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# SRP

# Society for Research in Psychopathology



## Student Driven Publication 2019-2020 Vol. 1

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# Letter from the president

Dear members of the SRP Community,

Suffice it to say that 2020 has been a tumultuous year that has tested the limits of our resilience. On the backdrop of the ongoing global pandemic and systemic racial injustice, we just navigated a week of tremendous stress and distraction as we anxiously awaited the results of an election that felt to many of us as though, in the words of Michelle Obama, “our lives depended on it.” During that same week, some of us wrestled with the anxiety of finding out that ourselves, a family member, or friend was diagnosed with COVID-19. We’re also continuing to see the troublesome impacts of pandemic-related economic challenges in our communities, including increased unemployment, food insecurity, and unmet mental health needs. Amidst all this, we try to keep it together to help our children as they too navigate the stress of the election, online classes, and isolation from friends. With each bit of worrisome news, we have discovered that our mental health and our management of our lives is more fragile than we thought.

That’s where things stood on Friday, November 6th, when the SRP Executive Board held a board meeting in which we attempted to cover, in two hours, everything we would normally get to at our annual meeting over the course of two board meetings and a weekend of networking in person. The timing was a bit unfortunate, as many of us were distracted and stressed—although it

did force us to stop biting our nails for a while. It was wonderful to see the familiar faces of colleagues we are so fond of and look forward to seeing every year. It was also very rewarding to review our progress on the new website (many thanks to Emily Durbin for chairing that committee and to Rosi Kaiser, new Chair of the Web Development and Oversight Committee, for shepherding it through to completion). As program chair, Rosi Kaiser reassured us that all our speakers for this year will be on for next year, and we can look forward to a great program in 2021. President-elect Jutta Joorman invited her program chair for 2022, June Gruber, who was able to attend the meeting and begin preparing for the Fall 2022 annual meeting. We also thanked Suzanne King and Mark Ellenbogen, local hosts for the Montreal conference, for their hard work in setting up and ultimately deciding to postpone that event. Please note that we did not cancel Montreal — we committed to coming back in 2024, so we will have the chance to visit their beautiful city in the near future. It was also wonderful to welcome new members to SRP, even though the group was smaller than usual this year. I can assure you that the society is in great hands with these new members, who bring a wealth of knowledge, energy, and commitment to our mission.

In addition, SRP began to deliver on some of the commitments made in our statement of solidarity and (cont'd)



## Letter from the president (cont'd)

action on Juneteenth, 2020. As promised, and with the enlightened leadership of Vijay Mittal, we formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force of Full and Associate members. I'm very proud to say that we had a record response to a call for volunteers, with more than 20 people ending up serving and contributing to various subgroups of the Task Force. Over the summer and fall, these Task Force participants worked very hard to assess the challenges that face SRP and to develop proposals and recommendations for change and improvement. A variety of different issues are being taken up by these subgroups and we are in the process of scheduling another board meeting in the very near future to bring additional recommendations to the board. In the meantime, we had time at the Executive Board meeting to bring forward a proposal to enhance the inclusivity of SRP by making some changes to the bylaws about membership criteria. This proposal was well-received by the board, and you will shortly be seeing it with a request to vote on it.

Although we now look forward to the possibility of a more unified nation, we all recognize that there is more work to be done. I encourage all of you to review our statement again – published in this newsletter issue and available on our website – and to consider the recommendations and ideas for what we can do as clinical scientists to dismantle racism in our field. Everything we do will make a difference: even the smallest change on the most local level can have reverberating effects. We may not see them or feel their effects right

away, but their impact is real and tangible. Our society is small, but we are a leader in the field of Psychopathology Research. I am confident that we can be at the forefront of creating a more inclusive and equitable field.



*Wendy Heller*

**Dr. Wendy Heller**  
**President of the Society for**  
**Research in Psychopathology**

**SRP**





# Statement on anti-racism

**Note: This is a reprint of a release from the Society on June 19th, 2020 in response to the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and other Black Americans.**

**The current civic unrest across the United States is the culmination of hundreds of years of brutalization, oppression, marginalization, and systemic racism against African Americans / Black communities. We at the Society for Research in Psychopathology are writing in solidarity with Black communities. The recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Nina Pop, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, and Tony McDade are being added to a list that reaches back to 1619, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Emmett Till, Fred Hampton, Amadou Diallo, and scores of others, many of whom never received justice. These recent murders come on a backdrop of a global pandemic that is disproportionately impacting Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC), again revealing the health inequities many of us know to be woven into the fabric of our institutions. As a scientific community, and as citizens of this world who believe in equity and justice, we must take a stand.**

