

21st Annual Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology Conference Program



April 5, 2025

Kennesaw State University
Social Sciences Building

Planning Committee Members

Ordene Edwards, PhD. (Committee Co-Chair)

Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, Department of Psychological Science, Kennesaw State University

Kayla Sargent (Committee Co-Chair)

Lecturer of Psychology, Department of Psychological Science, Kennesaw State University

Chanler Hilley, PhD. (Committee Member)

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychological Science, Kennesaw State University

Danica Kulibert, PhD. (Committee Member)

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychological Science, Kennesaw State University

Yian Xu, PhD. (Committee Member)

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychological Science, Kennesaw State University

GURP 2025 Student Ambassadors

Edwin Trejo-Rivera

Jada Brown

Aubrey Cook

Cathy Powell

Nikki Wendt

Emma Paskins

Maci DeMott

Artemas Souder

Aaliyah Sargeant

Courtney Everett

Renata Fleury

GURP Annual Conference

hosted by

Department of Psychological Science
Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kennesaw State University

Chair: Dr. Corinne McNamara

Website: [KSU Department of Psychological Science](#)

Follow GURP on Social Media!

Instagram: @gurp.at.ksu

X: @gurp_at_ksu

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13108508/>

Email: gurp@kennesaw.edu

Website: <https://gurp.kennesaw.edu>

Welcome!

from Catherine (Katie) Kaukinen, Ph.D.
Dean of the Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kennesaw State University



Dear Faculty Mentors and Undergraduate Researchers,

Welcome to the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Kennesaw State University! It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you as we gather for the Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology Conference.

Student engagement in research is a cornerstone of academic and professional development. Participating in research projects not only prepares students for graduate school but also helps them practice essential skills that are highly valued in the workforce. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication are just a few of the competencies that students hone through research activities.

I encourage you to actively engage in the research and paper sessions of your peers. These sessions provide a unique opportunity to learn from one another, exchange ideas, and foster a collaborative spirit. Your participation and support will enrich the experience for everyone involved.

As you explore our beautiful campus, I hope you take the time to enjoy all that KSU has to offer. We are proud of our vibrant academic community and the resources available to support your scholarly endeavors.

Thank you for traveling to KSU and being a part of this event. Your dedication to mentoring and research is truly appreciated, and I look forward to the inspiring work that will be shared.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cath Kaukinen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Catherine (Katie) Kaukinen
Dean, Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Campus Map & Parking



The Kennesaw Campus is located at 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144.

An interactive map of campus is available at maps.kennesaw.edu

Parking at KSU: Please park in the West Deck on the Kennesaw Campus of Kennesaw State University. No parking permit or fee is required for the conference, and attendees can park on any floor of West Deck. Sessions will be held in the Social Sciences Building, located north of the West Deck. The QR code links to the physical location of the West Deck on Google maps.



**Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology Conference
2025**

April 5th, 2025

Schedule At A Glance

9:00 am to 4:30 pm:	On-Site Registration.....	Social Sciences South Lobby
9:00 am to 10:00 am:	Continental Breakfast.....	Social Sciences East Lobby
9:45 am to 10:00 am:	Opening Remarks	Social Sciences First 1021
10:00 am to 11:00 am:	Oral Presentation Sessions	
	SESSION 1: COGNITION & EMOTION	Social Sciences 1020AB
	SESSION 2: HEALTH & SOCIETY.....	Social Sciences 1022AB
	SESSION 3: IDENTITY & CULTURE	Social Sciences 1019
10:00 am to 10:55 am:	Flash Talk Sessions	
	SESSION 1: LEARNING & WELLBEING.....	Social Sciences 1017
	SESSION 2: SOCIAL COGNITION	Social Sciences 1021
11:00 am to 11:15 am:	Break	
11:15 am to 12:15 pm:	Poster Presentation Session 1 A & B	Social Sciences Third Floor
12:15 pm to 1:15 pm:	Lunch.....	Social Sciences East Lobby
1:15 pm to 2:15 pm:	Keynote Address.....	Social Sciences 1021
2:15 pm to 2:30 pm:	Break	
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm:	Poster Presentation Session 2 A & B	Social Sciences Third Floor
3:30 pm to 4:15 pm:	Invited Programs	
	Career Readiness Panel <i>Career Pathways for Psychology Majors</i>	Social Sciences 1017
	Workshop <i>Creativity in Action: Tools for Transformation</i>	Social Sciences 1019
4:15 pm to 4:30 pm:	Award Reception & Closing Remarks.....	Social Sciences 1021

