

Curriculum Vitae
LaCount “JJ” Togans

Department of Psychology

Lafayette College

Easton, PA 18042

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Academic Employment

2024 – Present Assistant Professor of Psychology, Lafayette College (Easton, PA, USA)

Education

2024 Ph.D. in Social Psychology, Miami University (Oxford, OH, USA)

2018 M.A. in Cognitive and Social Processes, Ball State University (Muncie, IN, USA)

2016 B.A. in Psychology, cum laude, Salisbury University (Salisbury, MD, USA)

Publications

* Denotes equal authorship

† Denotes student co-author

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2026). How should I feel about this? Investigating the emotions and processes involved in indulging in guilty pleasures. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 52, 1812-1828. DOI: 10.1177/01461672251327440

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2024). Blinded by wistfulness: On how nostalgia strengthens attitudes. *Cognition and Emotion*, 38, 913-927. DOI: 10.1080/02699931.2024.2336196

Luttrell, A., Petty, R. E., Chang, J., & **Togans, L. J.** (2022). The role of dialecticism in objective and subjective attitudinal ambivalence. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 61, 826-841. DOI: 10.1111/bjso.12504

Togans, L. J., Holtgraves, T., Kwon, G., & Morales Zelaya, T. E. (2021). Digitally saving face: An experimental investigation of cross-cultural differences in the use of emoticons and emoji. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 186, 277-288. DOI: 10.1016/j.pragma.2021.09.016

Luttrell, A., & **Togans, L. J.** (2021). The stability of moralized attitudes over time. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 47, 551-564. DOI: 10.1177/0146167220935737

Kite, M. E., **Togans, L. J.**, & Schultz, T. J. (2019). Stability or change? A cross-cultural look at attitudes toward sexual and gender identity minorities. In K. D. Keith (Ed.). *Cross-cultural psychology: Contemporary themes & perspectives (2nd ed.)*. Oxford, England: Blackwell. DOI: 10.1002/9781119519348.ch20

Kite, M. E., **Togans, L. J.**, & Case, K. A. (2018). Cross-cultural attitudes toward sexual minorities. In K. D. Keith (Ed.). *Culture across the curriculum: A psychology teacher's handbook*. Cambridge University Press. DOI:10.1017/97815316996706.022

Manuscripts Under Review or In Preparation

Togans, L. J., Chu, C., & Mastrokalos, E. † (in prep). *Looser classroom cultures foster greater belonging and academic self-efficacy among undergraduates*.

Togans, L. J., Claypool, H. M., & Daskal, H. † (in prep). *Risky revelations: How sharing guilty pleasures can bolster and break social bonds*

Togans, L. J., Folmsbee, J., & Claypool, H. M. (in prep). *Examining the affective and cognitive consequences of parasocial breakups*

Togans, L. J., McConnell, A. R., & Davidson, K. † (in prep). *Screen time vs. snack time: On the emotional consequences of common guilty pleasures*.

Togans, L. J., & Mejia Molina, Y. M. † (in prep). *Indulging in morally transgressive guilty pleasures disrupts self-perceptions*.

Rosenberger, E. J.*, **Togans, L. J.***, Folmsbee, J., & Claypool, H. M. (in prep). *Psychology vs. psychological science: How labels influence women's interest in the study of human behavior*

Luttrell, A.*, & **Togans, L. J.*** (in prep). *Cultural tightness-looseness' impact on attitudinal moralization processes across the United States*.

Invited Research Presentations

2026, May	Duck Social Cognition Conference
2024, March	St. Mary's College of Maryland
2023, December	University of Richmond
2023, November	Lafayette College
2023, November	Whitman College
2023, November	Union College (New York)

Conference Presentations

Lin, J. †, & **Togans, L. J.** (2026). *How indulging in guilty pleasures privately affects self-concept clarity*. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.

- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2026).** *Investigating emotional differences between food and media-based guilty pleasures.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Togans, L. J., & Claypool, H. M. (2025).** *Risky revelations: How sharing guilty pleasures can bolster and break social bonds.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2025).** *Screen time vs. snack time: On the emotional consequences of common guilty pleasures.* Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Folmsbee, J., **Togans, L. J., & Claypool, H. M. (2025).** *Effects of parasocial breakups on self-concept clarity and belonging.* Paper presented at the Social Cognition Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2024).** *How should I feel about this? Investigating the emotions elicited when indulging in guilty pleasures.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Ortega, H.[†], Wenzinger, E.[†], **Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2024).** *Examining the metacognitive properties of attitudes toward guilty pleasures.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2024).** *How should I feel about this? Investigating the emotions elicited when indulging in guilty pleasures.* Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Goldman, A., & **Togans, L. J. (2022).** *The influence of nostalgia on subjective cognitive impairment in older adults.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.
- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2021).** *Blinded by wistfulness: Nostalgia's impact on attitude strength.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2020).** *Blinded by nostalgia: Nostalgia's impact on attitude strength.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL. Event cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Togans, L. J., Kwon, G, Morales Zelaya, T. E., & Holtgraves, T. (2020).** *Cross-cultural differences in the use of emoji in text messages.* Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2019).** *Differences in self-construal influence primacy effects in impression formation.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Morales Zelaya, T. E., **Togans, L. J., Kwon, G., & Holtgraves, T. (2019).** *Cross-cultural differences in the use of emoticon and emoji.* Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.

Togans, L. J. (2019). *High-context communication: Mediating Eastern cultures' collectivism and emotional intelligence*. Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, Portland, OR.

Togans, L. J., & Kite, M. E. (2018). *Using face-morphing to demonstrate a double standard of aging*. Paper presented at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues annual conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Jung, K., **Togans, L. J., & Jenkins, M. E.** (2016). *Life orientation as a protective factor against perceived stress on academic self-discipline*. Paper presented at the American Psychological Association Convention, Denver, CO.

Campus Presentations

Togans, L. J. (2024). *How should I feel about this? Investigating the emotions elicited when indulging in guilty pleasures*. Talk presented at Psi Chi, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

Togans, L. J. (2024). *Cut me some SLAC: An academic job market experience*. Talk presented at the Social Psychological Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2023). *How should I feel about this? Investigating the emotions elicited when indulging in guilty pleasures*. Talk presented at the Social Psychological Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2022). *How does that make you feel? Exploring how self-conscious emotions influence attitudes*. Talk presented at the Social Psychological Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J., Holtgraves, T., Kwon, G., & Morales Zelaya, T. E. (2022). *Digitally saving face: An experimental investigation of cross-cultural differences in the use of emoticons and emoji*. Talk presented at the Social Psychology Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J., Jacobs, T. P., Das, A., Knauff, K., Dreyer-Oren, S., Wick, S., Wargel, K., LaPena, N., Humphrey, B. T., Goldman, A., Jones, L., & Uzoegwu, K. (2021). *DIGging into the language of racism*. Talk presented for 4th annual Psychology Department Diversity Teach-in, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2020). *Blinded by wistfulness: Nostalgia's impact on attitude strength*. Talk presented at the Social Psychological Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Das, A., Wargel, K., Greyer, R., **Togans, L. J., Kerr, A., Sneddon, E. A., & Davidson, L.** (2020). *DIGging into privilege*. Talk presented for Psychology Department Colloquium, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Klass, A.,[†] **Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R.** (2020). *The impact of dichotomous and relativistic thinking on perceptions of loneliness*. Paper presented at the Virtual Hinkle Poster Session, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J. (2020). *Microaggressions: The consequences of “well-intended” intergroup communication*. Talk presented at the Diversity Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH. Event cancelled due to COVID-19.

Togans, L. J., Holtgraves, T., Kwon, G., & Morales Zelaya, T. E. (2020). *Digitally saving face: Cross-cultural differences in emoticon and emoji usage in text messages*. Data blitz presented at the Social Psychology Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH. Event cancelled due to COVID-19.

Das, A., Wargel, K., Greyer, R., **Togans, L. J.**, Kerr, A., Sneddon, E. A., Davidson, L. (2020). *DIGging into privilege*. Talk presented at the Psychology Department’s Diversity Teaching, Miami University, Oxford, OH. Event cancelled due to COVID-19.