**Mental health professionals have long understood that structural racism and inequities are highly detrimental to mental health and well-being. Systemic racism affects our work and our mission directly through the intergenerational and historical traumas impacting our patients, research participants, students, and ourselves. As an organization we are not immune from the historical inequities baked into American society, and it is past due for us not only to acknowledge these inequities and our part in furthering them, but also to take action to correct them.**

**To that end, we propose the following actions that we can implement, both as an organization and as individuals at our respective academic institutions. This is not a quick fix and these actions are not the only ones we will take; this is a starting point. SRP is committed to the long-term and ongoing work necessary to dismantle structural racism in the society and in our scientific community. We will continue to update our members on our initiatives and welcome suggestions and feedback from our members on how to do this work better.**

**To read the full statement, including our commitment going forward as a Society, please click here or visit [psychopathology.org/about/srp-solidarity-and-action/](https://psychopathology.org/about/srp-solidarity-and-action/)**





Photo courtesy University of Illinois Department of Psychology

## SRP President Dr. Wendy Heller

### Institution:

University of Illinois

### Faculty Website:

[psychology.illinois.edu/  
directory/profile/w-heller](http://psychology.illinois.edu/directory/profile/w-heller)

### Lab website:

[wendyhellerlab.word  
press.com](http://wendyhellerlab.wordpress.com)

# SRP

# An interview with SRP President, Dr. Wendy Heller

By Leah Emery, Briana Galindo, Stephanie Korenic, and Renata Botello

**We were thrilled to have the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Heller over lunch during the 2019 annual meeting in Buffalo, NY to talk about her experiences with SRP and her vision as President.**

**Dr. Heller is well known for her multi-modal research, investigating cognitive and emotional risk factors associated with the development and maintenance of psychopathology from neurobiological and behavioral perspectives. Dr. Heller earned a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania, and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Psychology (with a concentration in Biopsychology) from the University of Chicago. She is currently Professor and Head of the Psychology Department at the University of Illinois (where she is faculty in the Clinical/Community program and the Cognitive Neuroscience area), is affiliated with the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and the Carle-Illinois College of Medicine, and is involved in initiatives to increase campus diversity through a former appointment as Provost Fellow and current committee work. Dr. Heller has co-authored over 140 peer-reviewed publications, making substantial contributions to the field of psychological research. She is also deeply committed to mentoring and clinical work, and cited seeing clients as being, "one of the most rewarding things [she] does." With respect to her training philosophy, Dr. Heller makes an effort to empower her mentees to act as healers rather than mere technicians.**

**Dr. Heller shared that she has always felt "at home" at SRP. Speaking to her love of the society, she has had at least one student mentee present at the conference each year since 1994 - a testament to her commitment to mentoring the next generation of clinical scientists. In recognition of her contributions, Dr. Heller was elected to the SRP Executive Board between 2007 and 2011, and served as the Member Committee Chair from 2011 to 2016. When asked about her reaction to being selected as next year's SRP President, Dr. Heller responded humbly and stated that it was, "a tremendous honor."**

### Vision for the Society

**As President of SRP, Dr. Heller aims to expand current student involvement initiatives, stating that increasing student participation in the "intellectual life" of the society will serve to build interaction and investment early on, thus increasing the likelihood of membership retention and future intellectual (cont'd)**



# Dr. Wendy Heller

## An interview with SRP President, Dr. Wendy Heller

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and service contributions. In line with diversity initiatives engaged in at her home university, Dr. Heller also plans to expand SRP's existing initiatives targeting diversity and inclusion. She stated that initiatives such as the President's Award and attention to equal representation of women and underrepresented minorities when reviewing poster and symposia abstracts are fantastic, but more work needs to be done.

The public face of SRP will also be changing. Dr. Heller also hopes to encourage greater community outreach. She sees this both as an opportunity to embrace diversity and inclusion, and as a venue for SRP to increase its broader impact in realms of public policy and translation to clinical practice. Through greater visibility and attention paid to outreach, Dr. Heller hopes that SRP will, "not just get answers, but bring them back to the community."