Keynote Address

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm
Social Sciences 1021

*All the World's a Stage:
Recovery Through Creativity in Community*

Life doesn't come with a script, but perhaps we all have the power to rewrite our story. In this keynote, **Dr. Laura Wood** invites us to reimagine healing as a community-driven process. Through the lens of CoActive Therapeutic Theater (CoATT), we'll explore how playmaking can support people in navigating recovery. How does stepping into a new role help people reclaim their stories? How can creative engagement foster reconnection and reduce stigma? Drawing from research and real-world examples, this talk explores how creativity fosters connection, supports identity, and strengthens communities.



Dr. Laura L. Wood is an Associate Professor of Mental Health Counseling and Drama Therapy at Lesley University, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Registered Drama Therapist, Board-Certified Trainer, and Certified Child Life Specialist. Focusing on community mental health and wellness, she is committed to integrating creative and evidence-based approaches to support diverse populations.

Dr. Wood is the co-creator of the CoActive Therapeutic Theater (CoATT) Model, the first manualized therapeutic theater approach, and has developed innovative mental health programming in a variety of settings. Her book, *Recovery and Drama Therapy: The CoActive Therapeutic Theater Model*, explores how collaborative playmaking can support recovery and reconnection.

She is also the Director of Wellness at Camp Chi, where she has created initiatives to enhance the mental, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being of staff and campers. A past president of the North American Drama Therapy Association, she has been a driving force in the field of drama therapy, trauma recovery, and community-based mental health interventions. Dr. Wood has presented, consulted, and published globally advocating for the power of play, creativity, and community in fostering healing and resilience.

Career Readiness Panel

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm
Social Sciences 1017

Expansive Career Pathways for Psychology Majors

Psychology is a diverse and dynamic field that extends far beyond clinical practice and research. Many psychology majors find fulfilling careers in areas that, while not traditionally labeled as "psychology jobs," heavily draw on the skills and knowledge gained in their studies.

This panel brings together professionals who have leveraged their psychology backgrounds in unique and impactful ways. Our panelists include a social worker, a non-profit program coordinator, a victim advocate, and an analyst. Each of these professionals demonstrates the versatility of a psychology degree and will share insights into how their education has shaped their careers.

Whether you're exploring career options, considering nontraditional paths, or looking for ways to apply your psychology background in unexpected industries, this panel will provide valuable perspectives and practical advice to help you navigate your professional journey.

Panelists:

Dr. Cara Creger – K-12 Social Worker

Malorie Cliche – Nonprofit Program Coordinator, Yells, Inc.

Emily Hall – Victim's Advocate, Acworth PD (KSU Psychology/Criminal Justice Graduate)

Amber Goden – Analyst, RaceTrac (KSU Psychology Graduate)

Workshop

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm
Social Sciences 1019

Creativity in Action: Tools for Transformation

Workshop Facilitator: Dr. Laura Wood

Building on the themes from the keynote, this interactive workshop invites participants to explore how creativity can be a tool for self-reflection and connection. Through a series of experiential exercises, we'll engage with creative arts techniques from art, music, drama, dance, and poetry. No artistic experience is required, just curiosity and a willingness to play and engage!



ORAL PRESENTATIONS

10:00 am – 11:00 am

SESSION 1: COGNITION & EMOTION

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Jennifer Willard

Social Sciences 1020AB

Children's Cognitive Empathy is Related to their Affective Empathy to Parents' Negative but Not Positive Emotions

Varshini Kakarla & Soraya Merriweather (Faculty Sponsor), *Georgia State University*

Adults with higher affective empathy (i.e., observing another's affect and then experiencing the same emotion) tend to have higher cognitive empathy (i.e., information seeking to understand another's emotions), but little is known about how affective and cognitive empathy are related in children. Parent-child emotional interactions provide an important context for children's empathy development. We hypothesize that children who express more affective empathy toward parents' positive and negative emotions will have higher levels of cognitive empathy toward parents' positive and negative emotions. Parent-child dyads (N = 121; Mage=5.5 years, SD=.68, 50% female) engaged in three lab observational tasks. Researchers rated children's empathy behaviors in response to parents' negative (sadness, pain, anger) and positive (happiness, excitement, gratitude) emotions. Children who displayed higher levels of affective empathy responses to their parents' negative emotions engaged in significantly more information-seeking behavior to understand their parents' positive and negative emotions, but children's affective empathy responses to parents' positive emotions were not significantly related to their information seeking to understand parents' positive or negative emotions. Children's experience of negative emotions in response to parents' emotions may motivate attempts to understand their parents' emotions because parents' negative emotions may pose threats to the child's safety and well-being.

