

BRENDA STRAKA

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Education

Duke University, Doctoral Student Social Psychology, Psychology and Neuroscience Department Advisor: Sarah Gaither, Ph.D.	August 2017 – Present Ph.D. Expected May 2022
University of Virginia, B.A., High Distinction Major: Psychology, Cognitive Science, Minor in English Advisor: James Morris, Ph.D. Thesis: Autistic traits in neurotypicals and preference for touch: Investigating C tactile afferent stimulation	May 2017 Cumulative GPA: 3.604
University of Salamanca, International Courses Spanish Language and Conversation & Composition	Summer 2015

Research & Professional Experience

Duke Identity and Diversity Lab Advisor: Sarah Gaither, Ph.D	August 2017 – Present
The Society for Personality and Social Psychology Co-editor of monthly SPSPotlight Student Newsletter	August 2017 – Present
Cognitive Aging Neuroimaging Project, University of Virginia Research Assistant to James Morris, Ph.D and Timothy Salthouse, Ph.D	Spring 2017 – Summer 2017
Distinguished Majors Program (DMP) Thesis, University of Virginia Title: Autistic traits in neurotypicals and preference for touch: Investigating C tactile afferent stimulation	Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Social Neuroscience Lab, University of Virginia Research Assistant to James Morris, Ph.D	Fall 2014 – Spring 2017
Cognitive Aging Lab, University of Virginia Research Assistant to Timothy Salthouse, Ph.D	Summer 2016
Auditory and Visual Perception Lab, University of Virginia Research Assistant to Michael Kubovy, Ph.D	Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Awards and Research Funding

2018

Graduate Summer Funding Fellowship, Duke University
 Interdisciplinary Behavioral Research Center Grant (\$600): *Expectations of Exclusion and Emoji Use Studies*

2017

High Distinction, University of Virginia
 Distinguish Majors Program (DMP)

2015

College of Arts and Science Dean's List

Research Presentations & Posters

**designates mentored undergraduate student*

Straka, B.C., Stanaland, A., Gaither, S.E., (2019, to be submitted). Who Can Be in a Group? Children's Perceptions of Real-World Social Groups and Mutual Intentions Framework. *Poster to be submitted for Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Baltimore, MD.*

Straka, B. C. & Gaither, S. E., (2019, submitted). Expectations of Exclusion. *Talk submitted for The Society of Southern Social Psychologist Conference, Raleigh, NC.*

*DeLoatch, M., Brauher, K., **Straka, B. C.**, & Gaither, S. E. (2019, to be submitted). The Role of Gender on Responses to Biracial Identity Denial. *Poster to be submitted for The Society of Southern Social Psychologist Conference, Raleigh, NC.*

*Wu, F., **Straka, B. C.**, & Gaither, S. E. (2019, submitted). Intersectionality of Multiracial Identity and Sexual Orientation on Alcohol Use. *Poster submitted for The Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, OR.*

Straka, B. C. & Gaither, S. E., (2019, submitted). The Face Behind the Screen: Diverse Emojis and Racial Group Membership. *Poster submitted for The Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, OR.*

*DeLoatch, M., **Straka, B. C.**, & Gaither, S. E. (2018, June). The Effect of Roommate Race on Future Cross-Race Interactions. *Poster presented at the Duke University Vertical Integration Poster Session.*

*Wu, F., **Straka, B. C.**, & Gaither, S. E. (2018, June). Intersectionality of Multiracial Identity and Sexual Orientation on Alcohol Use. *Poster presented at the Duke University Vertical Integration Poster Session, SPSP SPUR Summer Student.*

Straka, B. C. (2018, April). Expectations of Exclusion. *Talk presented at Duke University First Year Festival Presentation.*

Straka, B. C., Lancaster, K., Morris, J. (2018, March). Autistic Traits in Neurotypicals and Preference for Touch: Investigating C Tactile Afferent Stimulation. *Poster presented for The Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, GA*

Straka, B. C. (2017, April). Autistic traits in neurotypicals and preference for touch: Investigating C tactile afferent stimulation. *Selected Speaker, L. Starling Reid Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Virginia.*

Manuscripts Submitted or In Preparation

Albuja, A.F., Sanchez, D.T., Gaither, S.E., **Straka, B.C.** (submitted August, 2018). Psychological Stress Responses to Bicultural and Biracial Identity Denial. *Invited submission to Journal of Social Issues.* Manuscript submitted for publication.

Straka, B.C., Gaither, S.E., Chen, J.M. (in preparation). Judging a Face By Its Color: Effect of Phenotypicality of Biracial Faces on Monoracial's Impressions. Manuscript in preparation.

Guest Lectures & Invited Talks

2018

Guest Lectures:

Social Psychology (PSY 104). *The Face Behind the Screen: Emoji Use and Racial Identity.* Spring, 2018

The Role of Race & Culture on Development (PSY 435S). *Racial Identity Development.* Spring, 2018

Role of Race & Culture on Development (PSY 435S). *Colorblindness.* Spring, 2018

2017

Duke SWIRL (Students With Interracial Legacies). *Multiculturalism and Race in America*, Invited Speaker

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant Social Psychology (PSY 104)	Fall 2018
Co-teacher: Academic Writing Workshop <i>Weekly workshop for underrepresented students</i>	Summer 2018
Selected Graduate Student Mentor Duke Vertical Integration Program (VIP) Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR)	Summer 2018
Teaching Apprenticeship: Role of Race & Culture on Development (PSY 435S)	Spring 2018
Books Behind Bars , University of Virginia <i>Taught Russian Literature class at juvenile correctional facility</i>	Fall 2016
Madison House Volunteer , University of Virginia <i>Tutor at Cale Elementary in Charlottesville, VA</i>	2013 – 2014

Community Engagement

Families Moving Forward <i>Volunteer for Affordable Housing Placement</i>	Summer 2018 – Present
Durham Medical Orchestra , Durham, NC <i>Member of community orchestra uniting health-related professionals to foster wellness and cultural enrichment</i>	Spring 2018 – Present
Waltz Orchestra, Annual Viennese Ball , Duke University <i>Fundraising performance for Duke University Wind Symphony</i>	Spring 2018

Professional Affiliations

Student Committee Member: Society for Personality and Social Psychology	Fall 2017 – Present
Society for Personality and Social Psychology	Summer 2017 – Present
Association for Psychological Science	Fall 2017 – Present
Undergraduate Research Network at UVA	Fall 2015 – Spring 2017
National Society of Collegiate Scholars	Spring 2014 – Spring 2017
University Psychological Society	Fall 2013 – Spring 2017

Technical and Other Skill

Computer: Python, SPSS, RStudio, Qualtrics, SAS, OpenRefine, Excel

Foreign Language: Conversational Spanish, advanced reading and writing

Music: Classical Viola, 13 years