*"I built my whole career  
on ideas that I wrote  
down during conference  
talks."*

*-Dr. Wendy Heller*



Photo courtesy Laura Tully

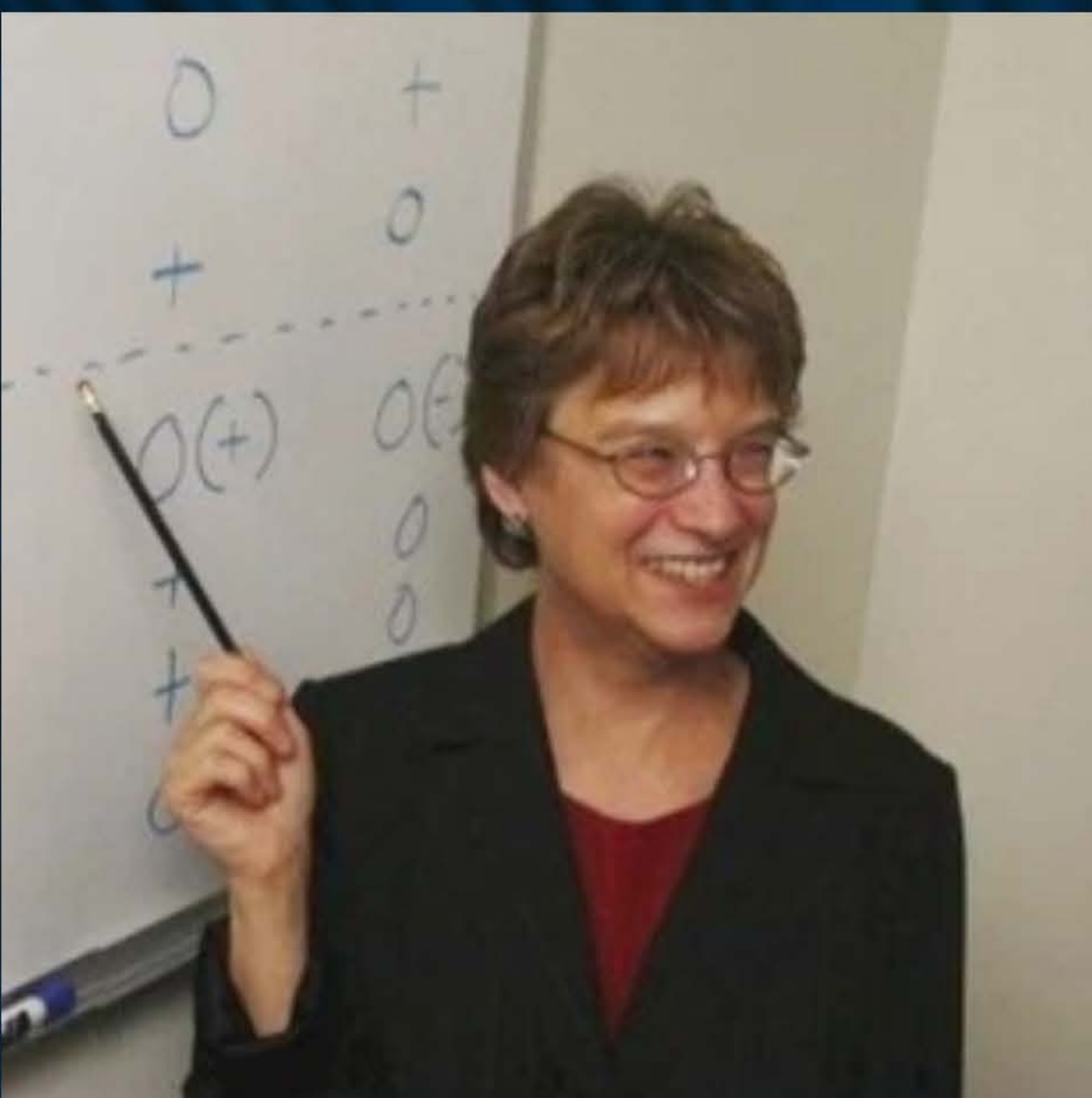


Photo courtesy University of Illinois Department of Psychology

### Advice to Students

Dr. Heller encourages all trainees to carry a "research notebook" so that they can record ideas on the fly when inspiration strikes. Citing research on creativity, she stated that novel ideas are hard to catch: if you don't write them down right away, you risk losing them. This may be particularly important at conference talks and poster sessions, where new ideas can come to us when listening to a talk, viewing a poster, or talking with colleagues. Dr. Heller encourages trainees to be open to things they may not think they'd be interested in, as these can serve as inspiration in unexpected ways.





# Dr. Laura Germine

By Chelsea Boccagno, Jill Del Pozzo, Nathaniel Lovell-Smith, and Monet Meyer

**Dr. Laura Germine is a pioneer in the field of cognitive science.**

Via her online data-collection platform TestMyBrain, she has harnessed the power of the internet and modern technology to push the boundaries of cognitive test development and population science.