Eye of the Beholder: Eyewitness Testimony Fallibility

Britney Mckenzie, Joanna Medlin, Kaitlin Garner, Angie Hernandez, & Kaitlin Pack, *Dalton State College*

Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Dunaway & Emma Dotson

It is well-documented that human memory is unreliable (e.g., Loftus & Wells, 2013). Moreover, numerous studies have demonstrated that inaccurate eyewitness testimony has resulted in wrongful arrests and convictions (Innocence Project, 2025). Due to the crucial immediate impacts of relying on eyewitness testimony, studies have attempted to identify which factors exacerbate errors in memory recall of events. Although the literature documenting problems with eyewitness testimony is vast, many studies rely on the use of recorded videos or images of an event to assess memory of a perpetrator (Sauerland et al., 2023), even though most criminal investigations include recall of live events. Additionally, many studies assume that individuals can accurately discern physical attributes. In these studies, we assessed the ability of introductory psychology students to recall physical characteristics of a confederate who incited a mock-conflict during class. We collected these recollections across multiple time-points and compared the recollections to participants' descriptors of those physical features when the confederate was standing in front of them. We found that although memory

performance declined with time, participants are poor estimators of certain physical features, even in the presence of a confederate.

The Effect of Induced Positive Affect on Pain Endurance

Britney McKenzie, K. Abigail Garner, & Joanna Medlin, *Dalton State College*

Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Dunaway

Previous research has suggested that certain emotional stimuli may have an influence on pain tolerance (Tse et al., 2002; Weid & Verbaten, 2001). For example, Weid & Verbaten found that participants who viewed pleasant images had a higher pain tolerance compared to individuals who were primed with unpleasant and neutral images. Furthermore, individuals who are in the presence of an emotional support person often fare better in painful or stressful situations than when alone (Tamam et al., 2019). In the current study, we compared college students' ability to withstand the cold-pressor pain tolerance task in both an emotional condition (imagining their comfort person) with a control condition (thinking about a table). We found that when participants imagined their loved one, they were able to withstand pain for longer than in a control condition.

SESSION 2: HEALTH & SOCIETY

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Erica Holliday

Social Sciences 1022AB

The Roots of Vaccine Hesitancy: Psychological and Structural Drivers Shaping Public Trust

Ashleigh Plumb, *Georgia Highlands College*

Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Dose

Vaccine hesitancy is a multifaceted issue that extends beyond the common notion of misinformation, with psychological, institutional, and political factors playing a significant role. This study investigates how medical education, political investments, public health policies, and media narratives shape public trust in vaccines. By reviewing medical and nursing school curricula, analyzing political financial interests in vaccine companies, and examining the impact of mandates and media representation, this research aims to explore the various influences on vaccine skepticism. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys and qualitative analysis is used to assess gaps in vaccine education, transparency in policy-making, and the role of communication strategies. The findings aim to highlight several areas where trust could be strengthened, including improving healthcare education, increasing transparency in public health policies, and ensuring balanced media coverage. This study offers recommendations for healthcare professionals, policymakers, and academic administrators to strengthen public trust and foster a more transparent discourse on vaccines.

Exploring the Role of Compounded Community Trauma in Victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Kelsey Potter, Caitlyn Hume, & Dorothy Marsil (Faculty Sponsor), *Kennesaw State University*

The relationship between Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) and Compounded Community Trauma (CCT) remains an unexplored area with significant empirical potential. This study examined the relationship between CCT in victims of DMST and: 1) substance use; 2) mental health challenges; 3) victim acknowledgement; and 4) domestic mental health challenges exposure. Data were collected via a retrospective secondary data analysis using electronic health records of 73 confirmed victims of DMST in an acute residential care facility. We examined traumas witnessed in the home and

community alongside subjects' behaviors and understanding of their own victimization. Results showed that 93% of the sample experienced CCT ($M = 5.07$, $SD=3.52$, Range 0-13). CCT was positively correlated with the use of substances, including marijuana ($r = .36$, $p = .002$); methamphetamines ($r = .38$, $p < .001$); mental health challenges ($r = .46$, $p < .001$); victim acknowledgement ($r = .29$, $p = .01$); and domestic mental health challenges exposure ($r = .34$, $p = .003$). Future studies should explore CCT using a valid scale. Moreover, CCT evaluation can inform the need for services regardless of victim acknowledgement status. This knowledge is crucial for the treatment and recovery of victims of DMST.

