

Erin C. Westgate

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Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University
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Academic Positions

- 2019 -** **University of Florida**, Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
- 2018 - 2019** **The Ohio State University**, Postdoctoral Researcher
Advisor: Lisa K. Libby

Education

- Ph.D. University of Virginia**
Social Psychology, 2018
Dissertation: *Why Boredom is Interesting*
Committee: Timothy D. Wilson (Chair), Gerald Clore, Shigehiro Oishi, Kieran O'Connor
- M.A. University of Virginia**
Social Psychology, 2016
M.A. Thesis: *Choice vs Chance: Intentional Reverie is Real but Rare*
Committee: Timothy D. Wilson (Chair) and Gerald Clore
- B.A. Reed College**
Psychology, 2010
Thesis: *A Rocky Issue: The Effects of Humor on Learning and Interest in an Educational Context*
Advisor: Jennifer Henderlong Corpus and Kathryn C. Oleson
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany
Psychology, September 2007 – August 2008

Honors and Awards

- 2018 President's Postdoctoral Scholars Program, The Ohio State University (\$85,000)
- 2017 Summer Institute in Social and Personality Psychology (SISPP) at USC
Course: *Behavior Change (with Wendy Wood and Kathleen Vohs)*
- 2016 Heritage Dissertation Research Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- 2015 Student Choice Colloquium Speaker, University of Virginia

2014-2018	Fellow, International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course (LIFE)
2013	Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2010	Phi Beta Kappa
2009, 2010	Commendation for Academic Excellence, Reed College Division of Philosophy, Religion, Psychology & Linguistics
2006, 2007	Commendation for Academic Excellence, Reed College Administration Committee
2005	National Merit Finalist

Grants and Funding

2019	SPSP Small Research Grant, Society of Personality & Social Psychology (\$1500) Project (PI): <i>Is the mere act of categorization inherently meaningful?</i>
2017	NSF Training Extension for Research Exchange at Univ. of Zurich (\$10,000)
2017	Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, University of Virginia

Publications

Westgate, E. C., & Wilson, T. D. (2018). Boring thoughts and bored minds: The MAC model of boredom and cognitive engagement. *Psychological Review*, *125*, 689-713.

Westgate, E. C., Wilson, T. D., & Gilbert, D. T. (2017). With a little help for our thoughts: Making it easier to think for pleasure. *Emotion*, *17*, 828-839.

Westgate, E. C., Wormington, S. V., Oleson, K. C. & Lindgren, K. P. (2017). Productive procrastination: Academic procrastination style predicts academic and alcohol outcomes. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *47*, 124-135.

Alahmadi, S., Buttrick, N., Gilbert, D. T., Hardin, A., Westgate, E. C., & Wilson, T. D*. (2017). You can do it if you really try: The effects of motivation on thinking for pleasure. *Motivation and Emotion*, *41*, 545-561. *All authors in alphabetical order

Westgate, E. C., & Holliday, J. (2016). Identity, influence, and intervention: The roles of social media in alcohol use. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *9*, 27-32.

Inbar, Y., Westgate, E. C., Nosek, B. A., & Pizarro, D. (2016). Can a naturally-occurring pathogen threat change social attitudes? Evaluations of gay men and lesbians during the 2014 Ebola epidemic. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *7*, 420-427.

Westgate, E. C., Riskind, R. G., & Nosek, B. (2015). Implicit preferences for straight people over lesbian and gay people decreased from 2006-2013. *Collabra*, *1*, Art. 1.

Lindgren, K. P. Weirs, R., Teachman, B., Gasser, M., Westgate, E. C., Cousijn, J., Enkema, M., & Neighbors, C. (2015). Attempted training of alcohol approach and drinking identity associations in US undergraduate drinkers: Null results from two studies.