In recognition of her already significant contributions to the field, she is the SRP 2019-2020 Early Career Award Winner. It was our pleasure to sit down with her during the 2019 annual meeting to learn about her approach to her career, life, the universe, and everything.

Dr. Germine is the Director of the Brain and Cognitive Health Technology laboratory at McLean Hospital and the Co-Director of the McLean Institute for Technology in Psychiatry. Within a year of transitioning to faculty at McLean, Dr. Germine obtained her first extramural grants as PI and has since amassed an impressive grants portfolio to support her research program, ranging from the characterization of threat processing using EMA to identifying glycemic determinants of cognitive variability in Type I Diabetes. When asked about her career path to date and how she became so successful so fast, Dr. Germine cited her diverse training experiences and mentors that supported her desire to challenge the status quo.

Dr. Germine's undergraduate years at Berkeley were initially driven by seemingly divergent interests in everything from journalism to computer science. Nevertheless, a focus in cognitive science and psychopathology emerged as her curiosity about how the abnormalities in the human brain could lead to psychotic symptoms prompted her to accept a position working in Dr. Robert (Bob) Knight's neuroimaging lab alongside Dr. Christine Hooker (then a postdoctoral researcher).

After graduation, Dr. Germine moved to the United Kingdom, where she conducted research on social perception deficits at Cambridge University and University of College London with Dr. Brad Duchaine. Eager to continue this line of research in graduate school, she contacted Dr. Hooker for guidance, and to her great surprise, discovered that Dr. Hooker was accepting applications for graduate students to join her newly minted social neuroscience lab at Harvard University.

Upon arrival at Harvard, Dr. Germine immediately began flexing her technological acumen, building her online psychological testing platform TestMyBrain.org. By the end of her first year, TestMyBrain had gone viral, with thousands and soon hundreds of (cont'd)

## Early Career Award winner

### Institution:

McLean Hospital, Harvard University

### Personal Twitter:

@LauraGermine

### TestMyBrain Twitter:

@TestMyBrain

### Lab:

Brain and Cognitive Health Technology (BaCH Tech Lab)

### Lab website:

[www.cognitivehealth.tech](http://www.cognitivehealth.tech)

### TestMyBrain website:

[www.testmybrain.org](http://www.testmybrain.org)

SRP



# Dr. Laura Germine

thousands of users. The approach was potentially revolutionary; at the time (2007), it was virtually unheard of that a graduate student with little-to-no resources could collect data on such a scale. Many of Dr. Germine's colleagues in the field, including many senior researchers, were openly skeptical of her work. Nevertheless, with support from her mentors Dr. Hooker and Dr. Ken Nakayama, Dr. Germine forged ahead: "It's always hard when you're doing something new - there are always major barriers," Dr. Germine noted. "If there weren't barriers, lots of people would have tried it already."

For post-doc, Dr. Germine pivoted to work in psychiatric genetics at Massachusetts General Hospital's Psychiatric Genetics lab with Dr. Jordan Smoller. Drawn to the field of population genetics because of their statistical rigor and large sample sizes, she was struck by the unique approach to collecting knowledge. Unlike psychology - in which theory development, creative experimental design, and strict hypotheses are the norm - population genetics research takes a data-driven exploratory approach, in which hypotheses are seen as biases, and replications are mandatory. Dr. Germine relished learning how the scientific method could differ so much between two respected fields, but eventually concluded that the consortium science model of psychiatric and population genetics made it difficult to carve out a niche as an independent investigator and considered her next move.

*"It's always hard when you're doing something new - there are always major barriers."*

Dr. Germine's work with TestMyBrain had continued in parallel throughout her post-doc. The public interest in accessible cognitive tests and digital technology was growing, and this in turn functioned as an engine for tool development. Dr. Germine was able to rapidly tweak cognitive tests thanks to a constant stream of 500 to 1,000 participants using TestMyBrain every day, establishing herself as a "software methodologist" who could provide on-the-fly tool development, close partnership, and accessible code for public use. However, there was no clear incentive within academic research to support tool development versus the overwhelming pressure to publish papers. Dr. Germine and her team had created an organization that was faster paced than classic research, yet more proficient in the technicalities of its product than a typical academic research lab.