Understanding Socioeconomic and Psychological Vulnerabilities in Post-Disaster Recovery: Insights from the Displaced New Orleans Residents Survey

Tanjila Rashid Rhythy, Da Hu (Faculty Sponsor), & Yian Xu, *Kennesaw State University*

Communities susceptible to disasters frequently endure severe socio-economic and psychological repercussions. Therefore, it is essential to thoroughly understand the various vulnerabilities encountered by different groups. Residents of New Orleans, Louisiana, faced significant hardships after Hurricane Katrina hit on August 29, 2005. A multitude of individuals lost their residences, while others, regrettably, lost family members. The Displaced New Orleans Residents Survey (DNORS) offered significant insights into individuals and households living in New Orleans immediately prior to Hurricane Katrina's impact in August 2005. The survey interview was done from mid-2009 until mid-2010. This study utilizes DNORS public data files to evaluate socio-demographic characteristics pertinent to the analysis, including age, gender, race/ethnicity, marital status, household income, education level, employment status in 2005, and insurance coverage, alongside psychological assessments such as the K6 mental illness scale, post-traumatic stress disorder checklist (PCL), depression, and perceived stress scale (PSS). The research employs various regression techniques to identify the at-risk categories affected psychologically and physically by the hurricane. These findings may aid policymakers in developing targeted post-disaster recovery strategies, thereby promoting more resilient and sustainable communities.

SESSION 3: IDENTITY & CULTURE

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Daniel Niederjohn

Social Sciences 1019

Gender Acknowledgement in Higher Education Classrooms and the Impact on Student Academic Performance

Maggie Shelton, *Kennesaw State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Kayla Sargent

Past research has determined a link between transgender and gender nonconforming (TGN) identities and mental health issues including, but not limited to, gender dysphoria, depressive symptoms, and suicidal ideation. These mental health issues have been shown to decrease when TGN individuals are provided with access to gender affirming care such as hormone replacement therapies, puberty blocking medications, and sex reassignment surgery. Obtaining this gender affirming care may be difficult for some TGN people, as medical settings often negatively impact them in many ways, including the improper use of language (i.e., incorrect identifying language, incorrect pronouns), lack of provider knowledge about TGN identities or healthcare, and incorrect medical recommendations. The current research will examine the applicability of findings from medical contexts to higher education classroom settings. This study will use survey data to identify whether students face gender-based affirmation and rejection in the classroom settings as well as how gender acknowledgement

affects students' attitudes. The current study aims to explore how external, gender-based factors impact KSU students, with specific focus on the attitudes of TGN students. Further, recommendations will be made, where applicable, transferring evidence-based knowledge of outcomes in medical settings to classroom settings.

Identity Troubles: Christian College Students Understandings of Identity in Relation to Religious Fundamentalism and Homophobia

Samuel Weller, *Covenant College*

Faculty Sponsor: Rod Wilson

Identity is a highly varied construct across disciplines. In psychological sciences it can represent a variety of sub-categories such as self-esteem, self insight or identity narrative. In a Christian theological context the statement that a Christians' "primary identity is in Christ," makes a religious claim on the term "identity" thus, making it context specific. This may make "theological identity" a separate semantic construct from "psychological identity." In this study, a sample of Christian College students used self report measures and likert-scale agreement with statements on identity from relevant literature to gather both qualitative and quantitative data. This paper aims to do two things: (1) To explore differences in how participants think about identity. (2) To test the relationship between measures of religious fundamentalism and homophobia and participants' agreement with either "Christian" or "psychological" identity language. Key findings are that religious fundamentalism is the strongest predictor of both identity configuration (Christian or psychological) and homophobia. Evidence for semantic discrimination between "Christian identity" and "psychological identity" is present, but limited. Future research should build upon our findings by using more comprehensive data collection (such as structured interviews) and a more diverse sample including religiously unaffiliated groups.

