**Amanda Louise Szczesniak**

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5057 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI, 48402

**EDUCATION**

**Wayne State University Aug. 2021 – Present**

Doctoral Student in Ph.D. Psychology Program

Social-Personality Area

**Wayne State University Dec. 2023**

Master of Arts in Psychology, Major: Social

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.** & Spielmann, S.S. (2024).Self-efficacy in romantic relationships: The dyadic association between attachment insecurities and relationship self-efficacy**. Presented at the *International Association for Relationship Research*, Boston, MA. Oral presentation.**

**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.

Spielmann, S.S., Brindley, S.L., **Szczesniak, A.L.** (2024). Distinctive Dealbreakers: Strategic perceptions of ex-partners predict improved breakup recovery**. Presented at the *International Association for Relationship Research*, Boston, MA. Oral presentation.**

**CONFERENCE POSTERS**

**Szczesniak, A.L.** Spielmann, S.S., Kopetz, C.E. (2024).Infidelity and Self-Regulation: Could infidelity involve strategic goal pursuit?**. Presented at *Society for the Science of Motivation Annual Convention*, San Francisco, CA. Poster presentation.**

**Szczesniak, A.L.** & Spielmann, S.S. (2024).Self-efficacy in romantic relationships: Examining a dyadic association between attachment insecurities and relationship self-efficacy**. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention*, San Diego, CA. 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.**

Spielmann, S.S., Cantarella, I.A., **Szczesniak, A.L.,** Brindley, S.L., Roberson, J., Starnes, W. (2023). Fearfully committed: Testing dyadic effects of fear of being single on relationship quality. ***Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention*, Atlanta, GA. Poster presentation.**

**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.

**INTERNAL (HOME INSTITUTION) GUEST LECTURES**

**Szczesniak, A.L.** (2023).Attachment Theory: Origins and Future 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**
* **Betty J. Neitzel  Summer Research Award**, *Wayne State University* **2024**
* **Graduate School Travel Award,** *Wayne State University* **2023, 2024**
* **Departmental Travel Award,** *Wayne State University, Department of Psychology* **2023**
* **Graduate School Incentive for Competing for Externally-Funded Fellowships, 2022**

*Wayne State University*

* **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.** (Oct., 2023). Host and presenter for Graduate School Information Session. Hosted by theMentoring Undergraduate Students towards Excellence program, Wayne State University.

**Szczesniak, A.L.** (Apr., 2022). Graduate Student Panel Member for Undergraduate Interested in Attending Graduate School. Hosted by theMentoring 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**

* Event Coordinator – Mentoring Undergraduate Students toward Excellence, WSU (2023-2024)
* Reviewer for Outstanding Research Award – Society for Personality and Social Psychology (2024)
* Graduate Student Ambassador – Relationships Researchers Interest Group, SPSP (2024)
* Graduate Student Representative to Social Area faculty meetings, WSU (2022-2024)
* Mentor - Mentoring Undergraduate Students toward Excellence, WSU (2021-2024)
* Member – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Antiracism (IDEA) Committee, WSU (2023-2024)
* 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 & UNDER REVIEW**

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

Preston, S. D., Liu, T., & **Szczesniak, A.L.,** (in preparation). 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)