With the TestMyBrain user base growing every day, Dr. Germine began to look beyond the walls of academia. She worked to broaden TestMyBrain's network of partners, began securing

*"I had to learn about asking for money... This was a scary thing. Talking about money has always been an awkward thing to do in academia."*

contracts, and eyed future funding, all in service of leaving the academic world to pursue a career in technology development. "I had to learn about asking for money, going out and building partnerships. 'Sales,' basically. This was a scary thing. Talking about money has always been an awkward thing to do in academia." Then, in 2016, just as she was ready to exit the Ivory, Dr. Germine received an unexpected offer: Mclean Hospital, impressed by her work at the intersection of technology and cognitive health, asked Dr. Germine to (cont'd)



# Dr. Laura Germine

# Dr. Laura Germine



Photo courtesy McLeanHospital.org

continue her TestMyBrain work with them. “They asked me to do what we were doing, but at McLean. I told them I didn’t plan on continuing with anything academic, and they countered by offering me funding.” Somewhat shocked at suddenly finding herself with an offer she would have previously never thought possible, Dr. Germine took the job at McLean. Reflecting back, Dr. Germine mused, “I would never have gotten the job I got if I was focused on a successful academic career. Having a solid plan B puts you in a great position to make good decisions and negotiate.”

Dr. Germine has worked at McLean ever since. Her research program has two related arms: 1) using digital technology (e.g., smartphones) to better understand cognitive and brain functioning, and 2) developing new tools to increase the equity and accessibility of neuropsychological assessment.

So, what advice does Dr. Germine have for other early career researchers? “Do work that you think is important and that makes you happy. You never know what’s around the corner. So much of success is luck and timing and things outside of your control. Have a mission rather than a career goal, and then go wherever that takes you.”

*“Do work that you think is important and that makes you happy. You never know what’s around the corner. So much of success is luck and timing and things outside of your control. Have a mission rather than a career goal, and then go wherever that takes you.”*





**Qimin Liu**

**Smadar Levin  
Award Winner**

**Institution:**

**Vanderbilt University**

The Smadar Levin Award was created to honor the memory of Smadar Levin, who left a lasting mark on psychopathology research before her untimely death. The award is given at the Annual Meeting each year to the graduate student(s) or other predoctoral individual(s) who makes the most outstanding poster presentation.

**SRP**

# 7 Questions with Smadar Levin Award Winner, Qimin Liu

1

**What is your research focused on?**

I am currently a Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University in the clinical psychology and quantitative methods programs with Dr. David Cole as my advisor. My empirical research focuses on quantitative modeling of depression and related phenomena. My methodological research involves evaluation and development of novel linear models and machine learning models.

2

**What got you interested in psychopathology research?**

My interest in psychopathology research originated in college at the University of Washington. As a part of the degree requirement, I joined a project in Dr. Marsha Linehan's lab studying the efficacy of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for the treatment of adolescents with suicidal ideation. The impact of psychopathology research materialized in the change I witnessed among the participants. This powerful experience led me to join various labs with research foci ranging from depressed mood and alcohol use, to catastrophizing in children with chronic pain, to measurement-based care. The complexity in the various manifestations of psychopathology compelled me to think about what psychopathology is, both as a real entity and as a scientific representation. The question, to me, seemed as methodological as it was empirical. Driven by an interest in the statistical nuances in representing and describing psychopathology constructs, I pursued quantitative psychology at the University of Notre Dame for three years where I developed novel statistical methodology. My quantitative research further fueled my interest in empirical research. I transferred to the clinical psychology and quantitative methods programs at Vanderbilt with the goal to develop methods to study psychopathology, with a focus on depression and related phenomena.



# Qimin Liu

3

**What is your next career milestone and how are you preparing for it?**

My next career milestone will be taking the qualifying exam. Currently, I am reviewing related literature.

4

**Do you have any advice for aspiring or more junior graduate students?**

The marvel of statistics rests not only in the implementation, but also in the assumptions, intentions, and mechanisms behind the math, especially in this age of the replication crisis. I think it can be very helpful for aspiring or more junior graduate students to be open and eager to learn statistics given both ethical and scientific considerations in psychopathology research.

5

**What researcher or research group are you following right now and why?**

There are a couple of research groups that I follow: Scott Maxwell's group at the University of Notre Dame, with one focus being power and accuracy in parameter estimation analysis, and sample size planning; Denny Borsboom's group at University of Amsterdam, with some of their work focused on psychological measurement and network models; Douglas Steinley's research at the University of Missouri with one area being clustering; and Nicholas Eaton's group (Stony Brook University), with one topic being the classification of psychopathology. They all examine either methodological or empirical questions fundamental to contemporary psychopathology research.

6

**What advice would you give your past self when entering grad school?**

People in graduate school and in academia are humans, too. It is okay to advocate for yourself and seek guidance and support. It is okay for your research interest to change and to evolve. It is okay to do nothing and watch TV at the end of the day. You are not just a graduate student: you are human, too.

