

# SONJA D. WINTER

University of Missouri  
21 Hill Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

E-mail: [sdwinter@missouri.edu](mailto:sdwinter@missouri.edu)  
Website: [winterstat.github.io](http://winterstat.github.io)

## EXPERIENCE

---

### Missouri Prevention Science Institute, University of Missouri

*Postdoctoral Fellow*

August 2021 - current

*Columbia, Missouri*

I am currently a methodological postdoctoral fellow working under the mentorship of Dr. Wes Bonifay. I broadly focus on Bayesian methods and structural equation models.

### Winter Statistics

*Consultant*

January 2014 - June 2016

*Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

I provided statistical consultancy and support with executing research and analyses. Clients included: Free University Amsterdam, Elastic (USA), Lund University (Sweden), Rutgers Foundation.

### Utrecht University

*Researcher*

January 2014 - June 2016

*Utrecht, the Netherlands*

I worked for Dr. Rens van de Schoot, at the department of Methodology and Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences. My responsibilities included providing support at each step of the research cycle (literature review, data collection and management, analysis, writing final article or report); Organizing meetings, events, and conferences; Communication with guests and speakers; Putting forth new ideas for future research.

## EDUCATION

---

### University of California, Merced

2016-2021

Ph.D., *Psychological Sciences*

Area of Study: Quantitative Methods, Measurement, and Statistics

Advisor: *Associate Professor Sarah Depaoli*

Dissertation: *Advanced Methods for Detecting Specification Issues in Bayesian Structural Equation Modeling.*

### Utrecht University, the Netherlands

2011-2013

M.Sc. (Cum Laude), *Psychology*

Area of Study: Developmental Psychology

Advisor: *Professor Jan Boom*

Thesis: *What matters? The role of cognitive competence and affective beliefs in educational achievement during adolescence.*

### Utrecht University, the Netherlands

2008-2011

B.Sc. (with honours), *Psychology*

Area of Study: Developmental Psychology

Advisor: *Professor Geertjan Overbeek*

Thesis: *Differential susceptibility? Interaction of the DRD4-7R polymorphism and parenting practices on aggressive and prosocial behaviour.*

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

---

### Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology (SMEP)

Dissertation Research Award 2021

### University of California, Merced

Will Shadish Graduate Student Fellowship (competitive campus-wide fellowship for research and teaching excellence) 2020

Psychological Sciences Research Support Award 2020

Psychological Sciences William R. Shadish Award for Leadership and Service 2019-2020

Psychological Sciences Research Dissemination Award 2018-2021

Psychological Sciences Jennifer Mendiola Travel Award 2018

Psychological Sciences Summer Support Fellowship 2017-2021

Psychological Sciences Graduate Group Recruitment Fellowship 2016

Graduate Student Association Travel Award 2018

### Journals

Article of the Year Award: [Communication Methods and Measures](#) Journal, for: 2015  
Possible solution to publication bias through bayesian statistics, including proper null hypothesis testing.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

1. van de Schoot, R., **Winter, S. D.**, Griffioen, E., Grimmelikhuijsen, S., Arts, I., Veen, D., Tummers, L. (in press). The Case of Questionable Research Practices to Survive in Academia: Expert Elicitation, Informative Priors and Bayes Truth Serum. *Frontiers in Psychology: Quantitative Psychology & Measurement*.
2. Arroyo, A. C., **Winter, S. D.**, Depaoli, S., & Zawadzki, M. J. (2021). Illuminating Differences in The Psychological Predictors of Academic Performance for First- And Continuing-Generation Students. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Research*, 3(2), 234-246.
3. van de Schoot, R., Griffioen, E., & **Winter, S. D.** (2021). Dealing with imperfect elicitation results. In Hanea, A.M., Nane, G.F., Bedford, T., French, S. (Eds.), *Expert Judgment in Risk and Decision Analysis*. Basel: Springer International Publishing.
4. Depaoli, S., **Winter, S. D.**, & Visser, M. (2020). The Importance of Prior Sensitivity Analysis in Bayesian Statistics: Demonstrations using an Interactive Shiny App. *Frontiers in Psychology: Quantitative Psychology & Measurement*, 11, 3271. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2020.608045
5. Smid, S. C., & **Winter, S. D.** (2020). Dangers of the Defaults: A Tutorial on the Impact of Default Priors when using Bayesian SEM with Small Samples. *Frontiers in Psychology: Quantitative Psychology & Measurement*, 11, 611963. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2020.611963
6. van de Schoot, R., Veen, D., Smeets, L., **Winter, S. D.**, & Depaoli, S. (2020). A Tutorial on Using The Wambs Checklist to Avoid The Misuse of Bayesian Statistics. In R. van de Schoot & M. Miočević (Eds.), *Small Sample Size Solutions: A guide for applied researchers and practitioners* (pp. 30–49). London: Routledge. doi:10.4324/9780429273872-4
7. **Winter, S. D.**, & Depaoli, S. (2020). An Illustration of Bayesian Approximate Measurement Invariance with Longitudinal Data and a Small Sample Size. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 44(4), 371-382. doi:10.1177/0165025419880610

