

# Alexandra Halberstadt

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## EDUCATION

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, State College, PA  
Doctoral Student in Clinical Psychology  
Advisor: Dr. Aaron Pincus

August 2019-present

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, Pittsburgh, PA  
Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and Psychology  
GPA: 3.95/4.00  
Senior honors thesis: Predicting Nicotine Dependence from the *DSM-5* Alternative Model of Personality Disorders  
Advisor: Dr. Kasey Creswell

August 2015-May 2019

## PUBLICATIONS

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### In press

Pincus, A.L., Cain, N.M., & Halberstadt, A.L. (in press) Importance of Self and Other in Defining Personality Pathology. *Psychopathology*.

### In preparation

Halberstadt, A.L., Skrzynski, C.J., Wright, A.G.C., & Creswell, K.G. Predicting Smoking and Nicotine Dependence from the *DSM-5* Alternative Model for Personality Pathology.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, State College, PA  
Doctoral Student, Personality Psychology Lab  
Advisor: Dr. Aaron Pincus

August 2019-present

- Write and edit papers and book chapters on findings related to personality and interpersonal dynamics.
- Present research findings through presentations and posters.
- Oversee six undergraduate research assistants as they run participants through a Continuous Assessment of Interpersonal Dynamics (CAID) protocol.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, Pittsburgh, PA  
Research Assistant, Behavioral Health Research Lab  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kasey Creswell

Jan. 2016-May 2019

*Current: Federally funded research project investigating risk factors for alcohol use disorder.*

Jan. 2017-May 2019

- Lead participants through the baseline protocol, including consent, timeline follow-back, and online questionnaires.
- Run participants through the group alcohol administration protocol, which involves placebo deception for some groups.
- Screen participants to determine their eligibility and communicate regularly with them by phone and email.
- Data entry in SPSS, including ecological momentary assessment data.

*Previous: Project investigating how different modalities of assessing stress correlate with physiological responses.*

Jan. 2016-Jan. 2017

- Led participants through the study protocol, including consent and debrief.
- Used biological measures to determine stress (i.e. blood pressure recordings, saliva samples for cortisol).
- Administered the Trier Social Stress Test as both an experimenter and as an evaluator.
- Screened participants to determine their eligibility.

*Previous: Project investigating cognitive mechanisms of craving (e.g., attentional biases) that make it difficult for smokers to resist cravings.*

Jan. 2016-May 2017

- Screened participants to determine eligibility for the protocol, which involved heavy smokers abstaining from smoking for 12 hours.
- Coded videos for specific smoking behaviors.

Psychology Department, Senior Honors Thesis

Advisor: Dr. Kasey Creswell

Topic: Predicting Nicotine Dependence from the *DSM-5* Alternative Model of Personality Disorders

- Awarded the Dietrich Honors Fellowship for full-time independent research over the summer of 2018 at Carnegie Mellon University.
- Performed an extensive literature review on personality disorders and substance use in order to conduct an independent correlational study on 500 US adults over 18 years old.
- Collaborated closely with a faculty mentor in designing surveys in Qualtrics, preparing a manuscript, and coding syntax for statistical analysis.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, Bethesda, MD

Summer Intern, Noninvasive Neuromodulation Unit (National Institute of Mental Health)

May 2017-Jul. 2017

Mentor: Dr. Zhi-De Deng

- Programmed a pattern separation task and masked-word task using PsychoPy for use in later protocols.
- Collected, cleaned, and analyzed EEG pilot data for the pattern separation task.
- Piloted a transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) protocol.
- Reflected on the lab's progress throughout the summer during lab meetings.
- Trained in emergency response to seizures during the TMS protocol.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Psychology, Dr. Kody Manke

Jan. 2019-May 2019

Teaching Assistant, Social Psychology, Dr. Kody Manke

Aug. 2018-Dec. 2018

Teaching Assistant, Abnormal Psychology, Dr. Kasey Creswell

Aug. 2017-Dec. 2017

- Teach two weekly recitations and engage students in discussions about psychology concepts (introduction only).
- Conduct exam review sessions to help students at all levels of knowledge master complex material (social only).
- Hold weekly office hours to answer student questions.
- Grade exams and papers, providing substantive written feedback to students.
- Write both multiple choice and short answer exam questions based on lecture material to assess student knowledge appropriately.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Upcoming

**Halberstadt, A.L.,** Skrzyński, C.J., Wright, A.G.C., & Creswell, K.G. (March 2020). *Predicting Smoking and Nicotine Dependence from the DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Pathology*. Will be presented as part of the Society for Personality Assessment annual conference.

### Past

**Halberstadt, A.** (May 2019). *Predicting Smoking and Nicotine Dependence from the DSM-5 Alternative Model of Personality Disorders*. Presented at Meeting of the Minds, Carnegie Mellon University.

**Halberstadt, A.** (August 2018). *Predicting Nicotine Dependence from the DSM-5 Alternative Model of Personality Disorders*. Presented as part of the Dietrich Honors Fellowship in-progress presentations.

**Halberstadt, A.** (July 2018). *Nicotine Dependence & Maladaptive Personality Traits*. Presented as part of the Three Minute Presentation Competition.

**Halberstadt, A.,** Graci, H., Desaulles, C., Mlinec, M., von Davier, T. (May 2018). *Are Society's Gender Norms Affecting Your Memory?* Presented at the psychology department poster day.

**Halberstadt, A.,** Kogan, J., Beyon, J., Oh, M. (December 2016). *Determination Capsaicin in Fresh Peppers Using High-Pressure Liquid Chromatography and Gas Chromatography*. Presented for Techniques in Quantitative Analysis.

## **AWARDS**

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Richard F. and Barbara Knoebel Yoder Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University  
Dietrich Honors Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon University  
Small Undergraduate Research Grant (Spring 2019)  
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society  
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society  
Psi Chi International Honor Society  
Dean's List, High Honors: 2015-2018  
Gretchen Goldsmith Lankford Teaching Award, 2019

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

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### **Software experience**

- EEGLAB for MATLAB (novice); SPSS; MetaNeuron; Microsoft Office Suite

### **Coding experience**

- Python; R

## **AFFILIATIONS**

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- American Psychological Association
- Society for Personality Assessment

## **REFERENCES**

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### **Aaron Pincus, Ph.D.**

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Department of Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University  
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### **Kasey Creswell, Ph.D.**

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Department of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University  
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### **Zhi-De Deng, Ph.D., MHS(c)**

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### **Erik D. Thiessen, Ph.D.**

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Director, Undergraduate Education  
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