- Wilson, T. D., Reinhard, D., Westgate, E. C., Gilbert, D., Ellerbeck, N., Hahn, C., Brown, C., & Shaked, A. (2014). Just think: The challenges of the disengaged mind. *Science*, 345, 75-77.
- Wilson, T. D., Gilbert, D., Reinhard, D., Westgate, E. C., & Brown, C. (2014). Would you fund this movie? A reply to Fox et al. (2014). *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, 1428.
- Lindgren, K. P., Neighbors, C., Westgate, E. C., & Saleminck, E. (2014) Self-control and implicit drinking identity as predictors of alcohol consumption, problems, and cravings. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 75, 290-298.
- Westgate, E. C., Neighbors, C., Heppner, H., Jahn, S., & Lindgren, K. P. (2014). “I’ll take a shot for every ‘Like’ I get on this status”: Posting alcohol- related Facebook content predicts drinking outcomes. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 75, 390-398.
- Lindgren, K. P., Foster, D. W., Westgate, E. C., & Neighbors, C. (2013). Implicit drinking identity: Drinker + Me associations predict college student drinking consistently. *Addictive Behaviors*, 38, 2163-2166.
- Lindgren, K. P., Westgate, E., Kilmer, J., Kaysen, D., & Teachman, B. A. (2012). Pick your poison: Stimuli selection in implicit measures. *Addictive Behaviors*, 37, 990-993.
- Lindgren, K. P., Neighbors, C., Teachman, B., Wiers, R., Westgate, E., & Greenwald, A. G. (2012). I drink, therefore I am: Validating alcohol-related Implicit Association Tests. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 27, 1-13.
- Lindgren, K. P., Neighbors, C., Kaysen, D., Zvorsky, I., & Westgate, E. (2011). Experimental and cross-sectional examinations of the relations among implicit alcohol cognitions, stress, and drinking. *Alcohol*, 45, 276.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Oishi, S., Westgate, E., Tucker, J., & Komiya, A. (2015). Desire and happiness: Aristotelian, Puritan, and Buddhist Approaches. In W. Hofmann & L. Nordgren (Ed.), *The Psychology of Desire* (pp. 286 – 306). New York: Guilford.
- Lindgren, K. P., Jacques-Tiura, A. J., & Westgate, E. (2012). Sexual intent perceptions: A primer on methods, theories, and applications. In M. Paludi (Ed.), *The Psychology of Love*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Manuscripts under Review

- Axt, J.A., Conway, M.A., Westgate, E.C., & Buttrick, N.B. (Under review). Implicit transgender attitudes independently predict gender and transgender-related beliefs. Manuscript under

review.

Oishi, S., Choi, H., Buttrick, N., Heintzelman, S., Kushlev, K., Westgate, E.C., Tucker, J., Ebersole, C., Axt, J., Gilbert, E., Ng, B.W., & Besser, L.L. (Under review). The Psychologically Rich Life Questionnaire. Manuscript under review.

Wilson, T. D., Westgate, E. C., Buttrick, N. R., & Gilbert, D. T. (Under review). The mind is its own place: The difficulties and benefits of thinking for pleasure. Manuscript under review.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Oishi, S., Choi, H., Galinha, I., Ishii, K., Komiya, A., Koo, M., Luhmann, M., Scollon, C., Shin, J., Suh, E., Vittersø, J., Heintzelman, S., Kushlev, K., Westgate, E.C., Buttrick, N., Tucker, J., Ebersole, C.R., Axt, J., Gilbert, E., Ng, B.W., Kurtz, J., & Besser, L.L. (in preparation). What is a psychologically rich life? Manuscript in preparation.

Raza, S., Buttrick, N.B., Wilson, T.D., Westgate, E.C., Heintzelman, S., Furrer, R., & Gilbert, D.T. (in preparation). Thinking for pleasure and personal meaningfulness. Manuscript in preparation.

Westgate, E.C. (in preparation). Defining away: How important topics go unstudied. Manuscript in preparation.

Westgate, E.C. (in preparation). “Mere Categorization”: The process of categorization is inherently rewarding. Manuscript in preparation.

Westgate, E.C., Heintzelman, S., & Oishi, S. (in preparation). An (unpleasant) guide to the good life: Boredom undergirds meaning and psychological richness. Manuscript in preparation.

Westgate, E.C. & Oishi, S. (in preparation). Art, music, and literature: Do the humanities make our lives richer, happier, and more meaningful? Invited chapter in preparation.

Westgate, E.C., Wormington, S.V., Thomas, S.L., & Oleson, K.C. (in preparation). Productive Procrastination, or why you should stop working and read this paper. Manuscript in preparation.