The Experience of Hindus' Premature Loss of their Sibling: A Qualitative Study

Roshni Pareshkumar Parekh, Monika Sobczak-Edmans (Faculty Sponsor), & Iain Williamson, *De Montfort University*

Sibling bereavement is a challenging journey with unique emotional dynamics, significantly shaped by cultural influences that affect coping mechanisms. Existing research highlights cultural customs' importance but often lacks focus on Hindu culture. Grieving customs in India differ from Western countries, influenced by Western society and culture – such as social norms and legislations. Little is known about sibling-bereaved Hindus' experiences, especially regarding Hindu cultural influences. This PhD research aims to explore how bereaved Hindus experience and cope with the premature loss of a sibling, focusing on their retrospective experiences at the time of bereavement. Interviews with 24 sibling-bereaved Hindus of Indian and British origin residing in the United Kingdom (UK) will be conducted, with 6 interviews already completed. Initial themes under the meta-theme 'Hindu teachings as a coping tool' include: (1) comfort in the universality and inevitability of death, (2) comfort in knowing that death is not the end for loved ones, and (3) learning from spiritual masters and senior elders. Religion appears highly significant for British Hindus born in both the UK and India. The results could enhance knowledge and improve contemporary bereavement therapy by helping professionals better understand and support clients from Hindu backgrounds.

FLASH TALKS

10:00 am – 11:00 am

SESSION 1: LEARNING & WELLBEING

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Dianhan Zheng
Social Sciences 1017

Comparison of College Staff's Knowledge and Confidence in Supporting Students with Eating Concerns

Abigail Dingess, Amy Buddie, & Meghan Bankhead, *Kennesaw State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Amy Buddie

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Children and Adolescents with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Cameron Greer, *Columbus State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Brandt Smith

Does Repetition of the Correct Answer During Feedback Facilitate Learning?

Beatrice Brinkley, *Columbus State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Stephanie Da Silva

Mindful Teaching & Professor Gender: Shaping Perceived Value & Authenticity in Inclusive Classrooms

Lily Thibodeaux, Tracie L. Stewart, Jennifer Willard, & Sage E. Skillman, *Kennesaw State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Tracie Stewart

How Incarceration of a Parent Affects a Child

Sharlotte Baine, *Georgia Highlands College*

Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Dose

SESSION 2: SOCIAL COGNITION

Session Chair/Discussant: Dr. Tyler Collette
Social Sciences 1021

When Tomorrow is Uncertain: The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Future Orientation

Anna Krejsa & Jason Shepard, *Life University*

Faculty Sponsor: Jason Shepard

Left, Right, and Gender Bias: Investigating Implicit Attitudes in Men of Different Political Backgrounds

Adria Pierce, Ben Scales, & Gale Wohlfarth, *Kennesaw State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Danica Kulibert

The Impact of Social Essentialism Beliefs on Reader Identity Development

Maci DeMott, Artemas Souder, Yian Xu, & Ordene Edwards, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Yian Xu

The Power of Perception in Shaping CSA Prevention Beliefs

Sophia Pope, *Kennesaw State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Ginny Zhan

Applying Attribution Theory to Understand Perceptions of Sexual Harassment

Courtney Everett, Abigail Dingess, Malena Amador, Hiba Rana, & Danica Kulibert, *Kennesaw State University*

