinking college students: Four-year follow-up and natural history. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(8), 1310-1316.

Selected Grants & Funding

Co-Investigator | Koch Foundation | 2016 – 2021 "Distinguishing extraordinarily happy from psychologically flexible people: A multi-method study of optimal human functioning" PI: Todd Kashdan

Co-Investigator | Australian Research Council | 2014 – 2018 "Identifying the biopsychosocial factors promoting healthy, productive, and fulfilling transitions from high school: A seven-year longitudinal study"

Co-Investigator | National Institutes of Health (R01) | 2016 – 2021 "Prospective determination of neurobehavioral risk for the development of emotion disorders"

Co-Investigator | NIAMS | 2003 – 2007 "Multidimensional Intervention in Osteoarthritis" ($2.6M)

Co-Investigator | Arthritis Foundation | 2002 – 2006 "Positive Mental Health and Outcomes in Osteoarthritis" ($313,500)

Principal Investigator | Department of Energy/TMEC | 2001 – 2002 "Tucson Energy Baseline Study" ($19,000)

Teaching

Graduate Courses

- PSYC 611: Statistics in Psychology
- PSYC 612: Multiple Regression
- PSYC 860: Advanced Quantitative Methods
- PSYC 861: Bayesian Statistics
- PSYC 864: Structural Equation Modeling

Undergraduate Courses

- PSYC 325: Psychopathology
- PSYC 405: Mystery, Madness & Murder
- PSYC 300: Personality Theory

Software & Technical Skills

Statistical Software: R, SAS, SPSS, Python, Stan, JAGS **Structural Equation Modeling:** lavaan, Mplus, EQS, LISREL **Item Response Theory:** mirt, ltm, Winsteps **Programming:** R, Python, SQL, LaTeX, Quarto **Version Control:** Git, GitHub

Service

Editorial

- *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* – Ad hoc reviewer
- *Psychological Assessment* – Ad hoc reviewer
- *Evaluation and Program Planning* – Ad hoc reviewer
- *Psychological Methods* – Ad hoc reviewer

Professional

- American Evaluation Association, Chair, Quantitative Methods TIG (2001–2005)
- NIH Study Section reviewer
- NSF Panel reviewer