

# Riley McDanal, M.A.

Clinical Psychological Science PhD Candidate

NSF GRFP Fellow

[riley.mcdanal@stonybrook.edu](mailto:riley.mcdanal@stonybrook.edu) | [rileymcdanal.com](http://rileymcdanal.com)

---

## EDUCATION

### **Stony Brook University**

(anticipated 2026) Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology  
(dissertation successfully defended 12/2025)

Stony Brook, NY  
2020 – current

### **Stony Brook University**

M.A. in Psychology

Stony Brook, NY  
2020 – 2022

### **University of California, Berkeley**

B.A. in Psychology

Berkeley, CA  
2016 – 2019

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

### **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)**

Stony Brook University. PI. Total amount awarded: \$152,000.

2022 – 2027

### **Academy of Psychological Clinical Science Dissertation Award**

Stony Brook University. PI. Amount awarded: \$2,000.

2025

### **APF Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology Graduate Student Scholarship**

Stony Brook University. PI. Amount awarded: \$2,000.

2025

### **Graduate Research Empowering and Accelerating Talent Award (GREAT Award)**

Stony Brook University. PI. Amount awarded: \$5,000.

2023

### **John Neale Endowed Graduate Student Excellence Fund**

Stony Brook University. PI. Amount awarded: \$750.

2021

### **(declined) Cunningham Fellowship**

Virginia Tech. Total amount offered: \$97,392.

2020 – 2024

## HONORS AND AWARDS

### **Society for Research in Psychopathology EDI Scholarship**

Stony Brook University.

2022 – 2023

### **LifeData Award**

Stony Brook University.

2020

### **Distinction in General Scholarship**

University of California, Berkeley.

2019

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Scalable mental healthcare; identity, marginalization, and health; relational context and interpersonal processes; psychiatry nosology; measurement and assessment; open science practices.

## PUBLICATIONS

Citations: 354 / H-index: 9 (As of 12.15.2025)

First-author citations: 116 / First-author H-index: 4

( \* Indicates student/trainee; † Indicates equal co-authorship )

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

11. Pigart, C. J., Cohen, K. A., **McDanal, R.**, Schleider, J. L., & Cooper, K. M. (in press). STEM, gender, and mental health: Understanding depression and anxiety in a national undergraduate sample. *PLOS Mental Health*, 2(8), e0000364. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000364>
10. Dodge, K. A., Prinstein, M. J., Evans, A. C., Ahuvia, I. L., Alvarez, K., Beidas, R. S., Brown, A. J., Cuijpers, P., Denton, E., Hoagwood, K. E., Johnson, C., Kazdin, A. E., **McDanal, R.**, Metzger, I. W., Rowley, S. N., Schleider, J. L., Shaw, D. S. (2024). Population mental health science: Guiding principles and initial agenda. *American Psychologist*, 79(6), 805. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0001334>
9. **McDanal, R.**, Shen, J., Fox, K. R., Eaton, N. R., & Schleider, J. L. (2024). Predicting transdiagnostic symptom change across diverse demographic groups in single-session interventions for adolescent depression. *Clinical Psychological Science*, 12(6), 1056-1074. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21677026231199437>
8. Deisenhofer, A-K., Barkham, M., Beierl, E. T., Schwartz, B., Aafjes-van Doorn, K., ... Cohen, Z. (50 other coauthors, incl. **McDanal, R.**) (2023). Implementing precision methods in personalizing psychological therapies: Barriers and possible ways forward. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 172, 104443. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brat.2023.104443>
7. Ghosh, A., Cohen, K., Jans, L., Busch, C., **McDanal, R.**, Yang, Y., Cooper, K., & Schleider, J. L. (2023). A digital single-session intervention (Project Engage) to address fear of negative evaluation among college students: A pilot randomized controlled trial. *JMIR Mental Health*, 10, e48926. <https://doi.org/10.2196/48926>
6. Shen, J., Rubin, A., Cohen, K., Hart, E. A., Sung, J., **McDanal, R.**, Roulston, C., Sotomayor, I., Fox, K. R., & Schleider, J. L. (2023). Randomized evaluation of an online single-session intervention for minority stress in LGBTQ+ adolescents. *Internet Interventions*, 33, 100633. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.invent.2023.100633>
5. **McDanal, R.**, Schleider, J. L., Fox, K. R., & Eaton, N. R. (2023). Loneliness in gender- and sexual orientation-diverse adolescents: Measurement invariance analyses and between-group comparisons. *Assessment*, 30(3), 706–727. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911211065167>
4. **McDanal, R.**, Parisi, D., Opara, I.<sup>†</sup>, & Schleider, J. L.<sup>†</sup> (2022). Effects of brief interventions on internalizing symptoms and substance use in youth: A systematic review. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 25, 339-355. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-021-00372-2>

