

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joshua Semko

Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program
University of Mississippi
Department of Psychology
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EDUCATION

- 2019 – Present **Doctor of Philosophy, Psychology (expected May 2025)**
Emphasis: Clinical Psychology
Minor: Applied Statistics
Master of Arts, Psychology (Awarded May 2022)
Emphasis: Clinical Psychology
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 (GPA: 3.9)
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PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

*Denotes undergraduate research mentee

Semko, J.H., Ghriwati, N.A., Crabtree, V.M., Winter, M., & Merchant, T.E. Sleep Challenges and the Impact of Sleep on Family Functioning in Children and Adolescents Previously Diagnosed with Craniopharyngioma. *Manuscript under review.*

Ghriwati, N.A., V.M., Winter, M., **Semko, J.H.**, Crabtree, Merchant, T.E. The Feasibility and Acceptability of Ecological Momentary Assessment to Evaluate Sleep, Family Functioning, and Mood in Pediatric Craniopharyngioma. *Manuscript under review.*

Semko, J.H., Schulenberg, S.E. Is humor a meaning making process? Investigating the effects of absurd humor and mortality salience on meaning in life, moral identity, belongingness, and belief in a just world. *Manuscript under review.*

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

Semko, J.H., Heitzer, A.M., Howell, K., Porter, J., Bhatia, S., Pan, H., Hankins, J. The association between self-reported pain and fatigue with neurocognitive functioning in sickle cell disease. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Kamara, D., Crabtree, V., Crowley, S., **Semko, J.H.**, Merchant, T.E., Mandrell, B. (2022) Circadian rhythms among youth with craniopharyngioma. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Raley, M., **Semko, J.H.**, Schulenberg, S.E., & Lange, L.J. Does Social Connectedness Mediate the Association of Meaning in Life with Depression Symptoms, Anxiety Symptoms, Stress, and Post-traumatic Stress Symptoms? A Brief Report on College Students Following the 2018 Jacksonville Landing Shooting. *Manuscript in preparation.*

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

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

POPULAR PRESS

Semko, J.H. Four Decades Later, a Solution to Douglas Hofstadter's 1982 Every-Other-Decade Von Neumann Challenge. *Manuscript in preparation.*

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Denotes undergraduate research mentee

Semko, J.H., Ghriwati, N.A., Crabtree, V.M., Winter, M., & Merchant, T.E. (2022). *Family Matters: Establishing the Relationship Between Sleep-Related Challenges and Family Functioning in Children and Adolescents Previously Treated for Craniopharyngioma.* iPoster to be presented at the 55th annual conference for the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology in November 2022.

Kamara, D., Crabtree, V., Crowley, S., **Semko, J.H.**, Merchant, T.E., Mandrell, B. (2022). *Circadian rhythms among youth with craniopharyngioma.* Poster presented at SLEEP in June 2022.

MacArthur, E., **Semko, J.H.**, Kamara, D. Wang, F., Pan, H., Brigden, J., Pappo, A., Wilson, M., & Crabtree, V. (2022). *Increased adherence to light therapy and psychosocial outcomes in adolescents and young adults with cancer.* Poster presented at SLEEP in June 2022.

*Gaar, A.V., *Cordell, C.E., **Semko, J.H.**, & Schulenberg, S.E. (2022). *Examining Political Ideology As a Possible Correlate of Cooperation in an Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma*. Poster presented at the 7th Annual UM Conference on Psychological Sciences in April, 2022.

*Fortner, S.R.M., **Semko, J.H.**, & Schulenberg, S.E. (2022). *Increasing Cooperation? Search for Meaning as a Predictor of Cooperation in an Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma Game*. Poster presented at the 7th Annual UM Conference on Psychological Sciences in April, 2022.

Semko, J.H. (2022). *How the Search for Meaning and Mortality Salience Affects Strategy in an Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma*. Oral presentation given at the UM Graduate Student Council Research and Creative Achievement Symposium on March 8th, 2022.

Semko, J.H. (2021). *How Thinking About Death Affects Cooperation in the Prisoner's Dilemma*. Oral presentation given at the University of Mississippi Three-Minute Thesis Competition in University, Mississippi on October 28th, 2021.

Semko, J.H., Schulenberg, S.E. (2021). *The Effects of Mortality Salience and Absurd Humor on Moral Identity, Belief in a Just World, Belongingness, and Meaning in Life*. Poster presentation given via Zoom at the 72nd Mississippi Psychological Association Annual Conference on September 30th, 2021.

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 canceled 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.