Faculty Sponsor: Danica Kulibert

POSTER PRESENTATIONS – Sessions 1-A/B

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

SESSION 1-A
Social Sciences 3029

1. **A Case Study in Motor Skill Acquisition: Modeling Neural Plasticity through Speedrunning**
Mrityunjay Sivakumar & Christina Ragan (Faculty Sponsor), *Georgia Institute of Technology*
2. **Analysis of Oxytocin Receptor Gene Expression Between Biological and Foster Maternal Rats**
Grace Williams & Aneesah Shaikh, *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Faculty Sponsor: Christina Ragan
3. **Association Between Childhood Trauma and Psychiatric Symptom Burden in Perimenopausal Black Women**
Angela Li, Megan E. Huibregtse, Leyla Eghbalzad, Linzie Taylor, Amy Murphy, Amanda R. Arnold, Donia S. Hassan, Leigha Lee, Esther Jung, E. Britton Chahine, Abigail Powers, Alicia K. Smith, Jennifer S. Stevens (Faculty Sponsor), & Vasiliki Michopoulos, *Emory University*
4. **Breaking the Cycle: The Intersection Between Discrimination, Medical Mistrust, and Mental Health Outcomes among Young African American Men**
Emmanuel Eziakor, Chisom Oraka, & Justyce Mosley, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Anisah Bagasra
5. **Caffeine and Insect Cognition: A Comparison Analysis of Olfactory Learning in Hymenoptera and Blattodea**
Shrinath Parikh, *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Faculty Sponsor: Christina Ragan
6. **Decoding the Limits of Human Touch: Insights from Focused Ultrasound Stimulation**
Sydney A. Pridgon, Eseoghene A. Emoghene, Vivian Chandler, & Doga Dogan, *Georgia Institute of Technology*
Faculty Sponsor: Tansu Celikel
7. **Do Americans Want Companies to Get Involved in Social Movements?**
Indira Robotham & Victoria Tirino, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Danica Kulibert
8. **Don't Try To Escape Anxiety; Cope With It: Influences of Psychoeducation On Young Adults' Knowledge**
Batoul Sawas, *Middle Tennessee State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Christina Haygood

9. **Eco-anxiety and pro-environmental behaviors in college students**
Hannah Antrican, *Middle Tennessee State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Angela Mertig
10. **Evaluation of Compassion Fatigue and Perceived Organizational Support in Georgia Animal Rescues**
Elisabeth Moreau, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Allison Martin
11. **Event-Related Potentials Correlated with State/Trait Anxiety Using Auditory Stimuli**
Beatrice Brinkley, *Columbus State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca Dunterman
12. **Exploring the Influence of Organizational Culture, Benefits, and Diversity Statements on Talent Attraction in Startups**
Jimena Lopez Flores & Trinity Vuu, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Dianhan Zheng
13. **Examining the Relationship Among ADHD Symptomatology, Intrinsic Motivation, Needs Satisfaction, and Stress**
Kenzie Thomas & Kathryn Mayfield, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Ordene Edwards
14. **Follow the Money: A Systematic Review of Psilocybin Funding in the United States**
Elliana Nath, Rhea Kapur, Rose Delony, Billy Wang, Louise Hecker, & Roman Palitsky (Faculty Sponsor), *Emory University, University of Pennsylvania, & Baylor College of Medicine*
15. **Gender, Religion, and Death, Oh My!: The Effect of Existential Threat on Transphobia**
Greyson Wallrath, Willow Beshers, Lanie Lawson, Jacob Maddox, & Eren Milhoan, *Lander University*
Faculty Sponsor: Jonathan Bassett

SESSION 1-B
Social Sciences 3030

16. **How Humans Make Gendered Social Attributes Based on Our Perception of the Behavior of Cats and Dogs**
Joann William & Kayla Sargent (Faculty Sponsor), *Kennesaw State University*
17. **How SES, Humiliation & Childhood Trauma Moderate Perceived Stress & Change in mPFC Glutamate**
Amelia Mo & Michael Treadway (Faculty Sponsor), *Emory University*
18. **Impulsivity Regulation Through COMT Val158Met Gene Expression in Relation to Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Risk for Adverse Life Events**
Emily Clarke, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Sharon Pearcey

