

# Tara Lesick

Department of Psychology  
Florida State University  
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## Education

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- Ph.D. Social Psychology, Anticipated May 2025; GPA = 4.0  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida  
*Master's Thesis:* Not at face value: Exploring whether Whites exhibit bias in categorizing angry and happy Black versus White expressions.  
*Major Advisor:* Dr. David March
- M.A. General Experimental Psychology, May 2021; GPA = 3.9  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
*Master's Thesis:* Race-ethnicity and the big-fish-little-pond effect in the United States.  
*Major Advisor:* Dr. Ethan Zell
- B.A. Psychology and Pre-Law, Dec 2018; GPA = 4.0  
William Peace University

## Teaching Experience

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*Associate Lecturer, University of Massachusetts – Boston*  
PSY201 Introduction to Behavioral Research  
Fall 2024 (35 students; online)

*Instructor of Record, Florida State University*  
PSY3213C Research Methods  
Fall 2024 (175 students; in-person)  
Summer 2024 (51 students; in-person)

PSY2012 General Psychology:  
Spring 2024 (89 students; in-person)  
Fall 2023 (160 students; in-person)

PSY3213C Research Methods Lab  
Spring 2023 (2 sections; 36-37 students; in-person)  
Fall 2022 (2 sections; 35-36 students; in-person)

*Guest Lecturer, Florida State University*  
SOP 3004 Social Psychology: Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024 (in-person)

*Teaching Assistant, Florida State University*

PSY 6945 Graduate Teaching Psychology Practicum: Fall 2024

PSY2012 General Psychology: Summer 2023

PSY3213 Research Methods: Summer 2023

PSB4400 Neuroscience Methods: Spring 2022

PSY4930 Intimate Relationships: Spring 2022

SOP 3004 Social Psychology: Fall 2021, Spring 2022

CLP 4143 Abnormal Psychology: Fall 2021

*Department Assistant, Florida State University*

SONA Systems: Fall 2021, Summer 2022

*Teaching Assistant, UNC Greensboro*

PSY 211 Statistics in Behavioral Science Research: Fall 2020

PSY 609 Statistical Methods in Psychology I: Fall 2020

PSY 121 General Psychology: Fall 2019, Spring 2020

*Tutor, William Peace University*

Pre-Law and Psychology courses: Spring 2016-Fall 2018

## Teaching Interests

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Research Methods, General Psychology, Stereotyping and Prejudice, Social Psychology, Psychology and Law, Cultural Psychology, Personality Psychology

## Teaching/Mentorship Awards

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Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Teaching Associate Assistantship (\$3,900):

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

- Nominated by the department and trained by the Program for Instructional Excellence to serve as a mentor for other teaching assistants in the department and assist with university workshops, conferences, and teaching awards.

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Materials Grant (\$500): Spring 2023

- Awarded to UROP mentors who support, train, and work with student research assistants through every step of the psychology research process.

PIE Teaching Training Recognition: Fall 2021

- Recognition only to those who completed the PIE Teaching Conference and demonstrated dedication to teaching

## Research Mentees

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**Elizabeth Cordero**, undergraduate research opportunity program student, Fall 2024-present

**Martina Schmied**, undergraduate research opportunity program student, Fall 2024-present

**Jude Edelman**, undergraduate honors thesis student, Fall 2023-Spring 2024

**Nova Anastasia**, undergraduate research opportunity program student, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

**David Ackart**, undergraduate honors thesis student, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

**Bernadyne Thelemaque**, undergraduate honors thesis student, Fall 2021-Spring 2022

**Heather-Christina Hawkins**, undergraduate honors thesis student, Fall 2019-Spring 2021

## Publications

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\*Denotes undergraduate mentees

**Lesick, T. L., & March D. S.** (2024). Perceptions of anti-Black bias in the criminal justice system contribute to pro-Black (versus White) bias in criminal justice research. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*.

**Lesick, T. L., & Zell, E.** (2023). Race-ethnicity and the big-fish-little-pond effect in the United States. *Social Psychological Bulletin*, *18*, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.32872/spb.10261>

Zell, E., Stockus, C. A., **Lesick, T. L.**, & Sedikides, C. (2023). Self-enhancement and physical health: A meta-analysis. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, *62*(1), 583–599. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12577>

Zell, E., & **Lesick, T. L.** (2022). Big five personality traits and performance: A quantitative synthesis of 50+ meta-analyses. *Journal of Personality*, *90*(4), 559–573. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jopy.12683>

Zell, E., & **Lesick, T. L.** (2022). Ignorance of history and political differences in perception of racism in the United States. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *13*(6), 1022–1031. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506211056493>

\***Hawkins, H-C, C., Lesick, T. L., & Zell, E.** (2021). Implicit self-esteem following a romantic partner's success: Three replications and a meta-analysis. *Personal Relationships*, *29*(1), 41–50. <https://doi.org/10.1111/per.12408>

**Lesick, T. L., & Zell, E.** (2021). Is affirmation the cure? Self-affirmation and European-Americans' perception of systemic racism. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, *43*(1), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01973533.2020.1811092>

Zell, E., & **Lesick, T. L.** (2021). Taking social comparison to the extremes: The huge fish tiny pond effect in self-evaluations. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *12*(6), 1030–1038. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550620956535>

## Publications Under Review

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March, D. S., **Lesick, T. L.**, Olivett, V. J., & Maranges, H. M. View from the right: Conservatism moderates the automatic association between Black and threat.