7

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself!**

The "Q" in my first name is actually pronounced "chi," as in "achievement." In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, baking, eating, and sleeping.



# An interview with the 2019 President's Award winners

The SRP President's Award was created to encourage and facilitate the participation of young scholars from diverse backgrounds and from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the society to join the organization and to participate in and present at SRP's annual convention.

## ESTHER PALACIOS-BARRIOS

Esther is a 4th year graduate student in the University of Pittsburgh's Joint Clinical-Developmental Psychology Doctoral Program. Her research interests lie in examining the behavioral and neurological mechanisms by which exposure to early life stress and adversity increases risk for developing internalizing psychopathology, such as depression and anxiety.



Her work is supported by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award, and a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship. Esther's research and clinical interests developed as a result of her undergraduate research experience at Stanford University and post-baccalaureate research experience at the National Institutes of Health. Clinically, she works with adults, as well as children and their families, and practices in both English and Spanish. Esther believes that failure to attend to one's well-being can be a significant impediment to achievement and therefore, advises graduates students to regularly engage in self-care activities.

**Website:** [lifelab.pitt.edu/about.html](http://lifelab.pitt.edu/about.html)

**Recent publications:**

Palacios-Barrios, E. E., & Hanson, J. L. (2019). Poverty and self-regulation: Connecting psychosocial processes, neurobiology, and the risk for psychopathology. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, 90, 52-64.



# An interview with the 2019 President's Award winners

## SONIA BANSAL

Sonia is a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of Maryland (Instructor, Maryland Psychiatric Research Center), where she is involved in studies on cognitive and perceptual deficits in schizophrenia. She was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya and moved to Iowa, USA for undergraduate studies at Drake University. She completed her PhD at George Mason University (Virginia, USA) studying predictive mechanism-related visuomotor behavior in healthy populations and schizophrenia. Prior to that, she worked at the Washington DC VA Medical Center, where she developed eye-tracking methods to examine how visual processing disturbances relate to cognitive and social function in veterans with schizophrenia. Her next big step is to obtain a tenure-track position that will allow her to translate basic science to investigate how a breakdown in sensorimotor mechanisms can lead to perceptual and cognitive deficits in psychiatric populations.



To that end, she was recently awarded a NARSAD Young Investigator Award from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation to study contributions of sensorimotor predictive mechanism disruptions to psychosis symptoms. In addition to her research and mentorship activities, Sonia is involved in outreach and diversity initiatives through the World Women in Neuroscience organization (@WorldWomenNeuro). She takes pride in being a "third-culture kid" and she hopes to mentor and inspire many URM students through the course of her career.

**Twitter:** @SONiaBansal

**Recent publications:**

**Recent Publication:** Gold, J. M., Bansal, S., Anticevic, A., Cho, Y. T., Repovš, G., Murray, J. D., ... & Luck, S. J. (2020). Refining the empirical constraints on computational models of spatial working memory in schizophrenia. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*.



# An interview with the 2019 President's Award winners

## SUSAN KUO



Susan completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a concentration in cognitive neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh. She completed her predoctoral clinical internship at UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior in June 2020 and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in developmental genomics of schizophrenia and autism at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Susan's research interests lie in uncovering the genetic and environmental underpinnings of neurodevelopmental psychiatric disorders, and her passion for this topic was borne out of her experiences growing up with a family member with schizophrenia. Her dissertation examined schizophrenia neurogenetic effects across age of risk, finding that schizophrenia genetic effects may influence cortical surface area earlier in development and cortical thickness later in

development. After post-doc, Susan aspires to lead her own lab and to continue collaborating across psychology, neuroscience, and genetics. As a graduate student, in addition to her research and coursework, Susan co-led her department's diversity committee and was the keyboardist and vocalist in a local electroacoustic band. Susan believes strongly in the importance of considering diverse cultural and community influences on behavior, particularly when examining biological-emphasis frameworks in psychology. She encourages students to integrate their awareness of broader cultural and community issues more deeply into all aspects of their work, from reflecting on ways to improve the inclusivity of their work for their participants, patients, students, and colleagues, to making the implications of their work more accessible and equitable.