Westgate, E.C., & Yucel, M. (in preparation). From electric shocks to the electoral college: How boredom guides behavior. Invited chapter in preparation.

Wilson, T. D., Westgate, E. C., Buttrick, N. R., & Gilbert, D. T. (in preparation). Trading phones for thoughts: An intervention to boost thinking for pleasure. Manuscript in preparation.

Other Writing

Westgate, E.C., & Riskind, R. (August 2015). Implicit Anti-Gay Bias Has Decreased – and the Change is Accelerating. *Society of Personality and Social Psychology Blog*.

Presentations

Westgate, E.C. (2018). *Why Boredom is Interesting*. Paper presented at the 2018 Person Memory Interest Group (PMIG) annual meeting, Union, Washington.

Westgate, E.C. & Wilson, T.D. (2017). *Why Boredom is Interesting*. Paper presented at the Fall 2017 Academy of the International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course, Zurich, Switzerland.

Westgate, E.C. (2017). *Why Thinking is Boring*. Talk presented to the University of Zurich Life-Management Team, Department of Psychology, Zurich, Switzerland.

Westgate, E.C. (2015). *Why Enjoyable Thought Is Surprisingly Hard*. Colloquium presented at the University of Virginia Psychology Colloquium Series, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Westgate, E.C. & Wilson, T.D. (2015). *Alone With Your Thoughts: Intentional Reverie Requires Mental Control*. Paper presented at the Fall 2015 Academy of the International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course, Schloss Marbach, Germany.

Westgate, E.C. & Wilson, T.D. (2015). *Choosing Reverie: Do People Like To Think?* Paper presented at the Mental Simulation Preconference Data Blitz of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, California.

Lindgren, K.P., Westgate, E. C., Gasser, M., Teachman, B., & Neighbors, C. (2013). Drinker + Me: Implicit Drinking Identity as a Predictor of Drinking Outcomes and Intervention Target. In E. Rosenzweig and M. Ferguson (Chairs) *Emerging Evidence for Implicit Identity: Predictors, Moderators, and Consequences*. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Westgate, J. & Westgate, E. (2012). *Tooth Shapes and Diets of Living and Extinct Animals*. Workshop presented at the 1st Children's Summit on Hands On Science and Environmental Education, Antalya, Turkey.

Lindgren, K. P., Neighbors, C., Kaysen, D., Zvorsky, I., & Westgate, E. (2011). *The Effects of Distress on Automatic Alcohol-related Cognitions*. Paper presented at the International Meeting on Alcoholism and Stress: A Framework for Future Treatment Strategies, Volterra, Italy.

Posters

- Westgate, E.C. (2019). *The Boredom Loop: How boredom shapes our preferences for interest and enjoyment*. Poster presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, Oregon.
- Westgate, E. C. & Wilson, T.D. (2018). *Too much to bear: Excessive cognitive load causes boredom via attentional failure*. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Conway, M.A., Axt, J., & Westgate, E.C. (2018). *Using the Implicit Association Test to measure attitudes towards transgender people*. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Westgate, E. C. & Wilson, T.D. (2017). *What is boredom? The Motivational and Attentional Components (MAC) model*. Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, Texas.
- Conway, M.A., Axt, J., & Westgate, E.C. (2017). *Developing and validating an Implicit Association Test for attitudes towards transgender people*. Poster presented at the 2017 Diversifying Scholarship Conference at UVA, Charlottesville, VA.
- Taggart, J., Westgate, E.C., & Lillard, A. (2017). *When there's a will and a way: Children's enjoyment of "just thinking" depends on contextual framing and executive function*. Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development.
- Westgate, E. C. & Wilson, T.D. (2016). *Intentional enjoyable thought requires mental control*. Poster presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, California.
- Westgate, E.C., Wilson, T.D., Taggart, J., Lillard, A., & Buttrick, N. (2015). *Alone with your thoughts: Lifespan differences in enjoyment of intentional reverie*. Poster presented at the Spring 2015 Academy of the International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Lindgren, K. P., Wiers, R. W., Teachman, B.A., Gasser, M. L., Westgate, E. C., Enkema, M., & Neighbors, C. (2015). *Training implicit alcohol associations: Null results from two sets of studies*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, San Antonio, Texas.
- Westgate, E.C. & Wilson, T.D. (2015). *Do people enjoy thinking? Intentional enjoyable thought is real but rare*. Poster presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, California.
- Westgate, E.C., Reinhard, D., Brown, C.L., & Wilson, T.D. (2014). *The pain of doing nothing: Preferring negative stimulation to boredom*. Poster presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, Texas.

