

Alexandra E. Black, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Scholar

Rutgers University

Center for Health, Identity, Behavior and Prevention Studies (CHIBPS)

Contact Information

Email:

alexandra.black@rutgers.edu

Rutgers Directory:

<https://sph.rutgers.edu/directory/alexandra-e-black-phd>

Professional Website:

alexandraeblackphd.com

Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Scholar

June 2026-present

Rutgers University

School of Public Health

Center for Health, Identity, Behavior & Prevention Studies

Faculty Associate

January 2026-May 2026

Arizona State University

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Postdoctoral Scholar

January 2024-January 2026

Arizona State University

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

August 2022-December 2023

University of Pittsburgh

Department of Psychology

Education

Ph.D.

Social-Personality Psychology

2022

Quantitative Focus*

University of Rochester

Dissertation: *Security-enhancing relationship strategies to buffer attachment anxiety from alternative threat*

M.A. Social-Personality Psychology 2019
University of Rochester

B.S. Psychology 2016
The Ohio State University
Honors Research Distinction
Summa Cum Laude (GPA = 3.901)
Honors Thesis: *Characteristics of self-protective and wholehearted people*

*I earned a quantitative certificate by taking additional advanced quantitative courses throughout graduate school (i.e., beyond the core ANOVA and regression courses), attending departmental statistics discussions, and giving a presentation on an advanced quantitative topic outside of the material covered in classes. My presentation was on dyadic mediation (APIMeM).

RESEARCH

Research Experience

PUBLICATIONS

*Denotes preregistered projects

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

***Black, A. E.**, Sharabi, L., Cloonan, S., & Beesley, K. (2026). Is my partner watching thirst traps? Associations between perceptions of a partner's Tik Tok alternatives and relationship quality. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075261430780>

Black, A. E., Hossain, M., Rutherford, H.J.V., & Nelson-Coffey, S. K. (2025). Perceived connectedness during the perinatal period: Implications for parent and child well-being. Manuscript under revision for resubmission to *The Journal of Family Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0001437>

***Black, A. E.** (2025). Examining the association between perceived partner commitment and relationship feelings among anxiously attached people at the daily level. *The Journal of Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.2025.2550025>

***Black, A. E.** (2023). Responding to threatening online alternatives: Perceiving the partner's commitment through their social media behaviors. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 41(5), 1091-1112.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075231186960>

Shrout, M.R., **Black, A. E.**, Wilson, S., Renna, M., Madison, A., Kiecolt-Glaser, J. K., Reis, H.T. (2023). Aging couples' emotional and physiological synchrony during positive, supportive, and conflictual discussions across the day. *Biological Psychology*, 177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsycho.2023.108500>

***Black, A. E.** & Reis, H.T. (2022). Is my partner committed to me or tempted by others?: Perceptions of the partner's devaluation of attractive alternatives. *Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cresp.2022.100042>

Pollard, A., **Black, A. E.**, Rogge, R. D. (2022). Clarifying anticipated feelings of jealousy: Development and validation of the anticipated jealousy scale. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 51, 1471-1494. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-021-02184-5>

Jamieson, J. P., **Black, A. E.**, Pelaia, L. E., Gravelding, H., Gordils, J., & Reis, H. T. (2022). Reappraising stress arousal improves affective, neuroendocrine, and academic performance outcomes in community college classrooms. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(1), 197-212. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0000893>

Jamieson, J. P., **Black, A. E.**, Pelaia, L., & Reis, H. T. (2021). The impact of math anxiety on stress appraisals, neuroendocrine responses, and academic performance in a community college sample. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 113(6), 1164-1176. <https://doi.org/10.1037/edu0000636>

Manuscripts Under Review:

Black, A. E. & Durka, M. K. (under review). Mental health inequality as a consequence of biphobia: The Model of Bisexual Stigma and Mental Health. Manuscript under review for submission to *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.

Book chapters:

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2019). Responsiveness. In *The Macmillan Encyclopedia of Families, Marriages, and Intimate Relationships* (Vol 2, pp. 754-756). Macmillan Reference USA.

Research Experience

PRESENTATIONS

Chaired Symposium:

Black, A. E. (2021, February). *How do people protect their relationships in the face of alternative threat?* Chaired symposium presented at the 22nd Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Virtual Conference.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations:

Black, A. E. (expected July, 2026). *The Model of Bisexual Stigma and Mental Health: Testing a brief bi-affirming psychosocial intervention.* Talk presented at the International Association of Relationship Research (IARR) Main Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.