INVITED TALKS

A Case Presentation Illustrating Evidence-Based Treatment and a Short Rant About Mental Healthcare in the United States. *Oral presentation to be given at St. Mary's College of Maryland via Zoom in September, 2022.*

System-Level Intervention: Using Quality Improvement Methods to Improve Sleep in the PICU *Psychology didactic given at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on June 27th, 2022.*

The World and Me: Supporting Neurodiverse College Students *Oral presentation given at the University of Mississippi on April 15, 2022 via Zoom.*

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.*

EDITORIAL/REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Cancers (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Sleep Medicine Reviews (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing (Multiple Mentored Ad-Hoc Reviews)

Journal of Pediatric Psychology (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Journal of Neuro-Oncology (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Cell Cycle (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Sleep (Multiple Mentored Ad-Hoc Reviews)

Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science (Mentored Ad-Hoc Review)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN Summer 2021 - Present

Supervisor: Valerie Crabtree, Ph.D.

- Investigating sleep disruptions and behavioral health in pediatric oncology populations.
- Investigating neuropsychological deficits and behavioral health in children, adolescents, and young adults with sickle cell disease.
- Performing quality improvement research in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Graduate Researcher

CDRC, University of Mississippi, University, MS Summer 2021 - Present

Supervisor: Stefan E. Schulenberg, Ph.D

- Investigating constructs related to meaning in life, humor, clinical disaster mental health, and the dissemination of evidence-based treatments.

Graduate Researcher

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

Senior Research Project

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

Neuropsychology Intern

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

2022 – Present

Supervisor: Jennifer Longoria, Ph.D.

- Conducting neuropsychology assessments on children, adolescents, and young adults with complex diseases.
- Attending neuropsychology didactics.

Children’s Social Skills Group - Founder, Co-Leader

University of Mississippi, University, MS

2021 – Present

Supervisor: Kristin Austin Ph.D.

- Building and leading a social skills group for children with ASD.
- Recruiting and coordinating doctoral-level graduate students to help facilitate the group and collect outcome data.

Graduate Clinician - Assessment Team

University of Mississippi, University, MS

2019 – Present

Supervisor: Kristin Austin, Ph.D.

- Administering evidence-based treatments to children, adolescents, and adults at the Psychological Services Center.
- Participating in didactics related to evidence-based psychological assessment.

Graduate Clinician - Practicum Team

University of Mississippi, University, MS 2019 – Present

Supervisor: John Young, Ph.D., Kristin Austin, Ph.D.

- Administering evidence-based treatments to children, adolescents, and adults at the Psychological Services Center.
- Participating in didactics related to evidence-based clinical interventions.

Behavior Specialist

Behavior Consultants, PLLC 2020 – 2022

Supervisor: Alan Gross, Ph.D.

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

Graduate Clinician

The Baddour Center 2020 – 2021

Supervisor: Joshua Fulwiler, Ph.D.

- Attended weekly supervision meetings.
- Administered evidence-based interventions to geriatric and adult-aged persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities and various comorbid psychiatric disorders.
- Created behavior plans for geriatric and adult-aged persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
- Participated in didactics related to evidence-based clinical interventions.
- Facilitated 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.

CLINICAL SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Peer Supervisor

University of Mississippi, University, MS 2022 – Present

Supervisee: Katherine Nesbitt, Sarah Wilson

- Supervising and mentoring first-year clinicians through their first clinical cases at the Psychological Services Center.
 - Creating didactics and deliberate practice exercises related to case conceptualization and evidence-based treatment.
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant: 高级临床与咨询心理学议题 (Advanced Topics in Clinical and Counseling Psychology)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong - Shenzhen, China Fall 2022

- Assisted Dr. Jim Cartreine teach an evidence-based psychotherapy course for masters-level graduate students in mainland China via Zoom.
- Taught CBT skills and lectured about behavioral activation for depression.

Statistics Tutor

University of Mississippi, University, MS 2021 – 2022

- Tutored for undergraduate statistics courses.

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.

Philosophy 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.
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MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Peer Mentor

University of Mississippi, University, MS

2021 – Present

- Mentoring a doctoral student through the UM psychology department’s peer mentorship program.

Research Mentor

University of Mississippi, University, MS

2021 – 2022

- Hired, managed, and mentored three undergraduate research assistants on a research project funded by a grant from the Graduate Student Council.
 - Helped an undergraduate mentee get into a doctoral program in psychology.
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SERVICE

LAMBDA - President and Co-Leader

University of Mississippi, University, MS

2020 – 2022

Supervisors: Laura Johnson, Ph.D., Kristin Austin, Ph.D.

- Facilitated and co-led a support group for undergraduate students in the LGBTQIA+ community at the University of Mississippi.

Speaker/Panelist

University of Mississippi Psi Chi Chapter and Psychology Club

Fall 2021

- Discussed “life as a graduate student” with undergraduate students.
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GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS, AND ASSOCIATIONS

Small Grant in Behavioral Economics

Russell Sage Foundation - (Not funded)

Graduate Student Council Research Grant

2021 – Present

University of Mississippi - \$1,000 (Funded)

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

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

References available upon request