**Twitter:** @susan\_kuo\_

**Website:** [researchgate.net/profile/Susan\\_Kuo2](https://researchgate.net/profile/Susan_Kuo2)

**Recent publications:**

**Variation in fourteen brain structure volumes in schizophrenia: A comprehensive meta-analysis of 246 studies (Kuo & Pogue-Geile, 2019, Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews).**



# An interview with the 2019 President's Award winners

## CRAIG RODRIGUEZ-SEIJAS



Craig is Assistant Professor in the Clinical Science area at the University of Michigan. His research interests lie in understanding broad underlying dimensions of psychopathology and issues related to diversity and psychosocial health disparities, particularly in sexual orientation, gender identity, and race/ethnicity. As he grew up in Trinidad and Tobago and later moved to the United States for graduate training, his work has been influenced by how sexual and racial/ethnic discrimination and prejudice impact mental health. Craig is an author on 23 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and is particularly proud of his recent article entitled "Prevalence of psychiatric disorders at the intersection of race and sexual orientation: Results from the National Epidemiologic Survey of Alcohol and Related Conditions-III" published in The Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology, which demonstrates the nuanced ways in which psychiatric disorders manifest at the intersections of racial/ethnic and sexual minority status. Craig joined the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor in

Fall 2020, where he is the PI of the Stigma, Psychopathology, and Assessment (SPLAT) Lab, and is currently recruiting graduate students for Fall 2021. Craig believes that supportive, yet demanding work environments allow students to optimally develop, and therefore, suggests that graduate students work to find the right mentors, peers, and environments to achieve their goals. He was fortunate to have mentors who displayed these qualities throughout his training. As someone who holds multiple marginalized identities, Craig is committed to vociferously advocating for students, and vulnerable voices, who can easily become silenced within academia. In addition to his professional activities, Craig considers himself to be a "snackademic," and critiques food at conferences that he attends.



Twitter: @CraigAnthonyRS

Lab Twitter: @Haus\_of\_SPLAT

Lab website: [sites.lsa.umich.edu/splat-lab/](https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/splat-lab/)

### Recent publications:

Rodriguez-Seijas, C., Eaton, N. R., & Pachankis, J. E. (2019). Prevalence of psychiatric disorders at the intersection of race and sexual orientation: Results from the National Epidemiologic Survey of Alcohol and Related Conditions-III. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology*, 87(4), 321.



# An interview with the 2019 President's Award winners

## SHIRLEY WANG

Shirley is a 3rd year graduate student in Harvard University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program with a secondary field in Computational Science and Engineering. Alongside her SRP President's Award Shirley, is also the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Student Researchers Award from the Society for a Science in Clinical Psychology (SSCP). These accolades are well-deserved; Shirley has obtained funding from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Program to fund her research examining why people engage in behaviors that are harmful to themselves, including eating disorder behaviors, nonsuicidal self-injury, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.



She is particularly interested in using mathematical and computational modeling to formalize theories in psychopathology. In high school, Shirley became interested in the application of mathematical models to predict behavior, and as a result of her experiences as a figure skater, sought to understand why people struggle with body issues. These interests and experiences came together during her undergraduate years, when she began to study suicide, the ultimate self-destructive behavior. In addition to her graduate coursework and research, Shirley enjoys mentoring undergraduate students. Shirley believes an important component to success in graduate school is finding people who genuinely care about and support you. She advises students to ask for advice whenever possible.

**Twitter:** @ShirleyBWang

**Website:** [shirleywang.rbind.io](http://shirleywang.rbind.io)

**Recent publications:**

Wang, S.B., Haynos, A.F., Wall, M.M., Chen, C., Eisenberg, M.E., & Neumark-Sztainer, D. (2019). Fifteen-year prevalence, trajectories, and predictors of body dissatisfaction from adolescence to middle adulthood. *Clinical Psychological Science*, 7(6), 1403-1415.



# Contributors



## **Samantha Berg (University of Central Florida)**

Samantha completed her BA at UCF and has recently published a manuscript from her Honors Thesis with mentor Dr. Jeff Bedwell. Samantha completed a National Science Foundation Research Fellowship in 2019 where she studied genetic, clinical, and physiological components of PTSD. [Linkedin.com/in/samanthakberg/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/samanthakberg/)

## **Mary Blendermann (University of Pittsburgh)**

Mary is currently a first-year clinical psych grad student working with @LaurenHallion at University of Pittsburgh. Mary's research interests span trauma, emotion regulation, and psychopathology, with a side helping of sexuality and gender diversity. Find out more: [www.maryblendermann.com](http://www.maryblendermann.com)



## **Chelsea Boccagno (Harvard)**

Chelsea Boccagno is a PhD candidate in clinical science at Harvard. Her research examines the roles of emotion and self-perception in self-injurious behaviors (e.g., disordered eating and NSSI). Follow her on Twitter: @BoccagnoChelsea



## **Erin Bondy (Washington University)**

Erin Bondy is a PhD candidate in clinical science studying biological markers of psychopathology risk with Dr. Ryan Bogdan at Wash U in St. Louis. She is interested in using EEG/ERP and MRI methods to investigate the neural mechanisms associated with reward processing and the onset and maintenance of psychopathology.