3. **McDanal, R.**, Rubin, A., Fox, K. R., & Schleider, J. L. (2022). Associations of LGBTQ+ identities with acceptability and efficacy of online single-session youth mental health interventions. *Behavior Therapy*, 53, 376-391. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beth.2021.10.004>
2. Inman, E. M., Bermejo, R. M., **McDanal, R.**, Nelson, B., Richmond, R. L., Schleider, J. L., & London, B. (2021). Discrimination and psychosocial engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Stigma and Health*, 6, 380-383. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000349>
1. Stanton, K., Brown, M. F. D., **McDanal, R.**, Carlton, C. N., & Emery, N. N. (2021). Informing the classification and assessment of positive emotional experiences: A multisample examination of hierarchical positive emotionality models. *Psychological Assessment*, 33(11), 1038-1049. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001052>

## CHAPTERS

2. **McDanal, R.** & Schleider, J. L. (2023). Investing in novel intervention delivery systems. *Population health science summit: Grounding evidence and preliminary research synthesis*. American Psychological Association. <https://www.apa.org/science/programs/population-health-science-summit/research-synthesis.pdf>
1. Ghosh, A., **McDanal, R.**, & Schleider, J. L. (2023). Digital single-session interventions for child and adolescent mental health: Evidence and potential for dissemination across low- and middle-income countries. *Advances in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health*. Elsevier. [https://www.advancesinpsychiatryandbehavioralhealth.com/article/S2667-3827\(23\)00016-9/abstract](https://www.advancesinpsychiatryandbehavioralhealth.com/article/S2667-3827(23)00016-9/abstract)

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

3. Lynam, D. R., Sbarra, D. A., Tackett, J. L., Lui, P. P., **McDanal, R.**, Schaumberg, K., Wright, A. G. C., Yang, Y., & Miller, J. D. (under review). The open science movement and clinical psychology training: Rigorous science is transparent science. <https://osf.io/fj39h>
2. Ortells Faci, P.\*<sup>†</sup>, **McDanal, R.**<sup>†</sup>, & Eaton, N. R. (under review). Loneliness in sexual and gender minority youths: Critical implications of a multidimensional approach. [https://osf.io/preprints/osf/zcajv\\_v1](https://osf.io/preprints/osf/zcajv_v1)
1. Roos, C. R., McHugh, R. K., Vafaie, N., Schleider, J. L., **McDanal, R.**, DeBenedictis, A., Palmer, R., John, M., Votaw, V. R., & Kober, H. (under review). Pilot randomized trial of Visitor Mindset: A single-session web-based intervention targeting emotion-related beliefs and emotion regulation skills.

## POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS

2. **McDanal, R.** (2023). Marginalized populations deserve our very best: Measurement invariance as the foundation of mental health disparities research. *PCSAS Newsletter*. <https://pcsas.org/newsletter/marginalized-populations-deserve-our-very-best-measurement-invariance-as-the-foundation-of-mental-health-disparities-research/>
1. **McDanal, R.** (2021). Integrating single-session intervention approaches into clinical training programs. *PCSAS Newsletter*. <https://pcsas.org/newsletter/integrating-single-session-intervention-approaches-into-clinical-training-programs/>

## PRESENTATIONS

( \* Indicates student/trainee; † Indicates equal co-authorship )

### TALKS

**McDanal, R.**, Kim, H., Schleider, J. L., & Eaton, N. R. (2025, September). *Transdiagnostic single-session intervention effects on adolescent demoralization: A piecewise multilevel analysis of change patterns in a randomized controlled trial*. Oral presentation at the Society for Research in Psychopathology Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

**McDanal, R.**, Schleider, J. L., Shen, J., Fox, K. R., & Eaton, N. R. (2025, March). *Single-session online interventions drive transdiagnostic change across initial symptom severity levels: Implications for stepped care*. Flash talk at the Annual Meeting of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) Consortium, Denver, CO.

\* Ortells-Faci, P., **McDanal, R.**, Zhang, Y., Eaton, N. R., & Kotov, R. (2025, March). *Distinguishing between-person and within-person stability in the longitudinal relationship of victimization and dysphoria in adolescent girls*. Flash talk at the Annual Meeting of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) Consortium, Denver, CO.