8. Depaoli, S., **Winter, S. D.**, Lai, K., & Guerra-Peña, K. (2019). Implementing continuous non-normal skewed distributions in latent growth mixture modeling: An assessment of specification errors and class enumeration. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 54(6), 795-821. doi:10.1080/00273171.2019.1593813
9. Hoorn, J. F., & **Winter, S. D.** (2018). Here comes the bad news: Doctor robot taking over. *International Journal of Social Robotics*, 10, 519-535. doi:10.1007/s12369-017-0455-2
10. Tiemensma, J., Depaoli, S., **Winter, S. D.**, Felt, J. M., Rus, H., & Arroyo, A. C. (2018). The Performance of the IES-R for Latinos and non-Latinos: Assessing Measurement Invariance. *PLoS ONE*, 13(4), e0195229. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0195229
11. van de Schoot, R., Sijbrandij, M., Depaoli, S., **Winter, S. D.**, & van Loey, N. (2018). Bayesian PTSD-Trajectory Analysis with Informed Priors Based on a Systematic Literature Search and Expert Elicitation. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 53(2), 267-291. doi:10.1080/00273171.2017.1412293
12. **Winter, S. D.**, Depaoli, S., & Tiemensma, J. (2018). Assessing differences in how the CushingQoL is interpreted across countries: Comparing patients from the U.S. and the Netherlands. *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, 9, 368. doi:10.3389/fendo.2018.00368
13. van de Schoot, R., Sijbrandij, M., **Winter, S. D.**, Depaoli, S., & Vermunt, J. K. (2017). The GRoLTS-Checklist: Guidelines for reporting on latent trajectory studies. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 24(3), 451-467. doi:10.1080/10705511.2016.1247646
14. van de Schoot, R., **Winter, S. D.**, Ryan, O., Zondervan-Zwijnenburg, M. & Depaoli, S. (2017). A systematic review of Bayesian articles in psychology: The last 25 years. *Psychological Methods*, 22(2), 217-239. doi:10.1037/met0000100
15. Konijn, E. A., van der Schoot, R., **Winter, S. D.**, & Ferguson, C. J. (2015). Possible solution to publication bias through Bayesian statistics, including proper null hypothesis testing. *Communication Methods and Measures*, 9(4), 280-302. doi:10.1080/19312458.2015.1096332

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

---

1. Depaoli, S., Kaplan, D., & **Winter, S. D.** (chapter under contract). Foundations and extensions in Bayesian structural equation modeling. In Hoyle, R. (2nd Ed.) *Handbook of structural equation modeling*. The Guilford Press.
2. **Winter, S. D.**, & Depaoli, S. (submitted). Performance of Model Fit and Selection Indices for Bayesian Structural Equation Modeling with Missing Data.
3. **Winter, S. D.**, & Depaoli, S. (submitted). Sensitivity of Bayesian Model Fit Indices to the Prior Specification of Latent Growth Models.

## PRESENTATIONS

---

\* denotes presenter

### Conference Presentations

1. **Winter, S. D.** & Depaoli, S. (2021, July). *Detecting Misspecification in Latent Growth Models with Bayesian Fit Indices*. Talk to be presented at the International Meeting of the Psychometric Society (IMPS).
2. **Winter, S. D.** & Depaoli, S. (2021, May). *Classification and Estimation Accuracy of Growth Mixture Models with Class-Predicting Covariates: Frequentist and Bayesian Approaches*. Poster to be presented at the APS Virtual Convention.