Black, A. E. & Caselli, A. (expected July, 2026). *Examining perceived alternative threat within interracial relationships.* Talk presented at the International Association of Relationship Research (IARR) Main Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.

Black, A. E. & Nelson-Coffey, K. (October, 2025). *The Model of Bisexual Stigma and Mental Health: Pathways to developing bisexual interventions.* Talk presented at the International Bisexuality+ Research Conference, Virtual.

Black, A. E. & Nelson-Coffey, K. (July, 2025). *The Model of Bisexual Stigma and Mental Health: Identifying mechanisms that explain the link between biphobia and mental health symptoms.* Talk presented at the International Association of Relationship Researchers (IARR) Mini Conference (Gender, Sexuality, and Relationships), London, England (UK).

Sharabi, L., **Black, A.E.**, Cloonan, S., Beesley, K. (July, 2025). *Gender differences in derogating Tik Tok alternatives and relationship quality.* Data blitz presented at the International Association of Relationship Research (IARR) Mini Conference (Gender, Sexuality, and Relationships), London, England (UK).

Black, A. E. & Nelson-Coffey, K. (April, 2025). *Resilience against experiences of biphobia: Identifying mechanisms that explain the link between biphobia and mental health symptoms.* Talk presented at the 4th annual Resilience in Social Environments (RISE) Conference, Tempe, AZ.

Black, A. E., Nelson-Coffey, K., & Rutherford, H. J. V. (September, 2024). *Buffering attachment anxiety during the transition to parenthood: Examining the social connectedness model.* Talk presented at the Arizona Postdoctoral Research Conference, Tucson, AZ.

Black, A.E., Sharabi, L., Cloonan, S., Beesley, K., Letniku, A. (July, 2024). *For You(r Partner): The impact couples' Tik Tok For You Pages have on romantic relationships.* Data blitz presented at the International Association of Relationship Research (IARR) Main Conference, Boston, MA.

Black, A. E., Nelson-Coffey, K., & Rutherford, H. J. V. (April, 2024). *Buffering attachment anxiety during the transition to parenthood: Examining the Social Connectedness Model.* Data Blitz presented at the 3rd annual Resilience in Social Environments (RISE) Conference, Tempe, AZ.

Black, A. E. (2023, May). *Empirically testing the ASEM: Specific routes to promote momentary security for insecure partners*. Data Blitz presented at the International Association of Relationship Researchers (IARR) Mini Conference (Resilience in Social Environments), Tempe, AZ.

Shrout, M. R., **Black, A.**, Renna, M. E., Madison, A. A., Wilson, S. J., Kiecolt-Glaser, J. K., & Reis, H. (2022, July). *In sync: Middle-aged and older couples' emotional and physiological synchrony across positive, supportive, upsetting, and contentious discussions*. Talk presented at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) Virtual Conference.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2021, August). *Can I trust you around attractive people?: Perceptions of the partner's devaluation of alternatives*. Single talk presented at the International Association of Relationship Researchers (IARR) Virtual Conference.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2021, February). *Is my partner interested in others?: Perceptions of the partner's devaluation of alternatives*. Chaired symposium talk presented at the 22nd Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Virtual Conference.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2021, February). *Is my partner interested in attractive others?: Perceptions of the partner's devaluation of alternatives*. Data blitz talk presented at the Close Relationships Preconference for the 22nd Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Virtual Conference.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2019, May). *Perceptions of the partner's devaluation of attractive alternatives*. Talk presented at the 6th Annual Social Psychologists Around Western New York (SPAWN) Conference, Syracuse, NY.

Peer-Reviewed Poster Presentations:

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2020, February). *Is your eye roaming?: Examining trust as a buffer against alternative threat*. Poster presented at the 21st Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2018, July). *Perceiving targets as responsive increases resilience when experiencing daily setback*. Poster presented at the International Association of Relationship Researchers (IARR) Main Conference, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2018, May). *Perceiving targets as responsive increases resilience when experiencing daily setback*. Poster presented at the 5th Annual Social Psychologists Around Western New York (SPAWN) Conference, Buffalo, NY.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2017, August). *Perseverance and passion for one's partner: Exploring grit in a relational context.* Poster presented at the 4th Annual Social Psychologists Around Western New York (SPAWN) Conference, Rochester, NY.

Black, A. E. & Reis, H. T. (2017, June). *Perseverance and passion for one's partner: Exploring grit in a relational context.* Poster presented at the New Scholars Workshop for the International Association of Relationship Researchers (IARR) Mini Conference, Syracuse, NY.