19. **Investigating Metacognitive Processing Across Languages: Bilingualism and Inner Speech**
Aarti Kakkad, Keren Nyokabi Kimani, Natalie Trimble, & Bonnie Perdue (Faculty Sponsor),
Agnes Scott College
20. **Memorable Messages about the Transition to Adulthood**
Kait North, Chanler Hilley (Faculty Sponsor), Maya Maqousi, & Emily Scheinfeld, *Kennesaw State University*
21. **Neighborhood Place Attachment in Young Adulthood**
Alanna James, Chanler Hilley (Faculty Sponsor), Michelle Pasco, Emily Scheinfeld, Natilee Talvan, & Kayla Little, *Kennesaw State University*
22. **Predicting Stress Levels: Common Factors Likely to Affect Stress Levels Among College Students**
Barilule Mtuanwi, *Valdosta State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Blaine Browne
23. **Relating Student Success Using Demographic Characteristics**
Daelin Fife, Dorien Lee, & Daniel Cotnoir, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Tagliatalata
24. **Revisiting the Evil Genius Hypothesis Considering the Dark Tetrad and (Social) Intelligence**
Campbell Danielson, Aster Teasley, & Charlotte Kinrade (Faculty Sponsor), *Kennesaw State University*
25. **Scent Exposure Reprocessing: Correlation Of Olfaction and Memory Could Help People Navigating Trauma**
Jazmin A. Dominguez, *University of West Georgia*
Faculty Sponsor: Corri Johanson
26. **Bridging the Gap: How High School Experiences Relate to College Success**
Shania Berry, Sage Skillman, & Kailyn Acolatse, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Tagliatalata
27. **The Impact of Both Online and In-Person University Resources on Academic Achievement at Kennesaw State University (2025)**
Drew Gracen, Anyah Byrd, & Kenny Nichols, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Tagliatalata
28. **The Impacts of Social Media and Exercise on the Self-Esteem of Adults**
Maggie Shelton, Kyra Candis, Kamari Godfrey, & Kaleb Still, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Danica Kulibert
29. **The Relationship among Substance Use, Adverse Life Experiences, and Inflammation**
Dariana Waters, Erica Holliday (Faculty Sponsor), Sharon Pearcey, & Cody Mashburn,
Kennesaw State University
30. **Wild Dolphin Encounters as a Pathway to Emotional Healing: A Pilot Study**
Haley Kurian, Sofia Salko, *Eckerd College*
Faculty Sponsor: DeAnna Bay-Markins

POSTER PRESENTATIONS – Sessions 2-A/B

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

SESSION 2-A
Social Sciences 3029

1. **Academic Success as a Function of Psychosocial Adjustment Factors**
Julian S. Quintana, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Taglialatela
2. **Adoptonomics: Financial Decision-Making in Adoption**
Nikki Wendt, Sierra Mullins, Stella Steinman, Aubrey Cook, Parker McCaig, Courtney Everett, Kayla Felton, Amelia Bennett, Joe Anthero Rosa, & Nicole Martin (Faculty Sponsor), *Kennesaw State University*
3. **Anxiety in Female College Students**
Kathleen Pine, *University of West Georgia*
Faculty Sponsor: Corri Johanson
4. **The Association between Non-Academic Factors and Student Success**
Brittani Weber, Jayda Powell, Aiden Orta, & Kelsey Potter, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Taglialatela
5. **COVID-19 Pandemic's Effect on Adolescents' Self-Perceived Memory**
Karen Uba, *Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology*
Teacher Sponsor: Courtney Cox
6. **Defining the Red Flags: Understanding Identity-Driven Relationship Perceptions**
Kelly Tran & Kayla Sargent (Faculty Sponsor), *Kennesaw State University*
7. **Developing a Micro-Credential Program as an Incentive for Awareness and Support**
Annie Sanchez, Nata Tombari, Christian Mason, & Adam Schultz, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Danica Kulibert
8. **Development of an Attitudes Toward Black Women in Leadership Positions Scale**
Lindsey Sparks, Jayla Lewis, Makaila Warrington, & Danielle Durant, *Valdosta State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Meagan M. Wood Hopkins
9. **Dispositional Mindfulness and Cognitive Reactivity: The Role of Acting with Awareness**
Katimah Grogan, Mia Loarca-Rodriguez, Isabelle Wilkens, & Shadi Beshai (Faculty Sponsor), *Kennesaw State University*

10. **Does the Association between Young Adults' Neighborhood Place Attachment and Parental Relationship Satisfaction Differ by Gender?**
Natilee Talvan & Alanna James, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Chanler Hilley
11. **Exploring the Nature of College Students' Reader Identity Across Text Type**
Artemas Souder & Macy DeMott, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Ordene Edwards
12. **Examining The Relationship Between C Reactive Proteins, Self-Reported Mood Disturbances, and Executive Functioning**
Laura Wilkinson, Sharon Pearcey (Faculty Sponsor), Cody Mashburn, & Erica Holiday,
Kennesaw State University
13. **Fictional Characters and Empathy: An Investigation of Parasocial Relationships**
Steffani Pass, *University of North Georgia*
Faculty Sponsor: Susann Doyle-Portillo
14. **Gen Z Male Attitudes on Authoritarianism and 2024 Voting Patterns**
Maggie Shelton & Kendal Motley, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Kayla Sargent
15. **Gender Attitudes Across Race, Sex, and Ideology: Analyzing Patterns Among Kennesaw State University Students**
Kendal Motley & Kate Scott, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Kayla Sargent