## **Renata Botello (Boston University)**

Renata is a first-year clinical psychology PhD student at the AMP lab with Dr. Daniel Fulford. Her research focuses on understanding the motivators and challenges to meaningful social interactions for people with schizophrenia using experience sampling and real-time assessment methods.







## **Emilia Cardenas (Vanderbilt University)**

Emilia is a clinical psychology doctoral student at Vanderbilt University. Emilia's research uses behavioral and neurobiological methods to investigate how a child's environment impacts their risk for depression.

## **Jill Del Pozzo (Montclair State University)**

Jill is a 4th year clinical psychology PhD student at Montclair State. Her interests include: schizophrenia, first episode psychosis, risk factors for psychosis, and violence risk assessment. Her thesis research is titled "Multiple risk factors for schizotypy in a non-clinical population."  
[Researchgate.net/profile/Jill\\_Del\\_Pozzo](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jill_Del_Pozzo)



## **Leah Emery (University at Buffalo)**

Leah Emery is a clinical PhD student studying the structure of psychopathology under Dr. Leonard Simms at University at Buffalo. Leah's research interests include the structure of hierarchical models of psychopathology and the clinical application of these models, as well as trait models of personality disorders and the relationship between normal and pathological range traits.



## **Cassandra Fleming (Minneapolis VA)**

Cassie received her master's degree in clinical psychology and has been involved in research for the past 4 years. Cassie presented her work on early life trauma and the adult sequelae of chronic mental health issues at SRP 2019, and plans to continue this work as part of a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Twitter: @flemini218



## **Samantha Fradkin (Rutgers University)**

Samantha Fradkin is a graduate student in the Rutgers Clinical Psychology PhD program working with Dr. Steven Silverstein in the Division of Schizophrenia Research. She is currently working on studies investigating abnormal visual perception and cognitive mechanisms in schizophrenia. Samantha's research interests include the study of these processes in the prodromal and first-episode populations, in order to improve methods of early diagnosis and indicators of risk.



## **Briana Galindo (Rush University)**

Briana Galindo is a research coordinator working with Dr. Christine Hooker at Rush Medical Center. Briana's research and clinical interests include improving cognition and social cognition in individuals with psychosis spectrum disorders, and exploring how our past and present experiences shape our behavior.







### **Stephanie Korenic (Temple University)**

**Stephanie Korenic is a grad student working with Dr. Lauren Ellman at Temple. She is interested in using multi-modal neuroimaging, mobile/wearable sensing, and other “big data”-driven methods to model psychosis conversion.**

### **Nathaniel Lovell-Smith (McLean Hospital, Harvard)**

**A philosopher by training, Nathaniel is a research coordinator at McLean’s CDASR Lab using EEG to study Depression at the Partial Behavioral Health Program. He is also a counselor at a residence for women with BPD, and is interested in how neuroimaging can aid in the development of Personality Disorder treatment.**



### **Monet Meyer (University of Hawaii)**

**Monet is a grad student at University of Hawaii. Her research interests range from social-cognitive risk for serious mental illness to translational community-based research. Her recent work uses experience sampling methods to examine mechanisms of psychotic-like experiences in daily life.**

### **Samantha Pegg (Vanderbilt University)**

**Samantha Pegg is a Clinical Science PhD student at Vanderbilt University. She works in Dr. Autumn Kujawa’s Mood, Emotion, and Development lab. Her research focuses on understanding emotion and reward processing to better understand the development of psychopathology.**



### **Jacob Pine (Ohio State)**

**Jacob is an RA at Ohio State EPICENTER and Nationwide Children’s Center for Biobehavioral Health. Jacob is interested in computational psychiatry and treatments for negative symptoms/cognitive deficits in psychotic disorders.**

### **Danielle Pratt (University of Minnesota)**

**Danielle is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota working with Dr. Angus MacDonald. Her research interests include decision-making and psychosis.**



### **William Woods (University of Pittsburgh)**

**William is a clinical psychology grad student with Dr. Aidan Wright. William’s work focuses on idiographic measurement of psychopathology in the social context, with particular focus on how social interactions ameliorate or exacerbate symptoms in individuals.**



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