

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Joshua Semko

---

Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program  
University of Mississippi  
Department of Psychology  
205 Peabody Building  
University, MS 38677  
(661) 309-8055  
jsemko@go.olemiss.edu

---

### EDUCATION

- 2019 – Present      **Doctor of Philosophy, Clinical Psychology (expected May 2025)**  
**Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology (expected December 2021)**  
**Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Applied Statistics**  
University of Mississippi, University, MS  
Major Advisor: Stefan E. Schulenberg, Ph.D.
- 2015 – 2019      **Bachelor of Science, Psychology**  
**Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy**  
Boise State University, Boise, ID  
*Magna Cum Laude*
- 

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Raley, M., Semko, J.H., Schulenberg, S.E., & Lange, L.J. Social Connectedness Mediates the Association of Meaning in Life with Depression, Anxiety, Stress, and Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms In College Students Following the 2018 Jackson Landing Shooting. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Semko, J.H., Lucas, K., & Schulenberg, SE. Meaning In The Context of COVID-19: Coherence, Significance, and Purpose in Light of a Pandemic. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Semko, J.H., Raley, M., & Schulenberg, SE. The 2010 Haiti Earthquake. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Raley, M., Semko, J.H., and Schulenberg, SE. The 2020 Australian Bushfires. *Manuscript in preparation.*

---

## **PEER-REVIEWED POSTER AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Semko, J.H. (2020/2021). *The Ultimate Solution to the Von Neumann Problem*. Paper accepted for oral presentation at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee in March 2020 and March 2021. Both conferences were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Semko, J.H., Maack, D.J. (2019). *Ted Bundy and the Three Domains of Disgust*. Oral presentation given at the University of Mississippi Three-Minute Thesis Competition in University, Mississippi.

Semko, J.H. (April, 2019). *In Defense of Terence Parsons' Theory of Non-Existent Objects*. Paper presented at the 23rd annual Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Semko, J.H. (January, 2019). *How Humor Changes Your Mind: Why Bad Jokes Increase Your Perception of Risk*. Oral presentation given at the 7th Annual Southeastern Idaho Psi Chi Psychology Conference at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

Semko, J.H., Stone, B.W. (July, 2018). *Creating Visual Experience In The Absence Of Sensory Stimulation*. Poster presented at the Idaho Conference On Undergraduate Research in Boise, Idaho.

Semko, J.H., Stone, B.W. (April, 2018). *Seeing Is What You Hear: Inducing Visual Hallucinations via Pavlovian Conditioning*. Poster presented at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Semko, J.H. (April, 2018). *The Predictive Brain: Implications for Evidentialist Mentalism and Reliabilism*. Paper presented Pacific University's 22nd Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Semko, J.H. (April, 2018). *Hijacking The Predictive Brain*. Podium presentation given at Boise State University Undergraduate Research Conference in Boise, Idaho.

---

## **EDITORIAL/REVIEW ACTIVITIES**

**2020** — Guest Reviewer, *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*

---

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Graduate Researcher**

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN

Summer 2021 - Present

Supervisor: Valerie Crabtree, Ph.D.

- Investigating sleep disruptions in children with cancer.

### **Independent Research**

CDRC, University of Mississippi, University, MS

Summer 2021 - Present

Supervisor: Stefan E. Schulenberg, Ph.D

- Investigating the role of emotions in interactive strategic decision making.

### **Master's Thesis**

*Investigating the Effects of Absurd Humor and Mortality Salience On Moral Identity, Belongingness, Belief In A Just World, and Meaning in Life*

Clinical-Disaster Research Center, University of Mississippi, University, MS Spring 2019 - Present

Supervisor: Stefan E. Schulenberg, Ph.D.

- Investigating the role of humor in meaning making.

### **Independent Research**

*Disgust's Relationship to Primary and Secondary Psychopathy*

ADEPT Lab, University of Mississippi, University, MS

Fall-Spring 2019

Supervisor: Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

- Completed a literature review on evolutionary models of disgust and psychopathy
- Investigated the relationship between primary/secondary psychopathy and moral/sexual/pathogen disgust.

### **Pregnancy Initiative**

ADEPT Lab, University of Mississippi, University, MS

Fall-Spring 2019

Supervisor: Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

- Recruited pregnant women at a large OBGYN clinic for a research study examining levels of depression, anxiety, disgust, emetophobia, and disturbed sleep across pregnancy and postpartum.
- Administered self-report measures and providing mental health feedback to physicians.

### **Emetophobia Study**

ADEPT Lab, University of Mississippi, University, MS

Spring 2019

Supervisor: Danielle Maack, Ph.D.

- Administered self-report measures and running participants through several behavioral activation tasks for a research study examining the relationship between emetophobia and other psychopathology.

### Senior Thesis

*Divergent Effects of Mirth On Risk Perception*

Boise State University, Boise, ID.

2018 – 2019

Supervisor: Cindy McCrea, Ph.D., Stephen Crowley, Ph.D.

- Designed an experiment aiming to garner support for a computational model of humor.
- Conducted literature reviews, designed experiments, built surveys, submitted IRB applications, performed statistical analyses, and presented research under the direction of my supervisors.