**McDanal, R.**, Schleider, J. L., & Eaton, N. R. (2024, March). *The meta-structure of loneliness as different dimensions of varying resolution: Links with transdiagnostic psychopathology and disparities across populations*. Flash talk at the Annual Meeting of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) Consortium, San Diego, CA.

**McDanal, R.**, Shen, J., Fox, K. R., Schleider, J. L., & Eaton, N. R. (2022, May). *Single-session interventions reduced transdiagnostic internalizing symptoms in adolescents with diverse identities during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Flash talk at the Annual Meeting of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) Consortium, virtual.

### SYMPOSIA

Rubin, A., Shen, J., **McDanal, R.**, Schleider, J. L., & Fox, K. R. (2022, November). *Exploring the need for single-session interventions that improve NSSI/SI outcomes in LGBTQ+ youths*. Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies 56th Annual Convention, New York, NY. [Presented by **McDanal, R.**]

### POSTERS

\* Ortells-Faci, P., **McDanal, R.**, Zhang, Y., Klein, D. N., Nelson, B. D., Kotov, R., & Eaton, N. R. (2025, September). *Do symptoms or stressors come first? Interrelations and stability of rumination, victimization and internalizing problems among adolescent girls*. Society for Research in Psychopathology Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

Grieshaber, A., Calentino, A., Harrison, M. S., **McDanal, R.**, & Klein, D. N. (2025, September). *Early childhood predictors of depression course*. Society for Research in Psychopathology Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

\* Murata, M., Smith, A. C., & **McDanal, R.** (2025, June). *Where do differences in single-session intervention effectiveness emerge? A multilevel analysis of a body neutrality intervention for sexual and gender minority youth.* 5th International Single Session Therapies Symposium, Chicago, IL.

\* Ortells-Faci, P., **McDanal, R.**, & Eaton, N. R. (2025, May). *Unpacking the dimensions of loneliness: Links to transdiagnostic internalizing disparities in sexual and gender minority youth.* Association of Psychological Science Conference, Washington, DC.

**McDanal, R.**, Schleider, J. L., Shen, J., Fox, K. R., & Eaton, N. R. (2025, March). *Single-session online interventions drive transdiagnostic change across initial symptom severity levels: Implications for stepped care.* Annual Meeting of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) Consortium, Denver, CO.

\* Ortells-Faci, P., **McDanal, R.**, Zhang, Y., & Eaton, N. R. (2025, March). *Distinguishing between-person and within-person stability in the longitudinal relationship of victimization and dysphoria in adolescent girls.* Annual Meeting of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) Consortium, Denver, CO.

**McDanal, R.**, Parisi, D., Opara, I.<sup>†</sup>, & Schleider, J. L.<sup>†</sup> (2022, November). *Effects of brief interventions on internalizing symptoms and substance use in youth: A systematic review.* Clinical Psychological Science Special Interest Group Exposition in the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies 56th Annual Convention, New York, NY.

**McDanal, R.**, Shen, J., Fox, K. R., Schleider, J. L., & Eaton, N. R. (2022, September). *Transdiagnostic symptom change across diverse demographic groups in an RCT of single-session interventions for adolescent depression.* Society for Research in Psychopathology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

**McDanal, R.**, Rubin, A., Fox, K. R., & Schleider, J. L. (2021, November). *Associations of LGBTQ+ identities with acceptability and efficacy of online single-session youth mental health interventions.* Oppression & Resilience Special Interest Group Exposition in the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Virtual Convention, virtual.

**McDanal, R.**, Shen, J., Fox, K. R., Eaton, N. R., & Schleider, J. L. (2021, September). *Predicting transdiagnostic symptom change in a randomized trial of single-session interventions for adolescent depression.* Treatment Selection Idea Lab Virtual Convention, virtual.

Inman, E. M., Bermejo, R., **McDanal, R.**, Nelson, B., Richmond, R., Schleider, J. L., & London, B. (2021, February). *Identity models of discrimination and psychosocial engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Society for Personality and Social Psychology Virtual Convention, virtual.

## **LAB AFFILIATIONS**

**SPECTRUM LAB**, Stony Brook University

**PhD Student**

Research: Transdiagnostic psychopathology and mental health disparities.

Dir: Nicholas Eaton, PhD

2020 – current

**LAB FOR SCALABLE MENTAL HEALTH**, Northwestern University

**PhD Student**

Research: Digital intervention and health equity.

Dir: Jessica Schleider, PhD

2020 – current

**IDIOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS LAB**, UC Berkeley

Dir: Aaron Fisher, PhD

**Postbac Research Assistant**

2019 – 2020

Research: Experience sampling of psychopathology and behavior.