Black, A. E. & Crocker, J. (2016, May). *Characteristics of self-protective and wholehearted people.* Poster presented at the 88th Annual Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Black, A. E. & Crocker, J. (2016, March). *Characteristics of self-protective and wholehearted people.* Poster presented at the 20th Annual Denman Forum, Columbus, OH.

Invited Academic Presentations:

Dyadic Designs Statistical Workshop Series

Black, A. E. (2025, April). *Analyzing APIMs and APIMeMs.* Workshop taught to the ASU West Psychology graduate and undergraduate students, Glendale, AZ.

Black, A. E. (2025, February). *Actor Partner Interdependence Modeling (APIM) and Dyadic Mediation (APIMeM).* Workshop taught to the ASU West Psychology graduate and undergraduate students, Glendale, AZ.

Black, A. E. (2024, November). *Introduction to Dyadic Designs.* Workshop taught to ASU West Psychology graduate and undergraduate students, Glendale, AZ.

Additional Presentations

Black, A. E. (2024, October). *Tips for Teaching Statistics.* Talk given to the ASU West Statistics and Methods (SAM) Lab team of graduate students, Glendale, AZ.

Black, A. E. (2021, April). *Dyadic Mediation: Testing an APIMeM Design with MEDYAD.* Talk presented in fulfillment of the quantitative certificate requirements during an HSDG meeting, Rochester, NY.

Black, A. E. (2020, October). *Perceptions of the partner's devaluation of alternatives and additional relationship research findings.* Talk given for the Social Psychology in a Sociological Perspective Course at Ohio State taught by Kim Lopez, Columbus, OH.

Research Experience

ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE TRAINING

Introduction to STATA Webinar

Arizona State University
Instructors: Statistics and Methods (SAM) Lab
Fall 2024

R Workshop Series

Arizona State University
Instructors: Statistics and Methods (SAM) Lab
Spring 2024

Studying Conversations as Dynamic Dyadic Systems Workshop

Webinar
Instructors: M. Brinberg, D. Solomon, G. Bodie, S. Jones, and N. Ram
Summer 2023

Introduction to R Workshop

University of Pittsburgh Webinar
Instructor: J. Girard
Summer 2023

Introduction to Missing Data Analysis

APA Webinar
Instructor: C. Enders
Spring 2023

Mixed Effects Models Graduate Course

The University of Pittsburgh
Instructor: S. Fraundorf
Fall 2022

Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling Webinar

CenterStat Webinar
Instructors: D. Bauer, and P. Curran
Spring 2021

Actor-Partner Interdependence Modeling Workshop

IARR Webinar
Instructor: S. Olderbak
Fall 2020

Structural Equation Modeling II Graduate Course

The University of Rochester
Instructor: B. Abar - Spring 2019

Structural Equation Modeling I Graduate Course

The University of Rochester

Instructor: L. Handley

Fall 2018

Meta-Analysis Workshop

The University of Rochester

Instructor: D. Dodell-Feder

Summer 2018

Measurement and Evaluation Graduate Course

The University of Rochester

Instructor: R. Rogge

Spring 2018

Hierarchical Linear Modeling Graduate Course

The University of Rochester

Instructor: R. Rogge

Fall 2017

Intensive Longitudinal Methods Week-Long Workshop

The University of Massachusetts Amherst

Instructors: N. Bolger, and J. P. Laurenceau

Summer 2017

Regression Graduate Course

The University of Rochester

Instructor: H. Reis

Spring 2017

Data Analysis I Graduate Course

The University of Rochester

Instructor: M. Zuckerman

Fall 2016

Research Experience

STATISTICAL CONSULTING

2025

Project: Examining entitlement of sexual pleasure within relationships

Design: Dyadic

P.I.: Dr. Verena Klein

University of Southampton

Role: I consulted on the APIM and APIMeM models for a revision received from the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

2020-2021

Project: Examining math performance anxiety among a community college sample

Design: Longitudinal (4 time-points)

P.I.: Dr. Jeremy Jamieson

University of Rochester

Role: I analyzed all of the mediational and multilevel models, wrote the results sections, and co-authored both papers (Jamieson et al., 2020; 2022).