### Independent Undergraduate Research

*Seeing Is What You Hear: Inducing Visual Hallucinations via Pavlovian Conditioning*

Department of Psychological Science

Boise State University

2017 – 2018

Supervisor: Brian Stone, Ph.D.

- Co-designed an experiment aiming to induce visual hallucinations over the internet by overriding bayesian predictive mechanisms of the brain via pavlovian conditioning.
- Conducted literature reviews, helped design software, submitted IRB applications, ran research participants in the lab, performed statistical analysis, and presented research under the direction of Dr. Stone.

### Research Assistant

*Seeing Her Race: How Hair Texture Affects Social Evaluation*

Department of Psychology, Northwestern University

Fall 2018

Faculty Advisor: Janene Cielto, M.Sc.

- Created code and coded video for Janene Cielto's dissertation at Northwestern University.

### Research Assistant

*The Impact of Prenatal Methamphetamine Exposure on Verbal Memory*

Northwest Neurobehavioral Health, Meridian, ID

2017 – 2018

Faculty Advisor: Carolyn Golden, Psy.D.

- Transferred data from comprehensive diagnostic assessment and neuropsychological assessment reports into a database on SPSS.
- Maintained a database and helped train research assistants.

---

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

### Adolescent Social Skills Group

University of Mississippi, University, MS

2021 – Present

Supervisor: Kristin Austin Ph.D.

- Building and leading a social skills group for adolescents with ASD.

**Behavior Specialist**

Behavior Consultants LLC 2020 – Present

Supervisor: Alan Gross, Ph.D.

- Consulting preschool teachers and providing evidence-based behavioral strategies to enhance classroom management.
- Creating behavior plans for preschool-aged children.

**LAMBDA**

University of Mississippi, University, MS 2020 – Present

Supervisor: Scott Gufstafson, Ph.D.

- Facilitating group support sessions for individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community at the University of Mississippi.

**Graduate Clinician**

University of Mississippi, University, MS 2019 – Present

Supervisor: John Young, Ph.D.

- Attending weekly supervision meetings.
- Administering evidence-based treatments to patients at the Psychological Services Center.
- Participating in didactics related to evidence-based clinical interventions.

**Graduate Clinician**

The Baddour Center 2020 – 2021

Supervisor: Joshua Fulwiler, Ph.D.

- Attending weekly supervision meetings.
- Administering evidence-based interventions to geriatric and adult-aged persons with intellectual disabilities and various comorbid psychiatric disorders.
- Creating behavior plans for geriatric and adult-aged persons with intellectual disabilities.
- Participating in didactics related to evidence-based clinical interventions.
- Facilitating group therapy sessions for social skills.

**Undergraduate Intern**

Northwest Neurobehavioral Health, Meridian, ID 2017 – 2018

Supervisor: Carolyn Golden, Psy.D.

- Observed the neuropsychological testing of pediatric patients.
- Scored neuropsychological tests and helped develop assessment reports.
- Trained new interns.

**Undergraduate Intern**

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Region IV Adult Behavioral Health Summer 2017

Boise, ID.

Supervisor: Teresa Shackelford, LCSW

- Observed the psychological evaluation and counseling of individuals in Ada County Jail and various inpatient mental health facilities, as well as “walk-ins” in the adult behavioral health section of IDHW.
  - Rode along with the Crisis Intervention Unit.
- 

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Guest Lecturer: Theories of Personality**

University of Mississippi, University, MS

Fall 2019

- Lectured on Abraham Maslow’s theory of personality.

### **Guest Lecturer: Introduction to Psychology**

University of Mississippi, University, MS

Fall 2019

- Lectured on Pseudoscience vs. Science.

### **Learning Assistant: Introduction To Philosophy: Contemporary Issues**

Boise State University, Boise, ID

2018 – 2019

- Hired by the philosophy department at Boise State University to grade papers, create assignments, and hold tutoring sessions for an introduction to philosophy class.

### **Peer Tutor**

Boise State University, Boise, ID

2018 – 2019

- Hired by the philosophy department at Boise State University to help undergraduate students prepare for exams and write papers.

### **Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Psychology**

Boise State University, Boise, ID

2017 – 2018

- Created multiple choice questions for exams and quizzes, created assignments, held office hours, and tutored students.
  - Graded homework assignments and essays.
- 

## **INVITED TALKS**

### **On Being a Person in a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program**

*Oral presentation given at the Mississippi University for Women on March 4th, 2021 via Zoom.*

---

## **GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS, AND ASSOCIATIONS**

<b>Graduate Student Council Research Grant</b> <i>University of Mississippi - \$1,000</i>	2021 – Present
<b>Critical Thinking Redesign Mini-Grant</b> <i>University of Mississippi - \$500</i>	Summer 2021
<b>Associate Member, International Society for Humor Studies</b>	2021 – Present
<b>Phi Kappa Phi, National Honor Society</b> <i>Boise State University</i>	2018 – Present
<b>Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology</b> <i>Boise State University</i>	2017 – Present
<b>WUE Tuition Scholarship Award</b> <i>Boise State University</i>	2015 – 2018

---

**PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

*References available upon request*