**BERKELEY SOCIAL INTERACTION LAB**, UC Berkeley

Dir: Dacher Keltner, PhD

**Undergraduate and Postbac Research Assistant**

2017 – 2020

Research: Sociocultural psychology and individual emotional experience.

## **REVIEWING**

*Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health* (2025)

*Assessment* (2025)

*BMC Psychology* (2025)

*JMIR Mental Health* (2025)

*BMC Public Health* (2025)

*Journal of Homosexuality* (2025)

*Child Psychiatry & Human Development* (2024)

*Collabra: Psychology* (2023)

*JAMA Network Open* (2022)

## **TEACHING**

### **INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD – *independently designed course***

**Psychopathology Classification**, Stony Brook University      Summer 2022 / 23 / 24 / 25; Winter 2023 / 24 / 25

Novel special topics course on the history, methodology, and clinical utility of different approaches to conceptualizing the nature of psychopathology (DSM/ICD; RDoC; HiTOP; Network Analysis).

- ◇ Total students: 193
- ◇ Average course rating: 4.9/5.0

### **INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD**

**Introduction to Psychology**, Stony Brook University

Winter 2022

Introductory general psychology course. Topics included biological, cognitive, personality, developmental, social, and clinical psychology; research methods; ethics.

- ◇ Total students: 28
- ◇ Average course rating: 5.0/5.0

## **GUEST LECTURER**

**Reading in Psychology: Professional Development**, Stony Brook University

Fall 2023 / 24

Presentation on writing a compelling application statement for admission to graduate programs in psychology. Supported students in drafting an outline; facilitated small group discussions about their ideas.

Presentation on Stony Brook's Single-Session Consultation program. Demonstrated implementation and facilitated student practice.

## RECITATION INSTRUCTOR

**Research and Writing in Psychology**, Stony Brook University

Spring 2022

Course on the research process in psychology. Guided students through conceptualizing their own research question, methodology, and analytic approach; taught students how to draft a mock empirical manuscript.

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

**Health Psychology**, Stony Brook University

Fall 2021

**Survey in Abnormal and Clinical Psychology**, Stony Brook University

Fall 2020

## CLINICAL

### Areas of specialization

Emotion dysregulation, experiential avoidance, low self-esteem, interpersonal/marital/family problems

### Primary modalities

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT); Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT); Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy (IBCT); Emotionally Focused Family Therapy (EFFT)

### Positions

**Krasner Psychological Center**, Stony Brook, NY.

2021 – 2023; 2025 – current

Roles: **Therapist**; **Intern**; **Evaluator**; **Peer supervisor**

Responsibilities: **Individual**, **group**, and **couples therapy**; **Assessment**; **Peer supervision**

**Stony Brook University Hospital, Child Inpatient Psychiatry Unit**, Stony Brook, NY.

2025 – current

Role: **Intern**

Responsibilities: **Individual and group therapy**

**Mind-Body Clinical Research Center**, Stony Brook, NY.

2025 – current

Role: **Intern**

Responsibilities: **Individual and group therapy**

**Center for Cognitive & Dialectical Behavior Therapy**, Lake Success, NY.

2023 – 2024

Role: **Extern**

Responsibilities: **Individual**, **group**, **couples**, and **family therapy**

**Single Session Support Clinic, Stony Brook University**, Stony Brook, NY.

2023

Role: **Provider**

Responsibilities: **Individual consultation sessions**



## Competencies

### Individual Therapy

- ◇ Provide individual therapy using CBT, DBT, and ACT for adults, adolescents, children, and parents.
- ◇ Integrate multiple therapeutic modalities based on client presentation and treatment setting.
- ◇ Use data from recurring standardized and personalized questionnaires to guide treatment planning.
- ◇ Conduct crisis intervention, safety planning, suicide risk assessment, and victimization risk assessment.
- ◇ Offer phone coaching and after-hours crisis management for clients with chronic emotion dysregulation.
- ◇ Implement inpatient psychiatric crisis stabilization and discharge planning.
- ◇ Organize collaborative care with multidisciplinary teams (psychiatrists, social workers, nurses).
- ◇ Deliver single-session consultations with solution-focused brief interventions.

### Group Therapy

- ◇ Lead DBT skills groups for adults, children, and families in outpatient and inpatient settings.
- ◇ Teach core DBT modules and conduct skill review sessions.

### Couples/Family Therapy

- ◇ Provide IBCT and EFFT for couples and families.
- ◇ Implement communication training, conflict resolution, and systemic interventions.