Research Experience

AWARDS AND FUNDING

2025 Recipient of the Institute of Social Science Research (ISSR) seed grant, Arizona State University (\$3,209)

Project: *Increasing Self-Acceptance and Protecting Mental Health Among Bisexual People*

2023 Nominated x2 for the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award (FETA), University of Pittsburgh

2023 University of Pittsburgh Psychology Department Research Funding (\$1,000)

2021 American Psychological Association Dissertation Award (\$1,000)

2021 Herbert Fink Research Award (\$800)

2021 University of Rochester Psychology Department Dissertation Grant (\$1,000)

2020 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference Graduate Registration Award (\$500)

2018 International Association for Relationship Research Conference Student Travel Award (\$250)

2016 Denman Research Forum Awardee (\$250)

Grant Applications

Demonstration of grant submission experience

2025

Promoting Security Among Insecurely Attached Parents

ASU RISE Initiative Research Collaboration Grant

Role: P.I.

Amount requested: \$2,721

2024-2025

Protecting Mental Health and Reducing Substance Use in the Bisexual Community

BCBS of Arizona Foundation Grant

Role: P.I.

Amount requested: \$96,634 across 1 year

2021-2023

The Importance of Buffering Dementia Caregiving Dyads from Attachment-Related Fears During the Early Stages of Dementia

NIH F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship

Role: P.I.

Amount requested: \$211,494 across 3 years

2017

Examining Theory of Mind During Threats to Romantic Relationships

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Program (GRFP)

Role: Graduate student

Amount requested: \$53,000 across 1 year

Research Experience

MEDIA ATTENTION

PSY POST (April 14th, 2026): “New study links watching TikTok “thirst traps” to lower relationship trust and satisfaction” <https://www.psypost.org/new-study-links-watching-tiktok-thirst-traps-to-lower-relationship-trust-and-satisfaction/>

HUFF POST (July 3rd, 2024): “We asked people to share the best love and dating advice they’ve ever received” <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/people-share-the-best-love-and-dating-advice | 6682f951e4b05d5a5eb2e5ea>

SPSP PSYCHOLOGY NEWS ROUNDUP (June 14th, 2024): “New study pinpoints online behaviors that best signal romantic commitment”

HUFF POST (June 14th, 2024): “Forget ‘Instagram Official’: If you want to make a partner feel secure, do this instead” <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/instagram-behavior-in-new-relationship | 666a2f7de4b076909e1d059c>

PSY POST (May 29th, 2024): “New study pinpoints online behaviors that best signal romantic commitment” <https://www.psypost.org/new-study-pinpoints-online-behaviors-that-best-signal-romantic-commitment/>

PITTWIRE (February 14th, 2024): “Attraction is key to keeping your relationship alive – but not how you think” <https://www.pitt.edu/pittwire/features-articles/relationship-security-study>

TEACHING

Teaching Experience

Arizona State University

Faculty Associate

Fundamentals of Quantitative Methods Graduate Course, Spring 2026
Attachment Theory Seminar Graduate Course, Spring 2026
Quantitative Analysis III Graduate Course, Fall 2025
Dyadic Designs Workshop Series, Fall 2024-Spring 2025

Guest Lecturer

Graduate Professional Issues Guest Lecture, Spring 2025
Graduate Attachment Seminar Guest Lecture, Spring 2025

Teaching Experience

The University of Pittsburgh

Teaching Assistant Professor

PSY 1137: Close Relationships Seminar, Fall 2022, 2023; Spring 2023
PSY 1145: Advanced Research Methods in Social Psychology, Spring 2023; Fall 2023
PSY 0037: Research Methods Lab, Fall 2022
PSY 0105: Introduction to Social Psychology, Summer 2023

Teaching Experience

The University of Rochester

*Denotes teaching the parallel writing course

Lecturer

PSYC 161: Social Psychology & Individual Differences, Summer 2021, 2022

Graduate-Level Lab Instructor

PSYC 504: Data Analysis I, Fall 2019; 2020

Graduate-Level Statistics Tutor

PSYC 504: Data Analysis I, Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant

PSYC 264: Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, Spring 2019; 2021
PSYC 161: Social Psychology & Individual Differences, Spring 2020
PSYC 210: Social Cognition, Fall 2018
PSYC 209: Psychology of Human Sexuality*, Spring 2017; 2018
PSYC 263: Relationship Processes and Emotion, Fall 2016; 2017

Guest Lecturer

PSYC 263: Relationship Processes and Emotions, Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

PSYC 209: Psychology of Human Sexuality, Spring 2017, 2018; Summer, 2017

PSYC 210: Social Cognition, Fall 2018

Teaching Experience

The Ohio State University

Guest Lecturer

SOCIOL 2370: Social Psychology in a Sociological Perspective, Fall 2020

Undergraduate-Level Statistics Tutor

Fall 2015-Spring 2016

MENTORSHIP

Mentorship Experience

Arizona State University (January 2024-present)