SESSION 2-B
Social Sciences 3030

16. **Interviewing Professionals in the Psychology Field**
Beatrice Brinkley, *Columbus State University*
Faculty Sponsor: John Roop
17. **Measuring Academic Success-Investigating the Gap Between Traditional Faculty Metrics**
Juan Tole, Aaliyah Sargeant, & Hana Machhour, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Taglialatela
18. **Observer Performance and Eye-Tracking Variations as a Function of AI Output Format**
Siobhan Mullins, Elizabeth A. Krupinski (Faculty Sponsor), Marly van Assen, Carlo N. De Cecco, Roy M. Gabriel, Mohammadreza Zandehshahvar, Nattakorn Kittisut, Ali Adibi, & Grayson L. Baird, *Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, & Brown University Health*
19. **Perceptions of Adult Crying: A Cross-Cultural Study**
Melvin Hamdani & David Washburn, *Covenant College*
Faculty Sponsor: Carole Yue
20. **Rewiring Reactions: Strengthening Situational Thinking to Reduce Bias**
Lily Thibodeaux, Sage Skillman, Sydney Hammett, Richa Bhattarai, Demi Crosby, Ken

Jackson, Tamiya Pilgrim, Ahana Pattewar, Emmanuel Eziakor, Anisah Bagasra, Ordene Edwards, Tim Martin, Tracie L. Stewart (Faculty Sponsor), & Jennifer Willard, *Kennesaw State University*

21. **Salivary Cortisol in Undergraduate Students During Exam Time**
Madison Williams, *Valdosta State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Kristin Kirchner
22. **Social Belonging and Mental Health: A Study on Social Media and Its Effects on College Students**
Katelyn Geist, Michael Crabtree, & Emma Joninas, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Danica Kulibert
23. **The Dynamics Between Social Media, Social Desirability, and Well-Being: Being Minoritized Online**
Sheriefa Braswell, *Agnes Scott University*
Faculty Sponsor: C. Peeper McDonald
24. **The Impact of Gendered Essentialism on Attribution Style within Interpersonal Conflict**
MeKaylah Dantzler, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Yian Xu
25. **The Relationship Among Interleukin-6 During, Childhood Trauma, and Alcohol Intake, and Cognitive Behavior Changes**
Shanhua Bao, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Erica Holliday
26. **The Val66Met BDNF Polymorphism: A Link Among Impulsivity, Cognitive Flexibility and Substance Use**
Katelyn Nguyen, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Erica Holliday
27. **The Weight of Words: Microaggressions, Self-Esteem, and Student Outlooks**
Treasure Evans, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Yian Xu
28. **Using Music as a Tool for Teaching Chaining in Applied Behavior Analysis**
Lillian Hebert, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Lauren Tagliatalata
29. **Workplace Influences on Creativity Across the Lifespan**
Peyton Dress, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Nicole Martin
30. **Young Adult Financial Identity: The Roles of Socialization and Efficacy**
Kayla Little, *Kennesaw State University*
Faculty Sponsor: Chanler Hilley

Acknowledgements

The Planning Committee Expresses Our Sincere Gratitude to the Following for Their Unwavering Support of GURP 2025

Kennesaw State University Administrators

Dr. Corinne McNamara
Chair, Department of Psychological Science

Dr. Catherine Kaukinen
Dean, Radow College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Dr. Amy Buddie
Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Dr. Michael Chen
*Associate Dean for Student Success & Engagement,
Radow College of Humanities & Social Sciences*

Dr. Karin Scarpinato
Vice President of Research

Kennesaw State University Staff

Leslie Germaine
*Director, Communications and Marketing,
Radow College of Humanities & Social Sciences*

Kevin Williams
Associate Director, Central Receiving & Distribution

Deanna Lee-Avaria
Office Manager, Department of Psychological Science

Danyelle Denham
*Administrative Assistant,
Department of Psychological Science*

Destiny Pappas
*Program Coordinator,
Department of Psychological Science*

Clint Sowell
*Web & Digital Strategy Specialist,
Radow College of Humanities & Social Sciences*

K'won Bush
Event Coordinator

GURP 2025 Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to our many faculty and student volunteers!

Invited Guests

Dr. Laura Wood, Dr. Cara Creger, Malorie Cliché, Emily Hall, and Amber Goden