

Maria Musumeci Casteigne, M.A.

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Education

Tulane University | New Orleans, LA
Social Psychological Science, Ph.D.

2022 – Present

University of Dayton | Dayton, OH
Experimental Psychology, M.A.

2019 – 2021

Master's Thesis: *COVID-19 Threat Perceptions and Voting in the 2020 Presidential Election*
Committee: Erin O'Mara-Kunz, Ph.D. (chair), Joy Losee, Ph.D., Jack Bauer, Ph.D.

Le Moyne College | Syracuse, NY

2015 – 2019

Psychology, B.A., and Minors in Applied Statistics and Philosophy

Honor's Thesis: *Disgustingly Perfect: Perfectionist Reactions to Disgust Scenarios*

Committee: Theresa L. White, Ph.D. (chair), Whitney Wood, Ph.D., Christina Michaelson, Ph.D.

Publications and Manuscripts

Casteigne, M., O'Mara Kunz, E. M., Losee, J. E., & Kerner, L. (in press). COVID-19 Threat Perceptions and the 2020 Presidential Election. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.

O'Brien, L. T., Casteigne, M., Waldon-Lee, T., Lowe, C., & Simon, S. (in press). Attributions to Discrimination in a Multiracial Society: Isolating the Effect of Target Group Membership. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

Musumeci, M. D., Cunningham, C. M., & White, T. L. (2022). Disgustingly perfect: An examination of disgust, perfectionism, and gender. *Motivation and Emotion*, 1-14.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11031-022-09931-8>

Conference Presentations

Musumeci, M. D., O'Mara Kunz, E. M., Losee, J. E., & Kerner, L. (2023, February) COVID-19 Threat Perceptions and the 2020 Presidential Election. Poster was presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta.

Weatherbie, K., Musumeci, M. D., & Bauer, J. J. (2020, February). *How gender affects me: Narrative gender recognition and meaning making in relation to well-being*. Poster was presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans.

Musumeci, M. D., White, T. L., & Cunningham, C. (2019, February) *Disgustingly perfect: Perfectionists' reactions to disgust scenarios*. Poster was presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

Musumeci, M. D., & Day, W. (2019, April). *Event evolution: The becoming of the past, present, and future*. Talk presented at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Rochester, NY.

Invited Talks/Presentations

Social Science Seminar Series, Le Moyne College, Remote (2022, November)

Research Experience

Social Perception Lab: Laurie O'Brien, Ph.D. **2022-Present**

Lab manager / Tulane University

Description: Dr. O'Brien is an experimental psychologist interested in issues related to prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination, and stigma.

<https://socialperceptionlab.tulane.edu/>

Evolutionary Social Cognition Lab: Damian Murray, Ph.D. **2022-Present**

Lab manager / Tulane University

Description: Dr. Murray studies social and interpersonal consequences of disease-avoidance motivation.

<https://esclab.tulane.edu/>

Social Psychology Lab: Joy Losee, Ph.D. **2020-2021**

Graduate Assistant | University of Dayton

Description: Dr. Losee is interested in human behaviors involving preparation for natural disasters, COVID-19 threat responses, and political events.

<https://joylosee.weebly.com/research-and-vita.html>

The Self, Social Identity, & Bias Lab: Erin O'Mara Kunz, Ph.D. **2019-2021**

Graduate Assistant | University of Dayton

Description: Dr. Kunz uses multi-methods of research to examine biases and identity through multiple perspectives.

<https://sites.google.com/udayton.edu/erinomarakunz>

Child Development Lab: Siman Zhao, Ph.D. **2019-2021**

Graduate Assistant | University of Dayton

Description: The lab focuses on social-emotional development in young children influenced by parenting, peer influences, and cultural/social changes

<https://udayton.edu/directory/artssciences/psychology/zhao-siman.php>

The Transformative Self Lab: Jack Bauer, Ph.D. **2019-2021**

Graduate Assistant | University of Dayton

Description: The lab explores a wide variety of factors associated with personality, growth, and well-being such as: self-identity development, life stories, meaning-making, happiness, love, wisdom, growth motivation, self-actualization, and quieting the ego.

