

Amanda Louise Szczesniak

aszcz@wayne.edu | (586) 255-0112
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?
 - Master's Thesis Project
 - Committee: Stephanie Spielmann, Ph.D., Catalina Kopetz Ph.D., Grainne Fitzsimons, Ph.D.
- **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
- Corresponded 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

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 TALKS

Szczesniak, A.L., Pierce, M., Spielmann, S.S. (2023). Give up the ghost: Understanding emotional responses to romantic ghosting using an experimental design. Presented at the *2023 International Association for Relationship Research Mini-conference*, Tuscaloosa, AL. Oral presentation.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

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, poster presentation.

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

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

INTERNAL (HOME INSTITUTION) GUEST LECTURES

Szczesniak, A.L. (2023). Attachment Theory: Origins and Directions. Presented to undergraduate students from Psychology of Social Behavior. Wayne State University.

Szczesniak, A.L. (2023). Infidelity and Self-regulation: Could infidelity involve strategic goal pursuit?. Social Psychology Area Brown Bag. WSU.

Szczesniak, A.L. (2022). Self-efficacy and Partners' Attachment Insecurity. Social Psychology Area Brown Bag. WSU.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- **Competitive Rumble Fellowship, Wayne State University** 2023-2024
- **Graduate School Travel Award, Wayne State University** 2023
- **Departmental Travel Award, Wayne State University, Department of Psychology** 2023
- **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** 2017, 2019
- **Michigan Competitive Scholarship, University of Michigan** 2018
- **Presidential Scholarship, Wayne State University** 2016

COURSES TAUGHT

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

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.

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)
- Interview Weekend Coordinator – Social-Personality Psychology, WSU (2022-2023)
- Judge - Undergraduate Poster Day, WSU (2022)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP

Szczesniak, A.L., Pierce, M.E., Spielmann, S.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.

AFFILIATIONS

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
- Society for the Science of Motivation (SSM)
- International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)