

Patrick E. McKnight, Ph.D.

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Patrick E. McKnight, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Psychology | George Mason University

Email GMU Scholar ORCID

Research Impact

17,454

Total Citations

62

h-index

108

i10-index

90+

Publications

Last updated: 2026-01-29 from Google Scholar

Research Focus Areas

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Publication Timeline

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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

Academic Positions

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Associate Professor

George Mason University | Department of Psychology: Human Factors and Applied Cognition

2011 – Present

Advisory Board Member

Sense about Science USA | STATS.org

2015 – Present

Consultant

McKnight Consulting, LLC | Research and Technical Consulting

2005 – Present

Assistant Professor

George Mason University | Department of Psychology

2005 – 2011

Research Assistant Professor

University of Arizona | Department of Psychology, EGAD

2002 – 2005

Health Sciences Specialist

VA Puget Sound Health Care System | CESATE

1999 – 2001

Psychology Resident

Selected Publications

Books

McKnight, P.E., McKnight, K.M., Sidani, S. & Figueiredo, 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

Peer-Reviewed Articles

purpose

McKnight, P.E., Kashdan, T.B., MacKay, A., Kelso, K., & Gross, M. (2025). Purpose and happiness: A comparison. *Journal of Positive Psychology*.

curiosity

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*.

curiosity

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*.

cognition

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.

0 citations

curiosity

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.

0 citations

purpose

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

cognition

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

cognition

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

health

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

purpose

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

cognition

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

education

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

curiosity

Kashdan, T.B., Disabato, D.J., Goodman, F.R., & McKnight, P.E. (2020). The Five-Dimensional Curiosity Scale Revised (5DCR): Brief subscales while separating overt and covert social curiosity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 157, 109836.

280 citations

curiosity

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

flexibility

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

[View all publications on Google Scholar →](#)

Research Funding

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Crowdsourcing forecast models in intelligence

IARPA | Co-Investigator

2016 – 2021

Distinguishing extraordinarily happy from psychologically flexible people

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

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

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

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

Doctoral Students Mentored

Current Students (4)

Amrote Getu

Kristin Carpenter

Amie MacKay

Dan Singer

Graduated (18)

Dean CislerGeorge Mason University, 2024

Kara MassickGeorge Mason University, 2024

Amanda HarwoodGeorge Mason University, 2020

Michael WaltripGeorge Mason University, 2020

Lisa AlexanderGeorge Mason University, 2019

Max ShearGeorge Mason University, 2018

Simone ErchovGeorge Mason University, 2017
Jake QuartuccioGeorge Mason University, 2017
Sam MonfortGeorge Mason University, 2017
John GraybealGeorge Mason University, 2016
Dan BlalockGeorge Mason University, 2016
Jessica YarbroGeorge Mason University, 2016
Julius NajabGeorge Mason University, 2013
Mei Kuang ChenUniversity of Arizona, 2008
Michael MenkeUniversity of Arizona, 2005
Kim BisselUniversity of Arizona, 2001
Richard LaneUniversity of Arizona, 2000
Opher CaspiUniversity of Arizona, 2000

Beyond Academia

Marathon Swimming English Channel (July 21, 2016) Catalina Channel (July 12, 2016) 20 Bridges Manhattan (August 15, 2016) 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)

Mountaineering Everest (2018) – self-guided Aconcagua (2017) – self-guided Denali (2011) – self-guided Successful ascents of most 14ers in continental US 200+ days backcountry skiing

Triathlon Canadian Ironman – 10:03 (Top Top 100)

Sailing Newport-Bermuda Race (multiple) Won Vineyard Race - Overall Winner (1980) Notre Dame sailing team (1984-1988)

Erdős Number: 6

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