- Wormington, S.V., Westgate, E.C., & Oleson, K.C. (2014). *Academically productive procrastination: Links to unique motivations and academic consequences*. Poster presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, Texas.
- Westgate, E.C., Wormington, S.V., Oleson, K.C., & Lindgren, K.P. (2013). *Better late than never? The relationship between adaptive and maladaptive procrastination styles, alcohol use, and academic performance*. Poster presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Wormington, S.V., Westgate, E. C., & Oleson, K.C. (2013). *How do college students approach difficult academic tasks? A qualitative investigation*. Poster presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Westgate, E. (2012). *Science is a joke! Conceptual humor as a tool for increasing student engagement and interest in science*. Poster presented at the 9th International Conference on Hands on Science, Antalya, Turkey.
- Lindgren, K.P., Saleminck, E., & Westgate, E. (2012). *Implicit alcohol associations, trait self-control, and efforts to control drinking predict self-reported drinking refusal self-efficacy*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Westgate, E., Lindgren, K.P., Neighbors, C., & Robinson, C. (2012). *Implicit and explicit drinking identity predict perceptions of and conformity to drinking norms*. Poster presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, California.
- Lindgren, K.P., Westgate, E., Neighbors, C., Teachman, B., Wiers, R., & Greenwald, A.G. (2012). *Drinker + me: Validating alcohol-related IATs in a US sample*. Poster presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, California.
- Wormington, S., Westgate, E., Call, A., Harati, A., Moshontz, H. & Oleson, K. (2011). *A person- centered investigation of academically-productive procrastination: Relations to self-doubt, concern with performance, and mastery-approach goals*. Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, Texas.
- Moshontz, H., Call, A., Harati, A., Westgate, E., Wormington, S. & Oleson, K. (2011). *Predicting the desire to seek out one's grades when grade knowledge is optional*. Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, Texas.

Teaching and Mentorship

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia

2017 – 2018	Empirical and Scientific Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion leader for two bi-weekly discussion sections○ Grader for two courses, “Thinking Like A Scientist” and “Making Truth Claims”
2017 – Spring	Introduction to Social Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Instructor for separately graded weekly discussion section
2016 – Fall	Introduction to Social Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Head TA○ Instructor for separately graded weekly discussion section
2016 – Spring	Research Methods and Data Analysis II <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lab instructor for 2 weekly lab sections of 12-14 students
2015 – Fall	Introduction to Social Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Head TA○ Instructor for separately graded weekly discussion section
2014 – Spring/Fall	Introduction to Social Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Head TA – Fall 2014○ Instructor for separately graded weekly discussion section○ Guest lecture: <i>Social Psychology and Health</i> (with David Reinhard)
2013 - Fall	Research Methods and Data Analysis I <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lab instructor for 2 weekly lab sections of 12-14 students
2013 - Spring	Educational Psychology
2012 - Fall	Introduction to Psychology

Graduate Teacher Training Program, University of Virginia

2015 – Fall	“Curriculum Development & Instructor-of-Record”
2014 - Fall	“Teaching Discussion Sections”
2012 - Fall	“Lecture/Review TAs”

Graduate Student Advisor, Undergraduate Honor’s Theses, University of Virginia

2016-2017	Shannon Chen
2015-2016	Sarah Alahmadi
2014-2015	Amber Hardin
	Mengran Xu
2013-2014	Samantha Toet

Teaching Assistant, Reed College

2010 - Spring	Research Design and Data Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Guest lecture: <i>General Linear Model</i> (with Stephanie Wormington).
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- Guest lecture: *Non-Normal Distributions* (with Stephanie Wormington).