3. Arroyo, A. C.\*, **Winter, S. D.**, Depaoli S., and Zawadski, M. (2019, May). *Psychosocial Traits and Academic Performance: First- and Continuing-generation College Students*. Poster presented at the 31st APS Annual Convention, Washington, DC.
4. Smid, S. D.\*, and **Winter, S. D.** (2019, May). The Impact of Default Priors in Bayesian SEM with Small Samples. In R. van de Schoot (chair) *Risks of Default Priors in Bayesian Structural Equation Models with Small Samples and Two Approaches on How to Avoid Those Risks*. Talk presented at the 31st APS Annual Convention, Washington, DC.
5. **Winter, S. D.\***, and Smid, S. (2019, May). Demonstration of an Online Educational Application on Bayesian Default Priors. In R. van de Schoot (chair) *Risks of Default Priors in Bayesian Structural Equation Models with Small Samples and Two Approaches on How to Avoid Those Risks*. Talk presented at the 31st APS Annual Convention, Washington, DC.
6. **Winter, S. D.\*** and Lek, K. M. (2018, July). *Bayesian Approximate Measurement Invariance: For Those Times When You Have Too Little or Too Much Data*. Talk presented at VIII European Congress of Methodology, Jena, Germany.
7. **Winter, S. D.\*** and Depaoli S. (2018, May). *Measurement Invariance for Second-Order Latent Growth Models: Frequentist and Bayesian Approaches*. Poster presented at the 30th APS Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA.
8. **Winter, S. D.\*** (2017, April). *Bayesian Approximate Measurement Invariance for Second-Order Latent Growth Models*. Talk presented at The University of California, Merced as Invited Department Talk, Merced, CA.
9. **Winter, S. D.\*** and Depaoli S. (2017, March). *Bayesian Approximate Measurement Invariance As A Viable Alternative to Frequentist Methods*. Poster presented at The University of California, Merced Psychology Symposium, Merced, CA.
10. Depaoli, S.\*, and **Winter, S. D.\*** (2016, November). *A Systematic Review of Bayesian Papers in Psychology: The Last 25 Years*. Talk presented at The University of California, Merced Quantitative Psychology Colloquium, Merced, CA.

### Workshops

1. **Winter, S. D.\***, and Smid, S. C.\* (2020, July). *Dangers of Default Priors*. Invited post-conference workshop presented at S4, Utrecht, the Netherlands. (Conference canceled)
2. **Winter S. D.\***, and Coburn, K.\* (2019, April). *Creating an Interactive Shiny App to Share Your Research Findings*. One-day workshop presented at The University of California, Merced. doi:[10.17605/OSF.IO/69J37](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/69J37).
3. **Winter S. D.\*** (2015, June). *Statistics 101*. Workshop presented at DevOps Days Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Guest Lectures

PSY 202B: Advanced Psychological Statistics II - Introduction to Mplus	Spring 2021
PSY 202B: Advanced Psychological Statistics II - Multilevel modeling with Mplus	Spring 2021
PSY 010: Analysis of Psychological Data - One-Sample <i>t</i> -test	Spring 2019
PSY 010: Analysis of Psychological Data - One-way ANOVA	Spring 2019
PSY 010: Analysis of Psychological Data - Independent Samples <i>z</i> -test	Fall 2017

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

PSY 202B: Advanced Psychological Statistics II, graduate level Psychology course	Spring 2021
PSY 202A: Advanced Psychological Statistics I, graduate level Psychology course	Fall 2019, 2020
PSY 105: Advanced Research Methods in Psychology	Spring 2017
PSY 010: Analysis of Psychological Data	Fall 2017, 2018, Spring 2019
PSY 015: Research Methods in Psychology	Fall 2016, Spring 2018, 2020

**Laboratory Instructor**

PSY 010L: Analysis of Psychological Data	Fall 2017, 2018, Spring 2019
--	------------------------------

**SERVICE**

---

**International & National**

Organizer, Symposium: Estimating PTSD Trajectories, Utrecht, The Netherlands	2015
--	------

**University & Department**

Moderator, program Twitter account: @UCM_QuantPsych (300+ followers)	2018-present
Mentor, GradEXCEL Peer Mentor Program, Graduate Division	2019-2020
Member, Graduate Student Survey Committee for Graduate Program Review	2018
Student Representative, Quantitative Psychology Open-Rank Job Search Committee	2018

**Ad Hoc Reviewer**

Journals	<i>Psychological Methods</i> , <i>Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal</i> , <i>The European Journal of Psychotraumatology</i> (special issue on Bayesian Statistics), <i>Journal of Media Psychology</i> , <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i>
----------	---

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

A Meeting of Methodologies: Advancing Methods Development, Application, and Teaching in Psychology, the Behavioural, and Social Sciences	2020
The Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning, UC Merced, three-part seminar on remote instruction	2020
Professional Seminar on Teaching, UC Merced, a semester-long course on evidence-based teaching strategies, developing a syllabus, and effective communication	2018
The Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning, UC Merced, Fundamentals for TAs in Higher Education Certificate	2018
Women in Analytics Conference, Facebook HQ, one of 300 attendees out of 1500 applicants	2018

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

Association for Psychological Science (APS)  
National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)  
Psychometric Society  
Society for the Improvement of Psychological Sciences (SIPS)

## SKILLS

---

<b>Languages</b>	Dutch, English
<b>Software</b>	R, <i>Mplus</i> , BUGS/JAGS, Stan, HLM, SPSS, Git, Qualtrics
<b>Coding</b>	R, Python, HTML, css, $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Markdown
<b>Select Statistics</b>	Bayesian methods, Structural Equation Modeling, Item Response Theory, Multi-level Modeling, Measurement and Measurement Invariance, Finite Mixture Modeling, Longitudinal Data Analysis