### Psychological Assessment

- ◇ Conduct comprehensive evaluations using cognitive, achievement, and executive functioning batteries.
- ◇ Administer structured diagnostic interviews and other measures as clinically indicated.
- ◇ Generate integrated reports and provide individualized feedback to clients.

### Intake Coordination and Training

- ◇ Perform therapy intake assessments, risk screening, and diagnostic interviews.
- ◇ Train and supervise new staff in screening procedures.

### Peer Supervision

- ◇ Supervise practicum students in the provision of CBT for anxiety in young adulthood.
- ◇ Meet weekly to discuss case conceptualization, treatment planning, and intervention implementation.

## MENTORSHIP

### Research mentor

Pau Ortells Faci (2024 – current) — Spectrum Lab (*Lab Director: Dr. Nicholas Eaton*)

PROJECT: Loneliness in Sexual and Gender Minority Youths: Critical Implications of a Multidimensional Approach. [Preprint](#).

PROJECT: Temporal Dynamics Between Peer Victimization and Internalizing Problems in Sexual and Gender Minoritized Youth: A Random Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model. [Preregistration](#).

PROJECT: Distinguishing Between-Person and Within-Person Stability in the Longitudinal Relationship of Victimization and Dysphoria in Adolescent Girls.

PROJECT: Unpacking the Dimensions of Loneliness: Links to Transdiagnostic Internalizing Disparities in Sexual and Gender Minoritized Youth.



Mia Murata (2024 – 2025) — Lab for Scalable Mental Health (*Lab Director: Dr. Jessica Schleider*)

**PROJECT:** Where Do Differences in Single-Session Intervention Effectiveness Emerge? A Multilevel Analysis of a Body Neutrality Intervention for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth.

Hein Kim (2024 – 2025) — Lab for Scalable Mental Health (*Lab Director: Dr. Jessica Schleider*)

Aijia Yao (2021 – 2023) — Lab for Scalable Mental Health (*Lab Director: Dr. Jessica Schleider*)

## **Peer mentor**

Victoria Sarita (2021 – 2022) — Lab for Scalable Mental Health (*Lab Director: Dr. Jessica Schleider*)

Lucy Gordon (2021 – 2022) — Lab for Scalable Mental Health (*Lab Director: Dr. Jessica Schleider*)

Colleen McGuckin (2020 – 2021) — Women in Science and Engineering at Stony Brook University

## **COMMUNITY**

### ***Academy Open Science Committee (OSC)***

*Committee Member (2025 – current)*

Assists programs with developing open science practices; works to improve transparency in clinical science.

### ***Undergraduate Mentoring Committee***

*Committee Member (2022 – current)*

Contributes to outreach, workshops, and resources for undergraduate students at Stony Brook University.

### ***Long Island Science & Engineering Fair***

*Volunteer Judge (2025)*

Served as a judge of high school science fair projects in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category.

### ***Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS)***

*Representative (2021 – 2023)*

Acted as a liaison between PCSAS and Stony Brook and wrote articles for the PCSAS newsletter.

### ***Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)***

*Mentor (2020 – 2021)*

Mentored an undergraduate student in the WISE program.

### ***Dismantling Systemic Shortcomings in Education and Clinical Training (DiSSECT)***

*Supporting Evidence Team Member (2019 – 2020)*

Compiled evidence supporting actionable anti-racist changes in education and clinical training programs.

### ***Psychology and Cognitive Sciences Undergraduate Lab at Berkeley***

*Co-Founder and Manager (2017), Director (2018), Advisor (2019)*

Taught research skills to undergraduates through workshops and advising; supervised undergraduate project groups investigating various topics in psychology and cognitive science.

### ***Undergraduate Journal of Psychology at Berkeley***

*Executive Director (2017 – 2018), Editor-in-Chief (2018 – 2019)*

Led process of undergraduate manuscript selection, editing, and publication.

## **PROFESSIONAL**

**Consultant, American Psychological Association**, virtual.

2022 – 2023

Developed a research summary on delivery systems for intervention administration and single touch-point services. Included in an APA response to a Request for Information ([RFI](#)) on innovative approaches to prevent mental health problems and promote mental wellness in populations that experience health disparities.

**Author, Supportiv**, virtual.

2019 – 2021

Wrote empirically informed mental health articles for dissemination to the public.

## **SKILLS**

R, Mplus, SPSS, Qualtrics, quantitative modeling, intervention development, Spanish proficiency

*Last updated 12.15.2025*