

# Amanda Louise Szczesniak

ga0457@wayne.edu | [aszcze@umich.edu](mailto:aszcze@umich.edu)

5057 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI, 48402

## EDUCATION

---

**Wayne State University** **Aug. 2021 – Present**  
 Doctoral Student in Ph.D. Psychology Program  
 Social-Personality Area  
 Research Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Spielmann

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor** **May 2020**  
 Bachelor of Arts in Biopsychology, Cognition & Neuroscience, Highest Honors  
 Research Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Preston

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**Lead Graduate Student | Relationships and Individual Differences Lab** **Aug. 2021 – Present**  
Project: Exploring the Inter- and Intra-Personal Nature of Romantic Detachment and Breakup Recovery  
 PI: Dr. Stephanie Spielmann, Wayne State University

- Contributed to the design and implementation of a federally-funded longitudinal study to assess break-up recovery
- Helps oversee dyadic data collection for an anticipated sample size of 1400 participants
- Manages and mentors a team of 10 undergraduate research assistants

**Graduate Student Researcher | Relationships and Individual Differences Lab** **Aug. 2021 – Present**  
 PI: Dr. Stephanie Spielmann, Wayne State University

- **Project Title:** Infidelity & Self-Regulation: Could infidelity involve strategic goal pursuit?
- **Project Title:** Give up the ghost: Unique emotional responses to ghosting compared to explicit rejection and acceptance
- **Project Title:** The Dyadic Association of Partners' Self-Efficacy and Attachment Styles

**Clinical Research Coordinator** **June 2020 – July 2021**  
 Michigan Clinical Research Institute PC (Ann Arbor, MI)

- Actively recruited patients for Phase II and III pharmaceutical research related to depression, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Manages appointment scheduling and procedures to follow guidelines established by protocols
- Corresponds with sponsors regarding patient visits and protocol compliance

**Honors Senior Thesis Project: *The Influence of Marital Commitment on Mate Guarding*** **Dec. 2019**  
 University of Michigan

- Examined differences in mate retention behaviors between married and unmarried individuals in various age groups, and found that married, younger adults use a higher frequency of retention tactics
- Awarded Walter B. Pillsbury Prize for an outstanding thesis in the field of experimental psychology
- Drafted project proposals to the Honors Thesis Committee and the Institutional Review Board
- Successfully applied and acquired a grant to fund thesis study
- Organized and analyzed datasets for 177 participants using Excel and R

**Research Assistant in Ecological Neuroscience Lab****Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2020**

PI: Dr. Stephanie Preston, University of Michigan

***COVID-19 and Hoarding Behaviors***

- Co-investigator for a project examining how anxiety and other negative emotions mediate hoarding

***Neoteny: The Adaptive Attraction toward “Cuteness” Across Ages and Domains***

- Reviewed previous literature for a systematic review of neoteny research and editing the manuscript to include this background information

***Valuing Evidence-Based Reasoning Through Teaching and Training***

- Composed manuscript sections for a project that examines how confidence in evidence versus authority impacts support for evidence-based beliefs, and reviewing statistical processes for scale validation

***Tailoring Pro-Environmental Appeals Based on Earth Concepts***

- Processed and analyzed data with Excel and R to assess preferences regarding environmental messages

***Elucidating Species-Specific Effects on Donation Behavior***

- Coded data to measure why Monarch butterflies receive more donations than other endangered species and how these can be applied to other environmental advertisements

***Investigating Feelings of Ownership in the Natural World***

- Compiled and analyzed qualitative datasets examining how perception of ownership of nature correlates with environmental activism

***Toward Sustainable Health: Promoting Exercise Through Positive, Proximate Motivations that Differ by Gender***

- Conducted systematic literature review, organized this data, and revised manuscripts to determine which exercise motivations have the best long-term effect for each gender

**Summer Research Assistant in the Welling Lab****May 2019 – Aug. 2019**

PI: Dr. Lisa Welling, Oakland University

- Trained in processing salivary hormone assays to measure testosterone and cortisol levels
- Entered and organized data for assessing how levels of fertility affect risk-taking behaviors across the menstrual cycle

**CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Szczesniak, A. L.,** Vickers, B. D., Preston, S.D., (2021). Consuming Away the Fear: People Acquire More and Prefer More Functional Goods during COVID-19. *Association for Psychological Science Convention*, virtual conference.

**Szczesniak, A. L.,** Preston, S.D. (2020). The Influence of Marital Commitment on Mate Guarding. *University of Michigan Psychology Research Forum*

**Szczesniak, A.L.,** Pierce, M., Spielmann, S.S. (2023). Give up the ghost: Unique emotional responses to ghosting compared to explicit rejection and acceptance. To be presented at the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention*, Atlanta, GA.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP

---

**Szczesniak, A.L.**, Pierce, M., Spielmann, S., Give up the ghost: Unique emotional responses to ghosting compared to explicit rejection and acceptance. (in prep)

Preston, S. D., Liu, T., & **Szczesniak, A.L.**, (in prep, invited resubmission). Neoteny: The adaptive attraction toward "cuteness" across ages and domains.

## AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

---

- **Graduate School Incentive for Competing for Externally-Funded Fellowships**, *Wayne State University* **2022**
- **Walter B. Pillsbury Prize**, *University of Michigan* **2020**
- **Honors Critical Difference Grant for Research Travel**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **Honors Thesis Research Grant**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **James B. Angell Scholar**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **Michigan Competitive Scholarship**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **LSA Returning Student Scholarship**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **Excellence in Czech Language Studies Award**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **Czech Language Students Scholarship**, *University of Michigan* **2019**
- **Michigan Competitive Scholarship**, *University of Michigan* **2018**
- **Czech Language Students Scholarship**, *University of Michigan* **2017**
- **Presidential Scholarship**, *Wayne State University* **2016**

## TEACHING

---

**Psychology of Social Behavior** (Spring/Summer 2022; online & asynchronous)  
Department of Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

## SERVICE

---

- Graduate Student Representative to Social Area faculty meetings, WSU (2022-2023)
- Mentor - Mentoring Undergraduate Students toward Excellence, WSU (2021-2023)
- Brown Bag Grad. Coordinator and Treasurer – Social-Personality Psychology, WSU (2022-2023)
- Judge - Undergraduate Poster Day, WSU (2022)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TALKS FOR STUDENTS

---

**Szczesniak, A.L.** (Apr., 2022). Graduate Student Panel Member for Undergraduate Interested in Attending Graduate School. Hosted by the , Mentoring Undergraduate Students towards Excellence program, Wayne State University.

**Szczesniak, A.L.** (Mar., 2019). Graduate Student Panel Member for Undergraduate Research Panel. Hosted by Psychology Students Tackling Advanced Research Scholars (STARS), University of Michigan.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

---

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
- Society for the Science of Motivation (SSM)