- Served as the team lead on the New Parents Experiences and Relationships (PEAR) Study
- The PEAR Study is a triadic, longitudinal study across five months (four surveys and two developmental assessments) and two data-collection sites (ASU and Yale)
 - Interviewed, selected, and trained a team of fifteen undergraduate and Masters-level students at ASU and two undergraduate students at Yale
 - Aided with survey design and implementation
 - Developed the language used by the team to communicate with participants
 - Developed the study process across the team members and across sites (ASU and Yale)
 - Trained each person on their individual recruitment tasks
 - Monitored each team member's progress with the study and provided constructive feedback
 - Communicated with team members about time-sensitive participants
 - Assisted in the team being trained on the Bayley developmental assessment
 - Co-developed the lab visit script
 - Trained the team on the in-person laboratory visits
 - Led weekly meetings to discuss progress of the study
 - Developed the online and Connect surveys and online participant recruitment procedures
 - Trained the team on the new recruitment procedure and participant process when transitioning to online data collection
 - Integrated new research assistants and graduate students within the PEAR study process as we experienced multiple team transitions
- Met with students one-on-one outside of the PEAR setting to discuss graduate school and research practices more broadly

- Provided letters of recommendation
- Provided guidance on a master's student prospectus project examining experiences of biphobia
 - Consulted with the student's committee members on the study design
 - Met one-on-one with the student to advise further on the study methods
 - Worked with the master's student on a manuscript that has been submitted for journal review (Black et al., under review)

Mentorship Experience

The University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2022-Fall 2023)

- Aided with undergraduate students' adjustment to in-person classes after the pandemic
- Met with students during office hours and class to discuss graduate school applications and how to navigate academia
- Wrote 20+ letters of recommendation for current and previous undergraduate students
- Attended the 2023 Psychology undergraduate celebration
- Led a team of researchers on a project following a conference lunch discussion and mentored graduate students throughout the process
 - Met one-on-one with graduate students as needed

Mentorship Experience

The University of Rochester (2017-2022)

- Trained and led a team of eight undergraduate research assistants on coding over 100 videos on the construct of responsiveness during couples' capitalization conversations
- Trained and led two teams (4 and 8) undergraduate research assistants on a dyadic laboratory experimental study
- Mentored undergraduate students one-on-one with data collection and cleaning
- Advised undergraduate students on graduate school admissions
 - Provided letters of recommendation
- Mentored graduate student colleagues on applying diversity, equity, and inclusion principles to survey design, measurement language, and academic interactions

SERVICE

Service Experience

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Member

The International Association of Relationship Researchers (IARR)
Summer 2024-current

Psychology Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Community (PEIC) Member

LGBTQIA+ Community Group
The University of Pittsburgh
Fall 2022-Fall 2023

TOPICS Leader

The University of Rochester
Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Service Experience

Academic

Postdoctoral Association Council Member

Social Events Coordinator
Arizona State University
Summer-Fall 2025

Journal Peer Reviewer

American Journal of Public Health
Journal of Family Psychology
Adversity and Resilience Science
Journal of Social and Personal Relationships
Psychological Test Adaptation and Development
Social Psychological and Personality Science

Psi Chi Speaker

The University of Pittsburgh
Spring 2023; Fall 2023

Judge for the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

The University of Pittsburgh
Spring 2023

Psi Chi Volunteer Chair
The Ohio State University
2014-2016

Additional Training

Bayley Child Development Assessment Training
Summer 2024

Suicide-Prevention Training
safeTALK (suicide alertness for everyone)
January 24th, 2025
Trainers: Jennifer Grunewald, M.A., LPC (Trainer number: 52570)
Austin Gamble M.Ed., LASAC (Trainer number: 47719)

Professional Affiliations

Resilience in Social Environments (RISE)
2024-2026

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
2019-present

International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)
2017-present

Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society
Full Member
2015-present

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
2015-present

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
2015-present

Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology
2014-present

Professional References

Dr. Liesel Sharabi

Associate Professor
Hugh Downs School of Human Communication
Arizona State University | Tempe, AZ
Email: liesel.sharabi@asu.edu

Dr. Jennifer Ganger

Teaching Full Professor
Department of Psychology
University of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA
Email: jganger@pitt.edu

Dr. Abigail Caselli

Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
Western New England University | Springfield, MA
Email: abigail.caselli@wne.edu