Academic Tutor, Reed College

2009-2010	Drop-in German Language Lab Tutoring Readings in Contemporary German Literature
2008-2010	First-year German: A Foundation Second-year German: Cultural and Literary Perspectives Advanced German: Berlin Strolls City, Space, Memory (German Literature) German Romanticism
2007-2010	Introduction to Psychology Social Psychology
2006-2010	Introduction to Humanities: Ancient Greece & Rome

Freelance German Tutor, Portland, Oregon, 2009-2010

Portland Elementary School Biology Outreach Teacher, Reed College, 2008-2009

Undergraduate and Post-graduate Research Positions

2018	Data Consultant , Lawrence Yang, <i>Columbia University</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data cleaning, scoring, and validation of mental health IATs
2010-2012	Research Study Coordinator , Project RAD (Retraining Associations about Drinking; PI Kristen Lindgren) <i>University of Washington School of Medicine, Center for the Study of Health & Risk Behaviors</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malleability of implicit attitudes in alcohol use
2009-2010	Research Assistant , Dr. Kathryn Oleson, <i>Reed College Psychology Department</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-worth and self-doubt in academic settings
Summer 2009	Self and Intergroup Relations Laboratory (SIRL) Summer Research Intern , Dr. Brenda Major, <i>University of California Santa Barbara</i> , <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychophysiology of group affirmation and stereotype threat

Professional Activities and Service

Ad hoc reviewer

<i>Addiction</i>	<i>British Journal of Social Psychology</i>
<i>Addictive Behaviors</i>	<i>Emotion</i>
<i>Alcohol and Alcoholism</i>	<i>European Psychologist</i>
<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Field Methods</i>
<i>British Journal of Educational Psychology</i>	<i>Journal of Adolescent Health</i>

*Journal of Experimental Social
Psychology (JESP)*
*Journal of Experimental
Psychology: General (JEP:Gen)*
*Journal of Studies on Alcohol and
Drugs*

*Social Psychological and
Personality Science (SPPS)*
Substance Use and Misuse
Leverhulme Trust

Coreviewer	<i>Psychology of Addictive Behaviors</i> <i>Psychiatry Research</i>
National service	Open Science Collaboration. (2015). Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science. <i>Science</i> , 349, 943.
2012-2018	Social Psychology Area Representative, University of Virginia Psychology Graduate Student Council
2015-2016	Fellow Speaker, University of Virginia, International Max Planck Institute Research School on the Life Course (LIFE)
2016	Graduate Student Poster Award (SPA) reviewer, SPSP 2017
2015	Invited Panel, "Navigating The Institutional Review Board", Political Science Graduate Student Conference, University of Virginia
2013-2014	Graduate Student Coordinator, UVa Social Psychology Brownbag Lunch Speaker Series
2012, 2013	Invited Panel, "Applying to Graduate School," Psychology Distinguished Majors Seminar, University of Virginia
2010	Invited Panel, "What Do You Do With A Psych Degree," CSHRB Undergraduate Research Assistants Meeting, University of Washington,
2009	Invited Panel for Prospective Students, International Opportunities, Reed College
2006, 2007, 2009	Invited Panel for Prospective Students, Division of Philosophy, Religion, Psychology, and Linguistics, Reed College

Professional Affiliations

Association for Psychological Science
Society of Personality and Social Psychology

References

Timothy D. Wilson, Ph.D.	Sherrell J. Aston Professor of Psychology University of Virginia Email: tdw@virginia.edu Phone: 434.924.0674
Gerald Clore, Ph.D.	Commonwealth Professor of Psychology University of Virginia Email: gc4q@virginia.edu Phone: 434.982.0449

Brian Nosek, Ph.D.	Professor of Psychology University of Virginia Email: nosek@virginia.edu Phone: 434.924.0666
Shigehiro Oishi, Ph.D.	Professor of Psychology Columbia University Email: so2238@columbia.edu
Kristen P. Lindgren, Ph.D.	Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences University of Washington Email: kpl9716@u.washington.edu Phone: 206.685.8083
Lisa K. Libby, Ph.D.	Associate Professor of Psychology The Ohio State University Email: libby.10@osu.edu Phone: 614.247.8376