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2019). *Blinded by nostalgia: Examining nostalgia’s impact on attitude strength*. Talk presented at the Social Psychological Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Togans, L. J., & McConnell, A. R. (2019). *Differences in self-construal influence primacy effects*. Data blitz presented at the Social Psychological Research Interest Group, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Media Coverage and Public Engagement

Togans, L. J. (November 2025). Guilty pleasures are more than just giving in to temptation. *Psyche*. [[link](#)]

Witmer, C. (February 2025). Researching your guilty pleasures. *The Lafayette*. [[link](#)]

Togans, L. J. (November 2024). How nostalgia strengthens opinions. *Character and Context Blog (SPSP)*. [[link](#)]

Johnson, C. (November 2021). New research shows that where we come from can influence our use of emojis. *Miami University News*. [[link](#)]

Teaching

Courses Taught as Instructor of Record

Lafayette College

- PSYC 490 – Capstone: Guilty Pleasures & Leisure (2 semesters)
- PSYC 327 – Social Psychology II, lecture and lab
- PSYC 219 – Cross-cultural Psychology (3 semesters)
- PSYC 203 – Design & Analysis, lecture and lab (3 semesters)
- FYS 142 – The Psychology of Reality TV

Miami University

- PSY 327 - Social Cognition (4 semesters)
- PSY 294 - Writing and Research Methods, lecture and lab (2 semesters)

Course Assistant

Miami University

- PSY 110 - Foundational Experiences in Psychology
- PSY 111 - Introductory Psychology
- PSY 221 - Introduction to Social Psychology

Ball State University

- PSYS 241 - Statistics in Psychology
- PSYS 284 - Research Methods in Psychological Science
- PSYS 595 - Effective Diversity Education

Mentoring

Undergraduate theses, advanced research, and independent study projects mentored

Lafayette College

- Jamie Lin (Summer 2025 - Present)
 - EXCEL Scholar (Summer 2025)
- Hannah Daskal (Fall 2025 - Present)
- Yahinnely Mejia Molina (Fall 2025 - Present)
 - EXCEL Scholar (Summer 2026)
- Eleni Mastrokalos (Fall 2025 – Present)
 - EXCEL Scholar (Summer 2026)
- Kushur Davidson (Spring 2026 - Present)

Miami University

- Amelia Klass (Fall 2019 - Spring 2020)
 - Recipient of DUOS Research Award
- Kate McCoy (Fall 2019 - Spring 2020)
- Sarah Edwards (Fall 2019)

Classroom Activities Developed

- [Microaggressions](#)
- [Cross-cultural social attitudes](#)

Research Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- Graduate Student Teaching Award, Miami University, 2024
- Diversity Travel Award, Midwestern Psychological Association, 2024
- Letter of Commendation, Department of Psychology, Miami University, 2021
- Doctoral Undergraduate Opportunities Scholarship, Miami University, 2019-2020
- Graduate Student Paper Award, Midwestern Psychological Association, 2019
- Sprague Scholarship, Department of Psychological Science, Ball State University, 2018
- Hollis Research Award, Ball State University, 2017
- *Cum Laude*, Salisbury University, 2016

Service

Lafayette College, Department of Psychology
Psi Chi Faculty Advisor (2026-Present)

Miami University, Department of Psychology
Social Psychology Research Interest Group Coordinator (2022-2023)
PASS Lab Manager (2022-2023)
Graduate Student Interview Day Coordinator (2021-2022)
Mass Survey Coordinator (2020-2023)
Graduate Student Representative (2020-2022)
Tenure-Track Social Psychology Faculty Search Committee (2021)
Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2018-2021)
 Diversity and Inclusion Classroom Climate Sub-committee (2018-2020)
 Diversity Interest Group (2019-2021)

- Co-founded with Akanksha Das, Ph.D. (2019)
- Coordinator (2019-2021)

Student Resource Video & FAQ Initiative (2019)

- Created video for Psychology Department website on “[How to Apply to Graduate School in Psychology](#)”

Graduate Student Panel Member: “Starting Your Graduate School Search” (2019)

Ball State University, Department of Psychological Science
Mentor for Undergraduate Student Mentorship Project (2024-Present)
AHAA Lab Manager (2017-2018)
Graduate Student Representative to Graduate Committee (2017-2018)

Salisbury University, Multicultural Student Services
Statistics and psychology tutor for TRiO (2014-2016)
Peer mentor for Powerful Connections mentorship program (2013-2014)

Ad-hoc Reviewing

Behavior Research Methods
British Journal of Social Psychology
Emotion
European Journal of Social Psychology
Journal of Cross-cultural Psychology
Psychological Research

Quantitative Skills

Analysis of variance
Linear and logistic regression
Statistical mediation and conditional process modeling
Structural equation modeling
 Path analysis, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis
Proficient in *SPSS*, *Mplus*, and *Excel*

Professional Affiliations

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA)
Association for Psychological Science (APS)
Psi Chi, national psychology honors society