## Publications In Preparation

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**Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. Not at face value: Exploring whether Whites exhibit bias in categorizing angry and happy Black versus White expressions.

## Presentations

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\*Denotes undergraduate mentees

**Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (February, 2025). The pain hurts more when it is caused by one of my own. *Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. Denver, CO.

**Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (April, 2024). Guilt and sentencing of Black and White suspects is influenced by perceptions of bias in the criminal justice system. *Talk presented at the annual Florida State University Psychology Graduate Research Day*. Tallahassee, FL.

\*Edelman, J., **Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (April, 2024). Does perceived harm depend on the race of the agent?. *Talk presented at the annual Florida State University Undergraduate Research Day*. Tallahassee, FL.

\*Gullesserian, M., March, D. S., **Lesick, T. L.**, Olivett, V. O., & Maranges, H, M. (April, 2024). View from the right: Political orientation and the automatic association between Black and physical threat. *Poster presented at the annual Florida State University Undergraduate Research Day*. Tallahassee, FL.

**Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (February, 2024). Race and physical threat in the criminal justice system. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. San Diego, CA.

\*Gullesserian, M., March, D. S., **Lesick, T. L.**, Olivett, V. O., & Maranges, H, M. (February, 2024). View from the right: Political orientation and the automatic association between Black and physical threat. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. San Diego, CA.

**Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (April, 2023). The impact of skin tone and facial features on emotion categorization. *Poster presented at the annual Florida State University Psychology Graduate Research Day*. Tallahassee, FL.

- \*Anastasia, N., **Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (April, 2023). Examining how pain perception is impacted by race of the aggressor. *Poster presented at the annual Florida State University Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Tallahassee, FL.
- Lesick, T. L.**, & March, D. S. (February, 2023). Race categorization of emotive faces depends on the features of a face. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. Atlanta, GA.
- Lesick, T. L.**, Maranges, H. M., & March, D. S. (April, 2022). Political orientation moderates dangerous vs. negative associations with Black vs. White. *Poster presented at the annual Florida State University PSY Graduate Research Day*. Tallahassee, FL.
- Lesick, T. L.**, Maranges, H. M., & March, D. S. (February, 2022). Political orientation moderates dangerous vs. negative associations with Black vs. White. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. San Francisco, CA.
- Lesick, T. L.**, Maranges, H. M., & March, D. S. (October, 2021). Political orientation moderates dangerous vs. negative associations with Black vs. White. *Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Southeastern Social Psychology*. Online.
- Lesick, T. L.**, & Zell, E. (February, 2021). Race-ethnicity and the big-fish-little-pond effect. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. Online.
- Lesick, T. L.**, & Zell, E. (October, 2020). Is affirmation the cure? Self-affirmation and European Americans' perception of systemic racism. *Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Southeastern Social Psychology*. Online.
- Zell, E., & **Lesick, T. L.** (February, 2020). The huge fish tiny pond effect in self-evaluations. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. New Orleans, LA.
- Lesick, T. L.**, & Zell, E. (October, 2019). Self-affirmation and perception of racism. *Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Southeastern Social Psychology*. Johnson City, TN.

## Research Experience

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*Graduate Research Assistant, Florida State University*  
March Research Lab, Dr. David March, Fall 2021 – Present

*Graduate Research Assistant, UNC Greensboro*  
Social Cognition Lab, Dr. Brittany Cassidy, Spring 2020 – Spring 2021  
Self and Social Perception Lab, Dr. Ethan Zell, Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

## Research/Academic Awards

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Master's in Four Competition Finalist: Spring 2023

- Nominated based on a master's thesis 4-minute presentation aimed to effectively explain the research to a non-specialist audience

Ermine M. Owenby Travel Award (\$500): Spring 2023

- Awarded to approximately 10 graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences to support women who are presenting their research at conferences

Jack Brigham Graduate Student Research Award (\$500): Spring 2022

- Awarded to a social psychology graduate student to fund a high-quality research project

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Diversity Graduate Travel Award (\$500): Fall 2021

- Awarded to members of an underrepresented group in social/personality psychology who are presenting their research at the SPSP conference

Congress of Graduate Students Presentation Grant (\$250/semester): Fall 2021-Spring 2024

- Awarded to selected graduate students who are presenting their research at conferences

Omicron Delta Kappa Member: Fall 2017-present

- Invitations to those in the top 35% of their class who demonstrate leadership

Alpha Chi National Honor Society Member: Spring 2016-present

- Invitations only to those ranked in the top 10 percent of students on campus

William Peace University Marshal: Spring 2016-Spring 2017

- Invitations to the top five members of the sophomore and junior class based on GPA

## Technical Skills

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SAS, SPSS, R, MouseTracking, Inquisit, Media Lab, Qualtrics, Direct RT, E-Prime, MTurk, Prolific

## Professional Affiliations

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Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP)

Society of Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Association for Psychological Science (APS)

Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists (SSSP)

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

## Service and Involvement

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Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Mentor: Fall 2022-Spring 2023; Fall 2024

Diversity in Psychology Organization of Graduate Students Member: Fall 2023-Present

Diversifying Research in Psychology Event Representative: Spring 2022, 2023, 2024

General Psychology Book Committee: Spring 2023

Graduate Student Panel: Spring 2022, Spring 2023

Ad hoc review, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*: Fall 2023

Ad hoc review, *Affective Science*: Spring 2022, Fall 2023

Ad hoc review, *Social Psychological and Personality Science*: Spring 2022

Graduate Student Association Representative: Fall 2020- May 2021

Norman Anderson Travel Award Committee Member: Spring 2020- May 2021