<https://www.transformativeself.org/>

Perception Lab: Theresa L. White, Ph.D. 2017- 2018**Research Assistant | Le Moyne College**Description: The lab focuses on learning, memory, and sensory perception.<https://web.lemoyne.edu/~whitetl/>**Young Adult Development Lab: Shawn Ward, Ph.D. 2017-2018****Research Assistant | Le Moyne College**Description: The lab is interested in various aspects of adolescent decision-making behaviors and has investigated how values impact young adult relationships, career choices, and social perceptions.<https://www.lemoyne.edu/Academics/Our-Faculty/Psychology/Shawn-L-Ward>**Honors****Pamela Johnson Prize in Ethics (\$300) 2019**

Le Moyne College, Department of Philosophy

Prize for a paper titled *Research Ethics: For the Good of Society***Philosophy Essay Contest Winner (\$100) 2018**

Le Moyne College, Department of Philosophy

Prize for the best philosophy essay for any other course, essay titled: *Event Evolution: Becoming of the Past, Present and Future***McDevitt Center Internship Grant (\$3,000) 2018**

Le Moyne College, McDevitt Center

Grant awarded to support summer internships

Research Grant (\$1,000) 2018

Le Moyne College, Student Research Committee

Grant awarded to conduct undergraduate research

The Monsignor David J. Dooling Medal in Junior Social Science 2017

Le Moyne College

Award for academic excellence

The Marnie A. McCluskey Medal in Sophomore Social Science 2016

Le Moyne College

Award for academic excellence

Berkery Scholarship 2016 – 2019

Le Moyne College

Scholarship to recognize academic success

Work and Internship Experiences**Tulane University, Department of Psychology 2022-Present****Teaching Assistant:** Introduction to Social Psychology, Experimental Psychology, and Psychology Beyond the Classroom**Medpace, Cincinnati OH 2021 – 2022****Regulatory Submissions Coordinator**Description: I managed the regulatory and ethical requirements for study activation and maintenance of 12 clinical trials across 109 research locations. As the liaison between the

research locations and the trial sponsor (pharmaceutical or biotech companies), I organized weekly update reports, projected important long- and short-term timelines, reviewed and provided feedback for essential trial documents, and mentored/trained new hires.

University of Dayton, Department of Psychology

2019 – 2021

Research Assistant

Description: I managed and designed laboratory studies, organized participant information, created surveys, conducted literature reviews, recruited participants, and coded data.

Teaching Assistant: Social Psychology, Life Span Development, Introduction to Statistics, Cognition, and Research Methods

Description: I collaborated with professors to teach psychology and statistic classes. Some of my responsibilities involved preparing exam questions, providing feedback on papers and assignments, and monitoring students' progress.

Student Success Center at Le Moyne College

2017 – 2019

Tutor: Psychology and Philosophy

Description: I helped students tailor their studying techniques, practice discussing the material, and develop organized papers.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Summer 2018

Intern at the Dalai Lama Center of Ethics and Transformative Values

Description: I created written explanations that outlined the newly designed courses in the transformative ethics teaching program. I also compiled and made visualizations of data assessing values and emotions of the people partaking in their ethics programs. Lastly, I drafted a letter of intent for a grant request to initiate an international partnership.

Hutchings Psychiatric Center

2017 – 2018

Intern

Description: I helped facilitate recreational group classes for patient transitioning back to the community after in-patient services. I also interacted with therapeutic groups, such as support groups for patients battling with substance abuse in addition to other mental illness diagnoses. Additionally, I assisted in the development of a researcher experiment designed to test a novel assessment tool for analyzing child behaviors.

Service

Graduate Studies Student Association

Fall 2023 – Current

Psychology Department Representative | Tulane University

Grad Student Training Committee

Fall 2023 – Current

Psychological Science Student Representative | Tulane University

GiST/BATS Program Evaluation

Fall 2022

Research Assistant | Tulane University

Description: I assisted in developing a program evaluation survey to assess the effectiveness of STEM outreach programs in New Orleans. Additionally, I organized data collection and trained research assistants on data entry.

Psi-Chi National Honors Society**2017 – 2019*****President | Le Moyne College***

Description: I orchestrated events for student and faculty involvement in psychology club, developed and implemented semi-annual budgets for club activities, and organized annual trips to the Eastern Psychological Association Conference.

Contact Community Services**Summer – Fall 2017*****Volunteer | Syracuse, NY***

Description: I partook in trainings for active listening and crisis intervention, then utilized these skills to deescalate crises and reflect on emotions through teleservices.

Big Brother/Big Sister Mentoring Program**Spring 2017*****Volunteer | Syracuse, NY***

Description: I tutored elementary students from low socioeconomic backgrounds and orchestrated interactive games to encourage the development of students' social skills.

Shadow Hills Middle School**2017, 2018, & 2020*****College Readiness Guest Speaker | Palmdale, CA***

Description: I discussed topics involving higher education, provided students with tools for facing adversity in education, and challenged students to brainstorm educational goals they would like to pursue.

References

Dr. Laurie O'Brien**Professor, Tulane University**Email: lobrien2@tulane.edu

Relation: primary PhD advisor, co-author

Dr. Erin O'Mara Kunz**Associate Professor, University of Dayton**Email: ekunz1@udayton.edu

Relation: master's thesis mentor, professor, co-author

Dr. Theresa White**Professor, Psychology Department Chair, Le Moyne College**Email: whitetl@lemoyne.edu

Relation: undergraduate thesis mentor, professor, psi-chi supervisor, co-author